

# Daniel Chapter 10

Pastor Matt Postiff

**Fellowship**  
BIBLE CHURCH

# Outline of Chapter 10

- Introduction, 10:1-3
- Vision of the man at the Tigris, 10:4-9
- An angel speaks with Daniel, 10:10-15
- Daniel speaks to one of them, 10:16-17
- An angel speaks to Daniel, 10:18-21

# Author of This Section

- Note how the author writes in the third person concerning Daniel. It could be that god has used a scribe to collate the information.
- However, I will proceed on the assumption that Daniel himself wrote this, as he clearly did from verse 2 to the end of the chapter.

# Time of the Vision, 10:1

- Daniel tells us the time is the third year of Cyrus, which is about 536 BC. Cyrus had decreed to permit Israel to return to the land.
- Timeline of chapters:

Chapter	Year (BC)	Chapter	Year (BC)
7	553	9	538
8	551	6	537
5	539	10-12	536-535

# Historical Circumstances

- Zerubbabel and Joshua have returned to Israel from Babylon. 50,000 Jews have gone with them. See Ezra 1-6.
- The land is in ruins. Jerusalem had been sacked. The temple had to be rebuilt. See Ezra 3, Haggai, Zechariah.

# Historical Circumstances

- 60 or more years later in 458 BC, Ezra returned with 7,000 Jews.
- 14 years later in 445 BC, Nehemiah returned to Israel essentially by himself.
- Many Jews remained behind, having become prosperous in Babylon. Materialism....

# Historical Circumstances

- From the last deportation in 586 BC, there were four or more generations of the Hebrew people until the return from exile.
- Perhaps Daniel was sad at this low return rate and the decrepit situation of Jerusalem, like his later countryman Nehemiah.

# Daniel's Situation

- At about 85 years old, Daniel was unable to return to the land of Israel. But he certainly would approve of the return, for in chapter 9 he had prayed for it.
- But he was in mourning because of the entire situation. This was a period of three weeks.



# About the Three Weeks

- The Bible is careful to specify that these are “three sevens of days” to make it clear that it was 21 days.
- This supports our conclusion in chapter 9 that “seventy sevens” (not of days) refers to a much longer period of time, namely  $70 \times 7 = 490$  years.

# Daniel's Situation

- Daniel was under a sort of self-imposed fast.
- We recall that years earlier, he purposed not to be defiled with Nebuchadnezzar's food and wine.
- He went further during this time of mourning.

# Another Revelation, 10:1

- It is at this time that Daniel receives a message from God. This refers to chapters 10, 11, and 12. Three things about this message:
- First, the **message was true**. Today, an emphasis is needed on the fact that God's word is true. God has to remind us.

# Another Revelation, 10:1

- Second, the word “long” is a bad translation. It should say that the **message concerned great conflict**. It is much about war.
- Third, **Daniel understood the vision**. Remember, he was a brilliant man (1:4, 20). But he did not understand in 8:27.
- The understanding may have heightened his grief.

# Immediate Setting

- Daniel was at the Tigris River, 35 miles east of Babylon.
- The 24<sup>th</sup> day of the first month was the time.
  - First month is Nisan. Exodus 12:2ff informs us that this is the Passover month, from day 14 to 21.
  - So Daniel was just coming out of mourning for the whole month. Maybe he was sad for his people.

# The World Behind the World

- The “world” as Christians commonly use it refers to the system opposed to God and Christ (John 7:7, 1 John 2:16, 3:13).
- But even the world you see is not all there is.
- The world is animated and moved by another “world” that is unseen but just as real.

# Characters

- The identity of the characters in Daniel 10 is challenging, particularly the first one described in 10:5-6 and 16-17. No names are given.
- There is likely another character who touched Daniel and strengthened him.

# Characters

- Some interpreters, like Dr. Whitcomb, take the first to be the preincarnate Christ who is the only one other than Daniel in the entire chapter.
  - This is problematic in that it would require Christ to need the help of the angel Michael.
  - Granted, Christ did have angelic help while incarnate (Matthew 4:11, Luke 22:43).
  - However, Christ did use angels. For example: Matthew 4:11, Luke 22:43.



# Characters

- I understand the first “certain man clothed in linen” to be a Christophany, that is, a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.
- Then there is a different character in 10:10-14 and 10:18-21 which is an angel, probably Gabriel.

