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Sunday Bible Study

The Book of Daniel

Daniel 10 - 12

We will see that the last vision Daniel had covers the last three chapters of the book of Daniel

Daniel 10

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar).

Remember that Cyrus of Persia had defeated Babylon in 539 BC
He appointed Darius the Mede to be king over Babylon
But Darius died a short time later in less than a year
And Cyrus the Persian took over the kingship of Babylon
In 538 BC Cyrus issued his decree for the rebuilding of the Temple
In 536 BC Zerubbabel led 50,000 Jews back to Jerusalem
By now Daniel was about 85 years old and would die within a year
His age was probably why he did not go with them
But Daniel probably felt the Jews would see a long period of peace since
Cyrus has smiled on them and their God
But in 536 BC, Cyrus's third year, a message came to Daniel from God
Daniel had been renamed Belteshazzar when he was exiled

Daniel 1:7 – The exiled captives were re-named in Babylon

7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

These exiled young men from Judah were taken in 605 BC
That was the first of three invasions of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar
On the third invasion, Jerusalem was demolished and Temple was burned

Daniel 10

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war.

The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

Daniel was certain that the message of the revelation was true
It revealed that rather than peace the returned Jews would have many wars
His understanding of the message came by a vision
And it was terribly disappointing to Daniel and so he mourned

2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks.

3 I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

Apparently Daniel began a time of prayer and fasting

After three weeks of prayer and fasting a “man from heaven” came to him

4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,

5 I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist.

6 His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Daniel recognized all this to mean this man was from heaven

Often we see heavenly messengers having some of the glory of God

But it sounds like when Jesus was transfigured

Matthew 17:1–2 – The Transfiguration of Jesus

1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

The Father glorified His Son on earth at the Transfiguration

It also sounds like what John saw in the Revelation

Revelation 1:12–15 – Jesus appeared to John in the Revelation

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

But our commentator wrote the following

Since Gabriel had been sent before, this may have been him again

Some have suggested that this might be the preincarnate Christ

But at least two things argue against that (as we will see)

The messenger was hindered by the prince of Persia = a demon

The messenger needed the help of Michael

No such weaknesses would ever be attributed to the Second

Person of the Trinity – the preincarnate Son of God

Daniel 10

7 I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.

Acts 9:3–7 – Similar to what happened to Paul and his men near Damascus

3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

6 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.

Daniel 10

8 So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.

9 Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

Apparently he fell into a trance

10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

Notice that it may not have been Gabriel’s hand

I might have been a dis-membered hand that touched Daniel

Daniel 5:5–6 – King Belshazzar watched a hand write on the wall

5 Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote.

6 His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way.

Daniel 10

11 He said, “Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

The angel strengthened him enough to stand – but trembling

Again we hear that Daniel was highly esteemed in heaven

12 Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

Since you are so highly esteemed you were heard the first day you prayed
That was three weeks ago when Daniel began to fast and to pray

13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

He was apparently in a battle with the prince of Persia for 21 days
Prince of Persia was probably a demon
Exactly the time that Daniel had fasted and prayed with no answer
Michael, the arch angel, came to help the messenger
Gabriel was detained there – perhaps defeated and imprisoned
Detained with the king of Persia – perhaps possessed by Satan
Or that the prince of Persia and the king of Persia are the same
Obviously Gabriel needed help so Michael came to help

Ephesians 6:10–13 – Paul described our struggle against evil in this world

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

We are to stand against the devil but not to attack the devil
Look at verse 13 here – We are to stand

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

A good read is [This Present Darkness](#) by Frank Peretti
It is a novel but based on Scripture

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

God has given us the armor of God to protect us against “the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

As Terry Cassidy likes to remind us – “we are in spiritual warfare”

Daniel 10

14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”

So this information is about the future

Isaiah 32:14–18 – The Jews were expecting a time of peace

14 The fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted; citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks,

There will be no need for fortresses or citadels or watchtowers
Those places will be turned into grazing lands

15 till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest.

God will pour out His Spirit upon them fulfilling His promises for them

16 Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field.

Justice and righteousness will come upon the Jews' land

17 The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Peace and righteousness and confidence will reign

18 My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.

There were also other prophecies of a time of peace and prosperity
The Jews rejoiced in these promises of God
And surely Daniel was looking forward to those times of peace
But

Daniel 10:1 - Daniel already knew the overall message from Gabriel

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Beltshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

Instead of peace there would be a long time of great war
The Jews did know about the reign of the Messiah, the
Prince of Peace, on the earth but not its timing
But peace would not really come until the Prince of Peace, Jesus, ruled
And the Jews would be at war with their neighbors until the Millennium
That would be at the end of the 490 year period when
Christ is installed as King
This news was distressing to Daniel and thus he fasted and prayed

Daniel 10

15 While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless.

Daniel was completely humbled by all this

16 Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, “I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I am helpless.

He was in anguish due to pronouncement of war instead of peace

He calls the messenger “my lord” which is like calling him Sir

This is not referring to him as God

17 How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe.”

18 Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength.

19 “Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed,” he said. “Peace! Be strong now; be strong.” When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength.”

Daniel had been totally overwhelmed by the news of this time of war

But Gabriel strengthened him physically and emotionally

And so Daniel was now able to receive the rest of the message

20 So he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come;

So both the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece are likely demons

They are appointed by Satan to oppose godly forces

21 but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

Gabriel says that no one helps him against these demons except Michael

Michael is either Daniel’s or the Jews’ special angel or both

So why would God leave Gabriel in such a precarious situation ?

Isaiah 55:8–11 - God’s ways are inscrutable – we cannot know them

8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

God is not a man and He does not behave as a man would

9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

God has His good reasons for everything He does

Often it does not make sense to us

But that does not matter – He is the Sovereign of the universe

He does what is right in His eyes and He never makes a
mistake because He knows everything

And no one can stay His hand

He is Omnipresent and Omniscient and Omnipotent