

Daniel 10:1-21

Daniel Receives a Vision from an Angelic Being

Daniel 10:1 - "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision."

The Septuagint, a 3rd-century B.C. Greek translation of the Old Testament, has "In the first year of Darius" to agree with **Daniel 1:21**, which says "Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus."

"the thing was true, but the time appointed was long" - better "the thing was clear, but the tribulation and warfare was great."

"time appointed" = *tsaba'* - warfare, forced labor, hard service.

- **Job 7:1-2** - "Is not man consigned to labor (*tsaba'*) on earth? Are not his days like those of a hired hand? Like a slave he longs for shade; like a hireling he waits for his wages..."

This was the first year after Cyrus' co-regent Darius had died. Daniel was between 84 to 90 years old at this time.

Daniel was fasting and mourning during Passover season - probably for the reasons discussed in the previous chapter - the unrepentance of the Jews, which Daniel feared would prevent their return from exile. This must have been just before Cyrus issued his decree, also in his first year as sole ruler.

[If it actually was the third year of Cyrus, Daniel may have been lamenting that so few had chosen to accept Cyrus' invitation to return.]

Cyrus' decree was proclaimed in 538 B.C., allowing Jewish exiles in Babylon to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, recorded in **Ezra 1:2-4**.

The "Cyrus Cylinder," a clay artifact, aligns with the biblical account by demonstrating his policy of allowing displaced people to return to their lands and rebuild their temples.

— **2 Chronicles 36:22-2** - "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying: 'Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD, the God of heaven, given me; and He hath charged me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whosoever there is among you of all His people — the LORD his God be with him—let him go up.'"

Daniel's Vision

Daniel 10:5-6 - "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl (or topaz), and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in color to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude."

Who was this?

The description of this "certain man" is remarkably like John's description of Jesus in Revelation 1:12-16. But it could be an unnamed angel, possibly the mysterious Angel of the Lord. Ezekiel also saw angelic figures clothed in linen (Ezekiel 9:2). And why would Jesus need the help of Michael in a 20-day struggle against the "prince of the kingdom of Persia"? (see below)

Certainly during His ministry on earth, Jesus received help and strength from angels (**Mark 1:13** and **Luke 22:43**). But that was after He emptied Himself in becoming human.

Daniel doesn't name him. But he may have been "looking through" this angelic being and perceiving the powerful, overwhelming vision of God/Jesus - the power behind the messenger/angel.

Daniel 10:7 - And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves."

This was not an ordinary subjective, internal vision or dream. It's more like Paul on the road to Damascus, where his companions heard the voice. Or the disciples witnessing the transfiguration of Jesus.

As we discussed previously, Daniel experiences a spiritual death and resurrection, in which his "comeliness was turned into corruption."

Daniel 10:8-10 - "Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands."

God responds to our prayers. The Angel of the Lord tells Daniel that as soon as Daniel humbled himself and began praying, God responded immediately. Daniel had been praying for three weeks.

Daniel 10:13 - "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

There is spiritual warfare going on that we are not aware of.

Jesus said Satan was the prince of this world (**John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11**) Christ has been set over a hierarchy of principalities, powers, thrones, might and dominions, both angelic beings and demonic forces, and "hath put all things under his feet," and "triumphing over them " (**Ephesians 1:20-23, Colossians 1:16,2:15**)

God has given us just enough information about this unseen world for us to know He is victorious and in control. Not so we can speculate, or learn techniques of exorcism or to delve into the names and specifics of demons and fallen angels. All we need to know is "It is finished!" The gospel itself is the only weapon we require.

There is a correlation between Daniel's continuing in prayer and the angel's victory over the "prince of Persia," a struggle Daniel was not even aware of.

The lesson is don't give up. We must persevere in prayer until we are released from that urgency and feel peace. Perhaps that is what God wanted to show Daniel (and us) by allowing this spiritual struggle to take place at all.

- **Ephesians 6:18** - "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

The 'Latter Days'

Daniel 10:14 - "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days."

Latter days = *'aḥrīt yôm* - end times, future days

- Genesis 49:1 - "And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days (*'aḥrīt yôm*).

Zohar in Gen. fol. 126. 1.: "Jacob called his sons, because he had a mind to reveal the end of the Messiah, i.e. the time of his coming."

Abraham Seba in Tzeror Hammor, fol. 57. 4. & 58. 1. observes, that this section is the seal and key of the whole law, and of all the prophets prophesied of, unto the days of the Messiah.

Jesus made this clear:

- **John 5:39** - "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me..."

The "latter days" in this instance stretches from Daniel's current time on into the future.

The prophecies about the fate of Israel include details of the persecution by Antiochus Epiphanes but also other, far future events.

When are "the last days?" Medieval Rabbi David Kimchi, commenting on **Isaiah 2:2**, said:

"And it came to pass in the last days" - Every place where it is said "in the last days" - it is the days of the Messiah.

- **Hosea 3:5** - "Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days."

Peter assigned the events of the day of Pentecost as happening in "the last days", quoting the prophet Joel:

- **Acts 2:17** - "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:"

Another Death and Resurrection

Daniel 10:15-16 - "And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength."

The vision is almost too much for Daniel to handle. At this point the angelic being strengthens him.

Daniel 10:19 - "And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me."

"Be strong!" This the word given by God to Joshua as Israel was entering the Promised Land.

- **Joshua 1:9** - "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Daniel could be assured, the Angel says, because he is going to continue to fight against Israel's enemies who are trying to thwart God's plans for His people.

Daniel 10:20-21 - "Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and

there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."

Why the prince of Greece? Because he would eventually be directing the persecutions of Antiochus against the Jews in the future.

Michael is said to be "your prince" because he was recognized as the guardian angel of Israel.

One thing to remember about spiritual warfare.

- **Matthew 16:18** - "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

This pictures an offensive posture by God's people, not defensive. It's not saying that we are being attacked. It is the church that is assailing a stronghold of what has been claimed by evil, and by God's grace is overcoming.

This chapter is really just a "wind up" for the next two chapters 11-12, which contain a detailed timeline of events in Israel's coming history, leading right up to the coming of the Messiah.