



Lesson 6 - Daniel's Vision of a Man

Daniel Chapter 10 - Verses 1 - 21

Lesson 6

As we look at the events around the world and in the USA we are bombarded by information like no other generation. Just a glance ahead in Daniel 12:4 we see this prophetic verse - *But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.*” People are desperate to increase their *knowledge* of everything but God. As Christians we are to work to increase our knowledge of the kingdom of God. As we seek to gain knowledge, God will answer us and increase our knowledge and understanding just as He does for Daniel. God responds to our effort - if we are lazy and choose to not expand our knowledge of His kingdom then we miss the great blessings He had in store for us.

Daniel Chapter 10

Chapter 10 starts the same as the previous lessons where he sets the stage in great detail. Yet, it is different in other areas. In Daniel trying to line up all the dates chronologically is difficult and may not be quite as necessary as we might think, but it is still important. We have the same two leaders to study - Cyrus and Darius. Daniel 10 starts in the third year of Cyrus, King of Persia. Maybe a couple of time lines will help.

Cyrus

YEAR	MONTH	DAY	EVENT	REFERENCE
539 BC	Oct.	12	Capture of Babylon	Da 5:30
538 537	Mar. to Mar.	24 11	Cyrus's first year	Ezr 1:1-4
537(?)			Return under Sheshbazzar	Ezr 1:11
537	VII		Building of altar	Ezr 3:1
536	II		Work on temple begun	Ezr 3:8
536-530			Opposition during Cyrus's reign	Ezr 4:1-5
530-520			Work on temple ceased	Ezr 4:24
520	VI = Sept.	24 21	Work on temple renewed under Darius	Ezr 5:2; Hag 1:14
516	XII = Mar.	3 12	Temple completed	Ezr 6:15
458	I = Apr.	1 8	Ezra departs from Babylon	Ezr 7:6-9
	V = Aug.	1 4	Ezra arrives in Jerusalem	Ezr 7:8-9
	IX = Dec.	20 19	People assemble	Ezr 10:9
457	X = Dec.	1 29	Committee begins investigation	Ezr 10:16
	I = Mar.	1 27	Committee ends investigation	Ezr 10:17
445 444	Apr. to Apr.	13 2	20th year of Artaxerxes I	Ne 1:1
444	I = Mar.-Apr.		Nehemiah approaches the king	Ne 2:1
	Aug.(?)		Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem	Ne 2:11
	VI = Oct.	25 2	Completion of wall	Ne 6:15
	VII = Oct. to Nov.	8 5	Public assembly	Ne 7:73-8:1
	VII = Oct.	15-22 22-28	Festival of Tabernacles	Ne 8:14
	VII = Oct.	24 30	Day of Fasting	Ne 9:1
433 432	Apr. to Apr.	1 19	32nd year of Artaxerxes; Nehemiah's recall and return	Ne 5:14; 13:6

Darius The Great

530 BC	Persia conquers the Indus Valley.
525 BC - 404 BC	Persia conquers Egypt.
522 BC	Darius I (Darius the Great) succeeds to the throne of Persia after the death of Cambyses II.
522 BC	The Persian satrapy of Armenia briefly cedes from the Achaemenid Empire but is brought under control by Darius I.
520 BC	Darius I of Persia fights the Scythians (not very successfully).
520 BC	Darius of Persia links the Nile & the Red Sea by a canal.
518 BC	Darius I The Great begins construction of the city of Persepolis.
515 BC	Darius I moves the capital of Persia from Pasargadae to Persepolis.
513 BC - 512 BC	Darius I of Persia campaigns against Scythians into European Scythia, past the Danube River, Scythians refuse to fight and Darius is forced to abandon the campaign due to lack of provisions.
499 BC - 494 BC	Ionian cities rebel against Persian rule.
499 BC	Naxos is attacked by Darius' Persian forces.
492 BC	Darius I of Persia invades Greece.
11 Sep 490 BC	A combined force of Greek hoplites defeat the Persians at Marathon.
486 BC	Xerxes succeeds to the throne of Persia after the death of Darius I.

