

Lecture #13

Daniel 10:1-21

Daniel chapter 10 is a very mysterious chapter. It is one of the most mysterious chapters in all of the Bible. In this chapter, we are given by God a rare behind scenes glimpse of the satanic and demonic forces which are at work in world history. Dr. McGee said this is an eerie passage. Ephesians 6:12 says that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood. There is a satanic war to capture the hearts, minds and souls of men. We also see that Daniel is still active in his older years of life. He was still praying and still desiring to know more of God's Word and will.

GOD REVEALS SPECIFIC THINGS ABOUT ISRAEL TO ONE WHO HAS AN INTENSE DESIRE TO KNOW HIS TRUTH AND FERVENTLY SEEKS GOD IN PRAYER TO UNDERSTAND IT, AND ONE THING GOD'S PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW IS THAT THEY ARE IN SERIOUS, SATANIC WAR.

A key verse of this chapter is **Daniel 10:14**. Daniel is shown what will happen to Israel in future times.

Daniel leaves behind a legacy of a man who wanted to carefully understand God's revelation. In fact, the final three chapters of his pen show that he did come to carefully understand God's program. This chapter may be broken down into three main headings:

Daniel 10:1-3 – A prophetic message is revealed to a troubled Daniel.

In the third year of Cyrus' reign (536 B.C.), Daniel was given a vision and the message concerned a great conflict concerning Israel. This vision occurred about four years after chapter 9. Now in the first year of Cyrus' reign (Ezra 1:1-11), he had permitted Israel to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. Daniel, being old and in a position of political power, did not return, but he prayed. Probably Daniel was sensing that the people of Israel were in real danger as they tackled this project. According to Ezra 4:4-5 this rebuilding had a lot of backbiting threats and Daniel was concerned and burdened. So for three weeks he did not eat meat, drink wine or use any ointment. Just because times were somewhat good, did not mean the spiritual warfare had let up. Daniel senses there is a great spiritual conflict and war and he senses the need for prayer.

In the Bible there are sixty-four records of fasting: Forty-three in the O.T. and twenty-one in the N.T. In the N.T. there are twelve fastings in the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke; seven in the book of Acts and two in the Epistles (I Corinthians 7:5; II Corinthians 6:5). If we examine these passages there were six reasons for fasting: 1) Sign of sorrow; 2) Sign of repentance and seeking forgiveness; 3) Aid to prayer to God; 4) Aid to God's presence; 5) Act of ceremonial worship; 6) Things related to ministry.

Daniel's motive for fasting was that he was focused on prayer about the spiritual warfare (#3). Daniel sensed a spiritual battle and was focused on praying until he could understand it.

Daniel 10:4-9 – The prophetic message is revealed to Daniel by a heavenly angel.

On the 21st day of Daniel's mourning (the 24th of April), while he was standing along the banks of the Tigris, an angel, who is appearing in a man's form, shows up. Daniel and his companions are physically on the bank of the Tigris on April 24, 536 B.C. These are exact locations and times, proving the book of Daniel was written before many events occurred. Why the Tigris? This river is only named here and in Genesis 2:14. Alexander the Great conquered the last Persian King, Darius Codomanus on the Tigris. The fate of the Persians was sealed. In Genesis the Tigris was a place of peace but in Daniel it is now a place of war.

Some have suggested this was Jesus Christ; however, I do not believe it is for two contextual reasons: 1) Christ cannot be hindered by any demon (**10:13**); 2) Christ does not need the help of Michael to defeat evil forces (**10:21**). What is described here is a very heavenly and holy angel who is very Christ-like. There are seven graphic facts brought out about him:

(Fact #1) - He was dressed in linen. **10:5a** = symbolizes purity that is priestly

(Fact #2) - His waist was girded with a pure gold belt. **10:5b** = this belt was typically two to six inches wide. Uphaz was a place apparently known for the finest gold.

(Fact #3) - His body was like beryl. **10:6a** = the word (tarshish) describes a yellowish, gold luster that is beautiful.

(Fact #4) - His face was like lightning. **10:6b** = brilliant, shining face

(Fact #5) - His eyes were like flaming fire. **10:6c** = eyes with penetrating power

(Fact #6) - His arms and feet were like polished bronze. **10:6d** = body is glowing and shining

(Fact #7) - His voice was like tumult. **10:6e** = voice that was strong, deep, penetrating

Verse 7 informs us that Daniel is the only one who saw the vision, but the other men with him sensed they were in the presence of something powerful and they ran to hide from the power.

The end result of this is in **verse 8**; Daniel was left alone with this great vision and he himself had no color or strength because of it. Daniel is seeing something very heavenly and this most godly man was left with no power. (People may be impressive on earth—not so in heaven.)

But according to **verse 9**, as soon as Daniel heard the words of the angel, they were soothing and Daniel went into a deep sleep with his face on the ground.

Daniel 10:10-21 – The angel comforts Daniel that his prayer has been answered.

(Comforting Action #1) - The angel encourages Daniel. **10:10-11**

There are three specific things this angel did to encourage Daniel:

1) He physically touched him and didn't hurt him. **10:10**

2) He verbally praised him that he was a man of high esteem. **10:11, 19; 9:23**

3) He verbally informed him that he had been sent to give understanding to Daniel.

The thing that gives strength to people is a careful understanding of God's Word.

(Comforting Action #2) - The angel explains his presence to Daniel. **10:12-14**

The angel informs Daniel that from the first day of his prayer in wanting to know prophecy, he had been sent to give understanding to Daniel, but an evil demon of Persia had prevented him for twenty- one days until Michael came to help him. Satan's demons are ranked. God's angels are ranked. There is order and organization to the angelic realm. There was a three week satanic war which lasted in the unseen world for twenty-one days in regard to the answer to Daniel's prayer. There is a need for intense, agonizing prayer. Why? Satan did not want this prophecy revealed. Notice **verse 14**—1) Prophecy for Israel; 2) Prophecy for latter days; 3) Prophecy for future.

When you look at this verse and then **verse 20**, which indicates there is an evil angel of Greece, we see the necessity of praying for those who are in political authority over us. There is a serious demonic, satanic warfare that is waged in the political world. There are satanic forces at work in world history.

There does seem to be biblical evidence for the idea of territorial angels. We know for example that there apparently is a key angel assigned to each local church (I Tim. 5:21; Revelation 2-3). I do not know if territorial angels are assigned permanently. A critical point to see here is that the key to Daniel's stability was not praying about angels or demons but understanding God's Word (Dan. 10:12).

(Comforting Action #3) - The angel strengthens Daniel. **10:15-19**

Daniel recognizes that he was in the presence of a very powerful angel and he had no strength and could not believe this angel was even talking to him.

(Comforting Action #4) - The angel explains his ministry to Daniel. **10:20-21**

The mystery is this—there is a fierce, satanic battle for power over God's people and two main powers were at work: Persia—which will be discussed in 11:2-4 and Greece—which will be discussed in 11:5-35.

But notice how **verse 21** begins—"I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth." This is what will strengthen you. This is what will empower you. This is what will give you hope and comfort, knowing the written truth of God. The only weapon that can equip you in this satanic war is the written Word of God.

STUDY QUESTIONS – LECTURE #13

(Daniel 10:1-21)

1. What are two contextual reasons for not believing the angel is Jesus Christ?

Christ cannot be hindered by a demon (10:13);

Christ does not need the help of Michael to defeat evil forces (10:21).

2. When we see that an evil angel is connected to political authority over us, what should we do?

Pray for leadership.

3. What was the essence of Daniel's prayer?

That he might know an accurate understanding of God's Word.