

Daniel's Final Vision

Daniel 10:1-21

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Daniel 9:20-27 Summary: Daniel receives an answer to his praying for his people... God reveals the timing of the Messiah coming and what will happen during the last 7 years before Israel is spiritually restored.

Applications in what Gabriel revealed to us through Daniel...

- God is in control of history... He is executing His plan for mankind and His will be done.
- Since prophecies of the first coming of the Messiah were fulfilled exactly, we can expect the prophecies related to His return will likewise be fulfilled exactly.
- So, it behooves us to be ready for the return of the Messiah and get on with what He is calling us to do.

Vision of the Glorious Man, Daniel 10:1-9

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. ²In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³I 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. ⁴Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, ⁵I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! ⁶His 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. ⁷And 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. ⁸Therefore 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. ⁹Yet 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.

What does this passage tell us about Daniel's last revelation?

- Daniel received the last revelation in 536 BC (third year of Cyrus)

- Because the new revelation contained things which would be hard to believe, Daniel emphasized that it was true, it was to be believed (v1)
- This revelation was of great warfare between nations that would take place beyond Daniel's day.
- Daniel declared that the understanding of the new revelation came to him via a vision. (v1)

v2 – Why was Daniel in mourning?

- Perhaps it was because of the suffering of his people as depicted in Chapter 8

At this time, “*third year of Cyrus the King*” (v1), it had been two years since Cyrus had given the order for the restoration of the Hebrew people and their permit to go back to Israel...

- Perhaps he was upset that so few had returned with Ezra from exile (43,897)
- Perhaps they enjoyed their “roots” – they had been there for seventy years
- Perhaps the logistics of so vast a crowd movement
- Perhaps Daniel knew how much opposition Ezra was facing in rebuilding the Temple

What do we know of the difficulties of Temple construction in Ezra's time?

- Word had come back from Jerusalem of the Jews who had laid the foundation only to be stopped by the opposition of the people who already lived in the land (Ezra 4:1-5, 24)
- The temple construction was delayed about twenty years... Captivity begun in 605 BC; The Seventy years of desolation was completed in 535 BC; Twenty years of delay would have the temple completed in 515 BC

v3 – How did Daniel mourn?

For three weeks Daniel fasted:

- He abstained from choice food
- He lived on ordinary bread and vegetables
- He abstained from wine
- He abstained from what would provide personal comforts

If Daniel was so concerned about the Temple project, why didn't he join Ezra's expats?

Daniel was 84 years old and...

- He was still working in a position of authority continuing to serve the Hebrews from his high government position in Persia

v4 – Where did Daniel have this vision?

Daniel was on the bank of the Tigris River so he was not in Babylon (on the Euphrates River)

- Perhaps on business or visiting other captive Jews?
- He was there on the 24th day of Nisan (Passover on 14th, Unleavened Bread on 15th, Firstfruits on 16th)

v5-6 – What was the vision Daniel had?

Daniel saw a heavenly being in the form of a man of the highest order... His body was clothed with linen (symbol of holiness). He had the appearance of a beautiful gem that gleamed like polished bronze. His face had the brilliance of lightning, and his eyes resembled burning torches. His voice sounded like the roaring of a great crowd or rushing waters.

- This description is almost identical to that of Revelation 1:13 which we recognized as the glorified Jesus the Christ

v7-9 – How did the vision impact Daniel?

- He was overwhelmed with this appearance and the circumstances. Daniel became helplessly weak and fell prostrate on the ground
- Those who were with him did not see the vision, but sensed something that caused them to flee and hide themselves.

Prophecies of Persia and Greece, Daniel 10:10-21

¹⁰ Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. 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. ¹⁴ 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."

¹⁵ When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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." ¹⁸ Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹ 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." ²⁰ 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. ²¹ But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.

How do we know the vision of the heavenly man Daniel saw was not Jesus?

In Daniel 10:13, it is recorded that this angel said: "he was restrained by the Prince of Persia" – a demonic being... This heavenly being cannot be Jesus because no demonic being would have that power over Him.

How did the angel set Daniel's mind at ease?

He told him he was greatly beloved (v11) and that he had come from God as an answer to his prayers (v12).

v13 – What delayed the angel from getting to Daniel?

The angel was dispatched to answer Daniel's prayers the very first day he uttered them; however one of Satan's underlings, "the Prince of the Persian Kingdom", hindered him from getting to Daniel for twenty-one days

What does this tell us about the conflict between the holy and fallen angels?

The suggestion is clear that, as the holy angels are sent forth on behalf of the heirs of salvation, so the demonic beings are also concerned and try to obstruct on behalf of Satan's world system. Whatever God wants, Satan opposes it... the Hebrew term rendered Satan has the general meaning of "adversary" or "enemy."

How does spiritual warfare impact us?

Ephesians 6:11-12 – 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 this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

We need to recognize that our enemy is fallen angels that have responsibilities for places, institutions, or people. And their activity seeks to thwart the plan of God for people to know Him and grow in their relationship to Him.

