
a *Grace Notes* course

Daniel

an expositional study
by Dr. Grant Richison

Lesson 110

Daniel Chapter 10

Daniel 110 – Chapter 10

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Daniel 10

Daniel 10:1-3

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.

In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.

I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

The last of the four visions to Daniel personally runs from chapters 10 to 12. Daniel prepares to receive the vision in chapter ten. He gives the immediate future from Darius through Antiochus in 11:2-35 and the distant future of the 70th seven in 11:36-12:4. The remainder of chapter 12 gives the conclusion to the book of Daniel.

This final vision is a unit that extends from chapter 10 to chapter 12. Chapter 10 introduces the vision with an interlude of context before the vision; chapter 11 gives the prophecy itself and chapter 12 adds an epilogue to the vision.

Daniel received a vision in the third year of Cyrus' reign over the Medo-Persian Empire (536 B.C.). God's communication to Daniel was a revelation that incorporated a vision. This is two years after the revelation of Daniel 9. Cyrus issued a decree for the Jews to return to the holy land two years earlier in 538 B.C. Some returned that same year with Zerubbabel. They reintroduced the sacrifices in 537 B.C. (Ezra 3:6) and began to rebuild the temple in 536 B.C. (Ezra 3:8).

Daniel did not return to the holy land with his people. The Bible does not state the reason. He served Babylon until the first year of Cyrus

(538 B.C., 1:21). Daniel was probably in his mid eighties at this time and in retirement.

Daniel prayed, fasted and mourned (9:3) for three weeks. His serious distress was over the safety of the Jews who returned to the holy land (Ezra 4:1-5,24).

Daniel did not partake in the privileges of Babylon while he was in mourning. He did not eat normal or fancy foods. He was on a fast. Nor Daniel did not use skin oil to protect himself from the sun during the three-week period.

PRINCIPLE: Concentration in prayer provides a suitable environment for effective prayer.

APPLICATION: Sacrificial acts in themselves do not solicit God's favor. They do form a suitable environment for heart orientation to God.

God loved Daniel because of his importunity in prayer. His prayers were not flippant but serious. God looked at that serious prayer life and loved him. Dedication to prayer does not gain approbation with God but a burden of prayer does.

Prayer requires significant concentration and dedication. As Daniel gave his all in prayer, we should purpose in our heart that should not defile ourselves with anything outside the will of God (1:8). We seek the will of God, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

Daniel 10:4-7

Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris,

I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!

His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

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And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

As Daniel was beside the Tigris River, he received a vision of a man clothed in linen. Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread fell on the 24th day of the first month (Nisan, April 24). Perhaps he was at the river for a Jewish feast.

Only Daniel saw this vision of a man clothed in linen and girded with gold. This man was probably an angel. The priests of Israel wore expensive linen dresses setting them aside as special representatives of God. This may be the intent for this angel.

Uphaz may be Ophir, which may have been in Arabia off the northeast African coast.

This angel was decked in the splendor of expensive jewels. Some believe this angel to be a theophany of the Son of God but there is not enough evidence for this.

The other Jews with Daniel did not see the vision but they sensed something mighty took place.

The difference between a vision and a dream is that dreams occur during sleep whereas a vision can happen while a person is awake. Ezekiel and Daniel are the most noteworthy in this regard in the Old Testament.

PRINCIPLE: Significant understanding of God always produces humility.

APPLICATION: Great men of the Bible humbled themselves when they saw implications of truth. Note Job and Isaiah in this regard:

Job 42:5,6. I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.

Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.

Isaiah 6:3-5. And one cried to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!

And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

So I said: 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.'

Have you meditated on the greatness and glory of God? Do you have a good grasp of His person and work?

Daniel 10:8-10

Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength.

Daniel's strength drained from him as he received this vision. He was in solitude when God revealed Himself to Daniel.

Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

Daniel fainted but while in the faint he heard words from this angel.

Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.

The angel's touch caused Daniel further consternation.

PRINCIPLE: Solitude is a place where we meet God.

APPLICATION: It is a wonderful condition to be alone with God. Solitude with the Savior is something few cherish. The tendency is to hide ourselves from the presence of the Lord (Genesis 3:8). God shows Himself to those who take time for Him.

Galatians 1:11-17. But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

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For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,

to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia (a desert), and returned again to Damascus.

Daniel 10:11-12

And he said to me, O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you. While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

Then he said to me, Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

The angel depicted Daniel as a man greatly beloved and understanding in God's eyes. Daniel was a man engaged in knowing God and God's will.

This angel came to Daniel in answer to His prayer and humility. There was a slight delay of the answer to Daniel's prayer.

Daniel set his heart to understand and to humble himself before God in prayer. He gave

himself to the goal of knowing God's purpose in the vision. The blandishments of this world had no effect on Daniel's pride. He gave his entire heart to the Lord. His purpose was not to be famous, wealthy or successful. These things did not move his heart.

PRINCIPLE: We come to God in prayer by the authority of grace and not personal merit.

APPLICATION: We do not need to persuade God in prayer or harass Him for answered prayer. Those who do not know God pray this way. They try to gain His approbation. Jesus simply said to ask. God does what He promises to do. Ask, simply ask.

Matthew 7:7,8 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

James 4:2. You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

Ask is a simply request. Seek involves investigation into the will of God. Knock is repetition; we come to God again and again in prayer. All three have the a guarantee:

Ask – and it shall be given

Seek – and you shall find

Knock – and it will be opened to you.

Answers are sure when we base our prayer on what God says He will do.

