

The Book of Daniel (Chapter 10:1-21)

7-17-19

1. The last three chapters provide an extensive revelation of the coming future events not paralleled anywhere else in Scripture.
2. Chapter 10 serves an introduction for the closing chapters and extends into chapter 11:1. The next portion, 11:2-12:4, is divided into two major divisions.
3. Chapter 11:2-35 deals with the immediate future - from Darius to Antiochus; and the second 11:36-12:4 deals with the far future, just before the second coming of Christ.
4. A final revelation is given to Daniel in 12:5-13.
5. Practically every word (names and dates) in chapter 10 verse 1 has been debated and continues to be criticized even today.
6. It was in this third year of Cyrus king of Persia (seventy - two years after Daniel had been carried away as a young person to Babylon) that this revelation came to Daniel.
7. Although the vision was extraordinary, Daniel stressed that "its message was true." The phrase speaks of the long duration, great conflict and trouble for the people of God.
8. The occasion for Daniel's fasting in verses 2-3 probably was for the ones who had returned to Jerusalem two years before - anticipated in his prayer in chapter 9.
9. The book of Ezra makes it plain that they had trouble getting settled in Jerusalem. (Ezra 4:1-5, 24)
10. In verses 4-6 Daniel records that he had a vision of a man.
11. Daniel was beside the Tigris (Hebrew - Hiddekel) in bodily presence, not in vision, when a heavenly being appeared to him. For some reason he was away from Babylon, the capital.
12. Who was the man? The "man dressed in linen" and the interpreting angel introduced in v. 10 are distinct personalities.
13. At least four angels (the interpreting angel (10:10-14 and throughout chaps. 10-12); Michael (10:13, 21); and two others (12:5) appear in this vision, and the "man dressed in linen" is unquestionably in charge (cf. 12:6-7).
14. The one described in 10:5-6 is more than likely a theophany, but the contents of the vision are related by the interpreting angel, who is introduced in v. 10.
15. In the Book of Revelation there is a similar pattern. (Revelation 1:12-20; 17:1-6)
16. Daniel was left alone with this awesome being whose appearance drained him of all his strength. (Daniel 10:7-9)
17. The fact that the men did not see the vision and fled makes clear that this was an actual event which occurred.

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18. This event affected Daniel physically - he fell prostrate on the ground.
19. If the original vision was a theophany or an appearance of God - it is evident that the personage in verses 10-11 is another personage - probably an angel.
20. The purpose of the angel's visit is seen in verses 12-14 with a reminder that Daniel has no need to be afraid.
21. It is plain that behind the political and social conditions of the world there is angelic influence. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
22. For the third time in this chapter Daniel is strengthened supernaturally by one who comes and touches him. (Daniel 10:15-19)
23. The revelation to follow apparently brought out great emotion in Daniel.
24. Daniel is then asked a rhetorical question in verses 20-21.
25. Michael's special assignment apparently was to assist and protect the nation Israel.
26. The entire experience of Daniel in chapter 10 is not only a reminder of human weakness and insufficiency - but also a reminder of the divine enablement that would strengthen Daniel for the task of recording this great revelation.
27. The fact that an entire chapter is devoted to this preparation speaks to the importance of the revelation in the overall plan and purpose of God in the world.