- *wiles of the devil* – these are schemes to thwart God’s plans
- *principalities* – fallen angels assigned to places
- *powers* – fallen angels having the ability to make an impact in this physical world.
- *rulers of the darkness of this age* – fallen angels pulling the strings of human world rulers
- *spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places* – the myriad of fallen angels Satan uses to assist him in his campaigns to thwart the plan of God

People often point to groups like the Bilderbergers, the Trilateral Commission, and Counsel on Foreign Relations as evidence of a conspiracy to bring about a one-world government. Perhaps this is becoming a human conspiracy with their agenda out in the open but more significantly, this is a demonic conspiracy with fallen angels pulling the strings of the humans we refer to as the global elite.

How does spiritual warfare manifest itself during today’s Church Age?

- People in the church are influenced to oppose one another to show the world that the church is no different from other worldly institutions. This does harm to the mission of God to build up His kingdom.
- Also, people are influenced to discourage other Christians from doing the will of God. Satan uses “wolves” to spread lies that divide the Body of Christ.

How do we avoid being influenced by deceptive demonic entities?

- Put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20).
- Seek to know God better, growing in the faith and knowledge of His Word...
Ephesians 4:12-15 – edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

Why did God allow such a conflict that delayed the angel answering Daniel’s prayer?

- He certainly could have removed any demonic opposition

- God’s plan may have been to use the time delay to prepare Daniel for the vision he was to receive

What is the lesson learned for us in this?

We should not give up in our prayers... How much angelic assistance or insight has never been realized, or greatly delayed, because of a lack of persistence in our prayer life?

v14 – What message did the angel have for Daniel?

He came to give Daniel a deeper understanding of what Gabriel had revealed to him about the people of Israel in Chapter 9...

- Including the actions of the Antichrist during the Tribulation Period of the latter days
- And details of the Tribulation, starting with the Antichrist confirming an existing treaty with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation Period
- The Temple sacrifices and offerings to God will cease at the mid-point of the Tribulation Period
- The Antichrist will proclaim himself to be GOD!
- The results of this action will greatly intensify the coming persecutions of the Jews and reveals the assassination and Satanic resurrection of the Antichrist

v15-17 – Why was Daniel speechless?

- Maybe because of what he was seeing... Imagine this: You pray and fast for 21 days and sure enough an angel shows up and talks to you personally!
- Verse 16 gives the reason: the vision overwhelmed him because of his sorrows... he regretted the unfaithfulness of his people Israel

Why is the angel described as one having the likeness of the sons of men?

The angel looked like a man

Why would angels look like men?

It is God’s design... it works for humanity and also for angels.

Hebrews 13:2 – Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

v18-19 – What super power did the angel have?

He was able to strengthen Daniel by touching him and encouraging him with his words.

v20-21 – Was the angel there just to strengthen Daniel?

No, he was also there in answer to his prayer, to help him understand the vision God had given him.

What else was the angel involved in?

Fighting with the prince of Persia and also with the prince of Greece when he emerges.

So, what does that tell us about the role of this angel?

He was responsible for protecting the nation of Israel while in captivity.

Who is the angel named Michael mentioned in verses 13 and 21?

The archangel Michael is the guardian angel that has been assigned to the nation of Israel. Michael supports this angel who has been tasked to help Daniel understand his visions.

What do we learn about Michael from Jude 9, where he disputed with Satan about the body of Moses?

Jude 9 – 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!”

Michael did not bring a slanderous accusation against Satan in saying, “The Lord rebuke you”. Thus, while Michael did battle with Satan, he showed no authority over him but reminded him that his Lord was the one with the authority over him.

- “For the commander...” I may be a mere First Lieutenant while you are a Lieutenant Colonel but my boss is a Full-Colonel and you know I speak for him.
- We know that Michael and his angels will fight against the dragon (Satan) and his angels (Rev 12:7). This war is fought in heaven with Michael and his angels winning so that Satan and his angels will be cast down to the earth!

Do fallen angels have access to God in heaven?

Yes, all angels are spiritual beings whose primary domain is the spiritual realm, also known as the third heaven. Satan is busy accusing God’s people of being unworthy of Him:

Revelation 12:10 – Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

We also know that Satan and his followers have access to this physical universe...

Job 1:7 – And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

What does Satan do, walking to and fro on the earth?

His agenda is to thwart the plans of God and thus he is seeking people he can destroy...

1 Peter 5:8 – Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

v21 – What is this Scripture of Truth?

The angel is going to tell Daniel what is written in the “Book of Truth” or “Scripture of Truth” (v21)

- Perhaps this may be the whole record of past, present, and future activities of mankind already known and written down.
- Certainly, God knows what will happen from the beginning to the end. God has no time restriction so it should be no surprise for Him to have already written everything down – in the “Book of Truth”

What observations and applications can we see from this chapter?

- Spiritual warfare is real... We’d be amazed at the forces (holy & fallen) around us if we could see them.
- Both God and Satan have assigned powerful angels to influence rulers and nations
- We should be encouraged at the power of invincible might within us in the form of the Holy Spirit
- We too can pray and receive the God-provided help that is needed in our daily life
- When believers pray, it is immediately heard by God
- Demonic forces can delay the answer to our prayers but that does not mean we should lose heart and give up! Daniel persevered and so should we.