However, God delays answer to prayer according to His will. Daniel's answer to prayer did not come for three weeks. There was a battle in the heavens of which he was very unaware. Why do people fly planes loaded with people into the World Trade Center? This is demon activity. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against fallen angels.

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Daniel 10:13

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

The delay to Daniel's prayer had to do with the prince of the kingdom of Persia. This was probably a fallen angel assigned to the geographical area known as Persia by Satan (Ephesians 2:3). Both Michael and this angel were princes (cf. v21). This fallen angel opposed God's program.

PRINCIPLE: There is a spiritual war.

APPLICATION: The Bible sets forth a war between good and evil angels (demons). This war involves national entities as well as individuals.

Some in the spiritual warfare movement believe that territorial spirits must be bound for the gospel to be effective in a national entity. They call this Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare. They believe in three levels of demonic control. First, ground level demons control individuals. Second, occult demons give power to magicians, shamans and witches. Lastly, strategic level demons, whose main purpose is to hinder the advance of the gospel, rule geographical regions.

The growing movement of exorcism of territorial spirits does not have biblical foundation. These people pray over neighborhoods, cities and nations to exorcise demons controlling these geographical areas. Some church growth techniques recommend this approach to evangelism. This movement grew out of citywide evangelistic campaigns in Latin America movement and might have its roots in animism.

The argument for waging war on territorial demons rests primarily on Daniel 10:13. There is such a thing as territorial demons but there is no biblical basis for claiming victory over demons by name. Daniel did not know about

this conflict before the angel told him about it so he did not pray to overcome these demons.

The Bible never suggests that believers are to command demons to give up national territory. In Daniel 10, God sent the Archangel Michael to deal with the fallen angels responsible for Persia and Greece. The content of the gospel itself has power unto salvation so there is no need for power encounters to validate God's message.

Romans 1:16. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Satan is indeed the ruler (prince) of this world (John 12:31), the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2), the god of this age (2 Co 4:4), and the deceiver of the whole world (Re 12:9). His territory is this fallen world and he is active in national affairs.

Matthew 4:7-9. Jesus said to him, 'It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.'

Ephesians 6:12. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities (fallen angels), against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Satan's purposes are primarily religious so religion is the Devil's ace trump. He deceives more people by religion than anything else. This was especially true for those who flew those planes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

People who argue for territorial demons cite Revelation 2:12-13 as a proof text where John

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asserts that Satan resides in Pergamum. God assigns angels to individual churches of Revelation 2 and 3 but angel in these chapters probably means messenger referring to the pastors of those churches.

Arguments against territorial spirits in Daniel 10:

The battle of Daniel 10 was fought in heaven, not earth.

The battle did not involve humans but two angels and a demon; God directed the battle through Michael.

God did not ask Daniel to bind demons or cast them from their geographical sphere.

God did not even ask Daniel to pray about the angelic conflict.

Michael was a chief good angel (10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7). Both good angels and fallen angels have a hierarchy of authority and power (Ephesians 1:21). This passage lifts the veil of angelic warfare.

Jude 9. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'

Revelation 12:7-9, And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon (Satan); and the dragon and his angels (demons) fought,

but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The prince of Israel is Michael, a good and faithful angel. The princes of Persian (v.13) and Greece (v.20) are fallen angels.

PRINCIPLE: It is wrong for the believer to presume the right to rebuke demons.

APPLICATION: It is true that Satan's demons are highly organized (Eph 6:12) but the Bible never asserts that believers are to rebuke territorial demons. Jesus already defeated Satan through His work on the cross.

Colossians 2:15. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

The Bible does rebuke those who presume the ability to deal with spirits personally. That is an activity reserved for God Himself.

Jude 8,9. Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'

2 Peter 2:10,11. ...and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

Believers do encounter spiritual warfare (John 8:44; 2 Timothy 2:26; 1 John 3:12). Demons will tempt us to sin. We become slaves to sin by repeated yielding to sin. The believer's only ability to deal with the spirit world is by putting on his spiritual armor.

Ephesians 6:10-12. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of

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this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Daniel 10:14-21

Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.

When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.

For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.

Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.

And he said, O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong! So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.

Then he said, Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.

But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince. 1 Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)

The clear purpose of the angel's coming to Daniel was to reveal to him what would happen to Israel in the latter days. Daniel's reputation for understanding brought him further

understanding. He would receive eschatological (prophetic) understanding in this case. The passage 11:2-12:4 details this prophecy relating to the fate of Israel in relation to Antiochus Epiphanes in the nearer future and of the Antichrist in the distant future.

Further revelation brought further weakness to Daniel. This revelation was a complete surprise to him. He had served as a key administrator in the Neo-Babylonian Empire for decades and did not know about angelic conflict about national entities.

An angel touched Daniel's lips allowing him to speak. Daniel continues to express his sorrows over the content of the vision.

Daniel felt that he could not continue to communicate with the angel because of the draining of his strength over the shock of the vision. We need God's grace in prayer.

An angel strengthens Daniel for the third time to continue the communication of the vision.

The angel repeats God's high view of Daniel. The words of the angel strengthened Daniel to listen to the rest of the vision.

The angel explains his activity to Daniel from verse 20 to 11:1. Michael came to fight with the prince (demon) affecting Persia and the prince (demon) influencing Greece.

The Scripture of Truth is all of God's revealed truth. Daniel does not deal with speculation. Only God knows the future. God reveals this prophecy with unerring accuracy. The word noted means recorded or registered. God dispatched this angel with a transcript about the near and remote future revealed in chapters 11 and 12.

The angel made clear that Michael would uphold him when he contended with the emissaries of Satan. He did this during the preceding twenty-one days. God reminds Daniel of special angelic protection for Israel.