



Daniel 62 – Foundation to Understand This Vision

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Daniel 10:20-21

Prologue: Contrasting Hebrew Word Strength: Source of Control {Power}

{Self} Power { נָחַ; כֹּחַ }

- ▶ Daniel drained of power {Flesh} when he saw Christ (Da 10:8)
- ▶ Daniel retained no power (Da 10:16)
- ▶ Daniel asked how angel could talk to him who was powerless (Da 10:17)
- ▶ Use of strength refers to his Flesh, source of human power, even Christians, hindering maturation (1Co 13:12)
- ▶ Daniel *experienced* his sinfulness contrasted with God's holiness (Is 6)

{Given} Power { קִיַּץ; הִזְאֵק }

- ▶ Daniel touched and *given* power (Da 10:18)
- ▶ Daniel commanded to receive His power; repeated twice emphasis (Da 10:19)
- ▶ Daniel seized the power given him (Da 10:19)
- ▶ Daniel acknowledged the power came from Christ, not himself (Da 10:19)
- ▶ This power {strength} does not come from self: Father-Son-Spirit

Prologue: Source of Power - Determines Whose Control

Satan-World-Flesh {Power}

- ▶ Hebrews warned reliance in self-power is sin: Self over God (De 8:17-20)
- ▶ God *allows* leaders {Pharaoh} to be deluded in self-power (Ex 14:4; Ro 9:17)
- ▶ God *allows* societies {Egypt-World} to be deluded in self-power (Ex 14:17; 2Th 2:3-12)
- ▶ Religion {Works} continues one's delusion of power {Job} (Job 1:4-5, 20-22; 2:3-6; 35; 42:1-6)
- ▶ Sinful Man's heart loves his delusion of power, especially over God (Ps 64:5-6; Ez 22:14-16; Mal 3:13-15)

Father-Son-Spirit {Power}

- ▶ Abel example of God blessing the Weak over the Powerful (Ge 4:1-8)
- ▶ Believer's power—God alone (Ps 27:11-14)
- ▶ Understanding comes not from man but only God's Son-Spirit (Job 32:8; He 1:1-2)
- ▶ God gives power to the weak who wait on Him, maturation (Is 40:29-31)
- ▶ God's Spirit gives clarity to see sin in self and world: Repent (Micah 3:8; Mal 3:16-18)
- ▶ God does not work via *your* power but via His Spirit (1Ki 19:9-13; Ze 4:6)



The Unanswered Question: Do You Know WHY?

- ▶ Daniel has been *given* strength and reassured; now the angel asks him the most important question many people do not ask themselves; “Do you **know** WHY...?”
 - ▶ Daniel does not answer the question
 - ▶ This appears to be a rhetorical question to focus Daniel’s attention on the material the angel will be presenting as the angel does not answer it either
 - ▶ Hence, what the angel says next lays the foundation for us to understand this vision
- ▶ Anytime you study Scripture, say prayers or even meditate you should have this “*why*” question fixed in your mind guiding your understanding (Mt 7:7-11)
 - ▶ Ask, Seek and Knock are tools to understand the WHY of what are you seeking?
 - ▶ Otherwise, you are simply wandering looking for *fool’s gold*, knowledge without context to justify what YOU believe, not what God wants you to know



Underlying Spiritual Battle: The Unseen Determines the Seen (He 11:3-4; Jn 3:6-9)

- ▶ This is the only glimpse God gives of the spiritual forces at work behind this reality giving NEW meaning to the work of the angels (He 1:14)
 - ▶ This angel has the task of being the general of God's restraining forces against the Satan's general over Persia
- ▶ This implies that every culture has both demonic and godly spiritual forces at work
 - ▶ Demonic forces trying to unrestrain man's culture to eliminate God's influence
 - ▶ God's forces restraining demonic forces to prevent elimination of the Gospel
- ▶ Spiritual forces are non-empirical and thus undetectable to man
 - ▶ Science {Reasoning} captive to their influence seeking only empirical causation
 - ▶ Works-based religions captive to self justification and rejection of God's truth of causation {Supply their own truths {Lies}} (Ro 1:17-28)



Angel *Hints* at Coming Change: Demonic General of Greece to Come

- ▶ Angel alludes to the limiting factor of this mission; he is in command against the demonic forces over Persia
 - ▶ When Satan changes his focus to Greece this angel's mission has been accomplished
 - ▶ He does not say who will oversee the restraining of Hellenism; in fact, he does not give us his name as it is unimportant as all glory is given to Christ (Re 5)
 - ▶ He does say that there is only one angel who is greater in knowledge in these matters than himself and names Michael who is the general over the *True Jews*
- ▶ A hint of methodology (Jn 8:44; He 11)
 - ▶ Satan seeks to divide and conquer via lies and violence: *False Jews* killed Christ
 - ▶ God seeks to unify and elevate via truth and mercy: *True Jews* who repent (Ze 12:10)



History is Written: The Problem of Understanding Choice

- ▶ Angel tells Daniel that these events, future, are *written*, probably since before Creation (Ep 1:3-14)
 - ▶ Man rebels at mechanistic election; negates personal responsibility for sin
 - ▶ Man *believes* he is completely free to choose; unbiblical (Ro 9-11)
 - ▶ Man sees these opposing views as mutually exclusive; either one or other
- ▶ Problem: Man has reduced infinite God to his level (Is 55:8-9)
 - ▶ Man perceives in three dimensions and struggles with time
 - ▶ God is infinite, able to understand EVERY aspect of every situation simultaneously
 - ▶ Man *decides* based on his limited understanding
 - ▶ God *knows* because He sees EVERY influence which guides man's choice
 - ▶ For man it is choice and thus responsibility; the unseen determines the choice



The Problem of Choice: Perception of Control {Strength}

- ▶ Choice simply implies one has Control to make an unbiased decision based on ALL factors; this is even beyond God
 - ▶ God is limited by His nature; He cannot do evil (Ja 1:13-17)
 - ▶ Satan rebelled against Christ, and Man, because he wanted Control apart from God; he did not seek God's grace (Is 14:12-15; Ez 28:14-18; He 1)
 - ▶ Man rebelled against God, and Christ, because he wanted Control apart from God; he ignored God when told to control sin {or seek God's grace} (Ge 4:6-7)
- ▶ Sin has no Control, which is why demons, sinners, tend to be out of control resulting in degradation, violence and death (Ga 5:17-25)
 - ▶ Sinners are under Control of Sin, even Satan (Ro 6:15-23)
 - ▶ Saved learn to be content with Christ's Control (Mt 11:28-30)



Factors to Know: Understanding this Vision

- ▶ Understanding this vision requires one to remember these factors:
 - ▶ God has Control to restrain Satan's forces from eliminating all hope (2Th 2:3-12)
 - ▶ God *allows* most people to believe they have Control, choice, to make a world without God: Violence and degradation (Ro 1:18-25)
 - ▶ The focus is not on Kings of the North and South; both are Hellenistic making most interpretations invalid: it is about Hellenism's influence then, and now – Rebellious
 - ▶ True focus is on the Jews; *False Jews* side with Hellenism, *True Jews* side with God even unto physical death
- ▶ Follows the pattern of Daniel
 - ▶ Influence of the world kingdoms building on each other to achieve THE Kingdom
 - ▶ Interspersed are personal decisions of faithfulness as believers witness to unbelievers by their faithfulness, even to death if required: Then & Now (He 11)