# Full Disclosure

- The difficulty with my view is two-fold:
  - Switching between characters at 10:10, 16, and 18 seems awkward. They may be the same character.
  - The first “certain man” was speaking words (6, 9 twice), and it appears those words are mentioned later (11 twice), thus linking the man to the speaker in 10:10-14.

# In Support of My View

- In such an appearance of Christ, He would likely be accompanied by angelic ministers.
- Similar to 8:16-17, Christ could have instructed one of those angels, Gabriel, to help Daniel understand the vision.
- At least this seems certain: 10:5-6 does appear to be Christ.

# Why a Christophany in 10:5-6?

- Daniel did not recognize the “certain man” as Gabriel, though he had seen Gabriel before in chapters 8 and 9, and likely chapter 7. So it seems this one is different than Gabriel.
- It is not Michael, since he is mentioned as a distinct character in the chapter.

# Why a Christophany?

- The likeness of this one to Christ is stunning.

Daniel 10:5-6	Revelation 1:10-15
Clothed in linen	Long robe
Waist girded with gold	Golden sash
Body like beryl (often green)	
Face like lightning	Face shining like the sun
Eyes like torches of fire	Eyes like a flame of fire
Arms and feet like burnished bronze	Feet like fine bronze
Sound of voice like a multitude	Voice like a trumpet, like the sound of many waters.

# What Happens When You See Christ?

- Terror. Fear. Weakness.
- Notice that Daniel's friends responded like Paul's traveling companions. Compare Daniel 10:7 to and Acts 9:7. Both parties did not see all of what was happening, but were fearful. See also Acts 22:9.

# What Happens When You See Christ?

- As for Daniel himself, he responded like John the Apostle. Compare 10:8-10, 15, 18 with Revelation 1:17. He was in utter terror.
- No man can see God face to face and live. Even seeing a vision/miraculous appearance of God is enough to undo most people.

# God's View of Daniel

- Verse 11: Daniel, man greatly beloved. Other translations suggest he is treasured by God, and highly esteemed.
- Verse 12: Daniel, a humble man. A man heard by God.
- Verse 19: Greatly beloved. Precious.



# Why the Vision?

- So that Daniel would understand (v. 11).
- To respond to Daniel's request to understand and be humble before God.
- Daniel's words were the cause of the angel's words. Evidently, Daniel had prayed (10:12) and those words of prayer induced God to send a message to Daniel. God does answer prayer!
- So....PRAY!!!

# Delay in the Vision

- The messenger explains to Daniel that he was delayed in responding.
  - In chapter 9, Gabriel was sent as soon as Daniel started to pray, and arrived before Daniel finished (9:21-23).
  - Here, it was also from the first day of Daniel's prayer, but there was a catch.

# Delay in the Vision

- I take it that the length of Daniel's mourning—three weeks—is correlated with the 21-day delay.
  - Things going on behind the scenes affect the scenes, and can be deeply impacting on the lives of God's people, despite the fact that we cannot see or know it.

# Delay in the Vision

- The delay was caused by the “prince of the kingdom of Persia.”
- This prince evidently fought against Gabriel, who required the help of another powerful angel, Michael, to “fight his way through” to Daniel.

# Delay in the Vision

- This messenger (Gabriel) had been left alone “with the kings of Persia.”
  - “Kings” is a reference to the centuries-long line of kings that were the human face of the empire.
- It is not good that he was “left alone there.” More help was needed. Sounds kind of like Paul’s situation in 2 Tim. 4:11. See Daniel 10:8.

# Why a Delay in the Vision?

- The text does not tell us the motivation of the evil forces standing in the way of Gabriel.
- I have an educated speculation: it is because the forces of the Devil do not want God's people—or others—to know God's word. Evil angels don't want us to know God's plan. We can live better and smarter if we do.
- Can you think of any implications of this?

# Could This Apply...

- To your Bible reading? To your prayer time?
- To your church attendance?
- To the priorities of the world crowding out the priorities of God in your life?
- Do you suppose that evil angelic forces try to influence the world so that people will live *more* for God—or *less*?

# The Angelic World

- What is going on here? God is pulling back the curtains of visible time-space to show us the invisible, metaphysical world where angelic beings operate.
- In that place, there is a constant battle.
- It is as if Daniel is on the other side of the battle lines. And he is, in a real sense.



