

Daniel Chapter 10:1 - 11:4

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In the previous chapter Daniel had been earnestly praying for Judah and Israel. He had been in Babylon 70 years by this point in time.

Dan 10:1 NKJV - 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.

The first group of Jews had already gone to Jerusalem:

Ezr 1:1 KJV - Now in the **first year of Cyrus** king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and [put it] also in writing, saying,

Ezr 1:2 KJV - Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah.

Ezr 1:3 KJV - Who [is there] among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he [is] the God,) which [is] in Jerusalem.

2Ch 36:22 KJV - Now in the **first year of Cyrus** king of Persia, that the word of the LORD [spoken] by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and [put it] also in writing, saying,

2Ch 36:23 KJV - Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which [is] in Judah. Who [is there] among you of all his people? The LORD his God [be] with him, and let him go up.

Dan 10:2 NKJV - In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.

Dan 10:3 NKJV - 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.

Why did Daniel mourn?

Verse 1 holds a key. "The message [was] true, but the appointed time [was] long;" The margin says "long" can be translated "*and of great conflict*".

Daniel has a vision

Dan 10:4 NKJV - Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that [is], the Tigris,

Dan 10:5 NKJV - I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist [was] girded with gold of Uphaz!

Dan 10:6 NKJV - 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.

Other places with similar references:

Ezekiel 1:4-28 Ezekiel's vision

Revelation 1:9-20 John's vision on Patmos

Dan 10:7 NKJV - 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.

Dan 10:8 NKJV - 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.

Dan 10:9 NKJV - 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 is touched three times:

Dan 10:10 NKJV - Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and [on] the palms of my hands.

Dan 10:11 NKJV - 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.

Dan 10:12 NKJV - 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.

Dan 10:13 NKJV - "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.

Spiritual battles taking place

Expositor's explains it this way: "The powers of evil apparently have the capacity to bring about hindrances and delays [when God allows it], even of the delivery of the answers to believers whose requests God is minded to answer. God's response was immediate, so far as his intention was concerned [as the messenger was dispatched when Daniel's prayerful seeking for help in understanding began]. But 'the prince of the Persian kingdom' (v. 13)—apparently the satanic agent assigned to the sponsorship and control of the Persian realm—put up a determined opposition to the actual delivery of the divine answer. While God can, of course, override the united resistance of all the forces of [evil] if he chooses to do so, he accords to demons certain limited powers of obstruction and rebellion somewhat like those he allows humans. In both cases the exercise of free will in opposition to the Lord of heaven is permitted by him when he sees fit. But as [Job 1:12](#) and 2:6 indicate, the malignity of Satan is never allowed to go beyond the due limit set

by God, who will not allow the believer to be tested beyond his limit ([1 Cor 10:13](#)). Verse 13 [of [Daniel 10](#)] shows that the angels of God have power to counteract and thwart the agents of the Devil. Here it was the archangel, Michael ('one of the chief princes'), who broke the hindrance put up by the demonic 'king of Persia' and paved the way for the interpreting angel to deliver God's answer to Daniel" (note on verses 12-13).

Dan 10:14 NKJV - "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].**"

Dan 10:15 NKJV - When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

Dan 10:16 NKJV - 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.

Dan 10:17 NKJV - "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."

Dan 10:18 NKJV - Then again, [the one] having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.

Dan 10:19 NKJV - 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."

Dan 10:20 NKJV - 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.

Dan 10:21 NKJV - "But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.

Expositor's offers this interesting suggestion about the context of the spirit fight: "The occasion for the spiritual warfare [at this time of Persian dominance] was the restoration of the believing remnant of Israel to the Holy Land and their survival there as a commonwealth of the faithful, living in obedience to Holy Scripture. Knowing that such a development could lead to the ultimate appearance of the Son of God as the Messiah for God's redeemed, **Satan and all his hosts were determined to thwart the renewal of Israel and the deliverance of her people from destruction.** The supreme effort to exterminate them altogether was to take place some fifty-five years later, in the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes), when Haman secured his consent to obliterate the entire Jewish race. The conflict between Michael and the 'prince of Persia' (10:13) may have had some bearing on this event, and it may have been Michael's victory over his satanic foes that paved the way for Queen Esther to thwart this genocide. **The second effort of Satan was to take place under [the Greek rule of] Antiochus Epiphanes, who sought to obliterate the Jewish faith by forbidding its practice on pain of death.** The momentous events of 167-164 B.C. [or 168-165, foretold by the prophecy now explained to Daniel in chapter 11] may well have been profoundly affected by this supernatural warfare between the forces of heaven and [the demons]. Though this is not explicitly stated here, in the light of subsequent events it is reasonable to assume that these were some of the issues over which Michael was locked in combat with Satan's deputies to Persia and Greece" (note on 11:1).

Xerxes and Alexander the Great

Dan 11:1 NKJV - "Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, [even] I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)

Dan 11:2 NKJV - "And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than [them] all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

Dan 11:3 NKJV - "Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

Dan 11:4 NKJV - "And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

Additional Resources:

UCG Bible Commentary on Daniel 10

<https://www.ucg.org/learn/bible-commentary/beyond-today-bible-commentary-daniel/daniel-101-114>

UCG Article: Leading Angels: Michael and Gabriel

<https://www.ucg.org/learn/bible-study-aids/angels-gods-messengers-and-spirit-army/angels-gods-messengers-and-spirit-7>

These notes:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1syJWsPNMVMIARBFBT2-olr7ukp_Kfg061h920mEtxPo/e/dit?usp=sharing