# The Other World

- This metaphysical world is a real thing.
- Correlate with Ephesians 6:12, 16.
- Remember our world is under the authority of the Devil (1 John 5:19). He is the prince of this world (Eph. 2:2, Luke 22:53). We are in this world, so we *are* on the “bad” side of the battle lines.

# The Other World

- Correlate with other passages:
  - Romans 8:38
  - Ephesians 1:21, 3:10
  - Colossians 1:16, 2:10, 2:15
- The resistance of this prince of Persia was substantial and real.

# The Other World and Our World

- This other world behind our world explains a lot going on in our world.\*\*
  - Take, for example, Job 1-2. The role of Satan explains a lot to the reader that is not evident to the characters in the situation.
  - People are sometimes pawns in this clash of angels.

# **\*\*For Example...**

- We can correlate this other-worldly situation to a lot of things happening that we see:
  - All kinds of movements, philosophies, false religions, false teachers, abortion, the sexual revolution, political fighting, mobs, Sharia law, brutal dictators, militant communism and atheism, removing God from schools, trying to destroy the Bible, and the list goes on.

# What Sort of Conflict?

- I don't know exactly what the conflict looks like in the angelic realm. (Swords or tanks?)
- We do perceive that it produces conflict in our own realm between people, movements, etc.
- Ultimately our conflict is not with flesh, however, as we learn in Ephesians 6:12.

# Caution

- People get really worked up about this stuff, but there is nothing they can do about it directly.
  - No “binding demons.” People can’t do that.
  - No exorcism. People can’t do that. We can’t even diagnose demon possession.
  - No talking about spiritual warfare all the time.
  - Yes: prayer, evangelism, church plants, Bible training.

# What Are These Nation-Angels?

- They are like guardian angels in reverse. They are unnamed, wicked, demonic, angelic princes.
  - I don't subscribe to a doctrine of one guardian angel for each person, but I do believe God uses angels to serve Him and His saints (Hebrews 1:14).
- Their battle is for power, to overcome the will of God in the world.

# What Are These Nation-Angels?

- As God has angels assigned to various tasks, so Satan assigns angels to certain nations...
  - to influence and direct the affairs of that nation;
  - to thwart God's will and to harm God's people.
- As God permits sin in the human realm to accomplish His purpose, so He also does in the angelic realm.



# Back to Daniel 10:14

- Daniel is soon to learn about the latter days.
- Latter days: contextually we understand this to mean that time which starts very soon and runs for the next few centuries after Daniel.
  - NOT the same as the last days = end of the world.
  - Don't be confused by this distinction!

# Daniel's Initial Response, 15-17

- That God would grace him with such a privilege, and that he was going to find out new revealed information, together overwhelmed Daniel. We should be moved too.
- He was sorrowful and extremely weak.

# Help for Daniel, 18-19

- God graciously strengthened Daniel.
- The angel gave him encouraging words. Somehow with the words came physical strength.
- We don't have quite that power toward others, but we have something like it.

# Conclusion of the Introduction

- Verse 20: Do you know why I have come?
  - Yes: to inform Daniel about what will happen.
- Fact: the angel has to go and fight back against the demon of Persia so that the demon wouldn't be victorious.
- Later, the demon of Greece will come, leading Alexander the Great to victory over Medo-Persia.

# Conclusion of the Introduction

- The angel is going to tell Daniel what has been written down in the “Scripture of Truth.”
  - This holy writing is evidently a record of God’s revelation in advance of it being revealed to humanity through the prophets.
  - It is *truth*. Despite the doubt about truth today, there *is* such a thing. We intuitively know so.

# Conclusion of the Introduction

- Finally, Gabriel notes that no one helps him except Michael, the archangel, in the angelic conflict.
- Notes about Michael: He is like a guardian nation-angel for Israel (Daniel 12:1). 1 Thess. 4:16 involves him in the rapture. Jude 9 shows he did not rebuke the devil. Revelation 12:7 shows he will prevail against Satan.

# Apply

- The matter of prayer is emphasized again. Daniel prayed, God answered. We too must pray. Do whatever it takes to get started.
- It may appear hopeless for us tiny humans in this other-worldly battle. But...
  - 1 Peter 5:9; James 4:7; 1 John 4:4; Jude 9

# How Resist the Devil?

- Following Jesus' example:
  - Say “no” by using the Word of God, like during His temptation by Satan in Matthew 4 and Luke 4.
  - Say “no” like Jesus did to Peter's suggestion about avoiding the cross in Matthew 16:23 and Mark 8:33.