Daniel 10:1 - *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.*

As we study this we can see that “a revelation” was given to Daniel. Then, later the understanding comes to him in a vision. Chapter 10 - 12 is about that vision. It is interesting that God speaks to Daniel - first in a vision or revelation and then sends an angel to provide an interpretation. The previous visions were of the leaders that would come in the future relative to Daniel. This vision is about the worst of the rulers yet to come - especially the one we call the Anti-Christ, the abomination of desolation and in Revelation this is the Beast.

Daniel 10:2-3 - *At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.*

This is not a traditional Jewish fast but this is Daniel’s response to the grief he felt over the things he saw in the revelation. Remember that this time is before he gets an explanation and he does not tell us what the revelation showed him. Remember times in our lives when we experienced a serious loss or we were in a time of great personal grief - many times hard grief like that can take away our appetite. Daniel is the model of what a fast should be like - he is not just changing what he eats but we know that Daniel prays and seeks an understanding during this time. Our curiosity must be piqued a bit about the phrase - “*used no lotions*” and we must remember that he is in a part of the world that is mostly desert and very dry. Lotions are used to keep your skin from drying out and cracking.

Daniel 10:4 - 5 - *On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.*

It is noteworthy how much effort Daniel takes to help the reader understand his circumstances and how he feels at these times. The visions must be getting more and more intense for Daniel. If we look in Chapter 7 - Daniel only has a couple of references to himself and the rest of the chapter is about the vision and the interpretation. In Chapter 8 we get a little more information about how Daniel is feeling in verses 17-18 where he is so terrified and he falls prostrate on the ground and goes into a deep sleep and has to be strengthened by the one who will explain the vision to him. In

Chapter 9 Daniel started off in deep remorse over Israel's fate and he is praying for his people and was clothed in sackcloth and ashes.

In this experience Daniel tells us that he is actually standing at the Tigris River - he is not "seeing himself" standing there so he must actually be there. Now he sees the angel dressed in linen. Since the same angel appeared to him a second time he was less terrified and knew what to expect. The Tigris River is a large river - not as large or as great in the Bible as the Euphrates but it is 1,150 miles long. The first month of the Jewish calendar is the month of Nisan.

Daniel's Shining Man

Daniel 10:6-7 - His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.

The description starts in v5 but now he continues with a face like lightning - that would make it a very bright flash. The eyes are like torches that are on fire. Obviously he has a booming voice - it sounded like a multitude. Daniel is the only one able to see this vision. None of the other people who were with him at that time were able to see anything and they understandably fled for safety.

Daniel 10:8-9 - So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

Once again we see that Daniel is pale faced and helpless. It is hard to imagine seeing what he is seeing and falling asleep. This seems more like something in the experience drains his energy so much that he just collapses. Remember Daniel would be in his 70s or 80s at this point but as he lies face to the ground he is completely submissive to God's messenger.

Daniel 10:10-11 - A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

His hand touched Daniel and it set Daniel to trembling. So Daniel is first on his hands and knees shaking and then the angel tells him he is highly esteemed. In the eyes of the world we are always looking for resume enhancing moments, events and people that can help build our reputation. In this moment Daniel receives the best compliment we can ever receive - God's approval of how Daniel has lived his life for God. After this Daniel is able to stand but is still trembling.

Daniel 10:12-13 - Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia."

This gives us a glimpse of how things must be working on the spiritual plane. This is a place we cannot see, feel or sense in any way. The angel lets Daniel know that he was trying to come but was resisted by the prince of the Persian kingdom. We have to wonder who is the prince of the Persian kingdom. We tend to think that these angels are extremely powerful, superhuman beings but this prince of the Persian kingdom may be one of the fallen angels who is acting as the protector of the Persian kingdom. This can be hard to understand as well knowing that the earthly Persian king is the one who has authorized the rebuilding of the Jewish temple and the city of Jerusalem.

Daniel 10:14-15 - Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come." While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless.

Daniel's revelation gets more interesting all the time. This angel first tells Daniel that this is about a time yet to come - but this does not let us know if it is hundreds of years in the future or thousands of years in the future. Whatever it is, Daniel is so humbled that he bows his face to the ground. We frequently hear pastors preach about listening to God - this is the image in my mind when I think of listening to God - just like Daniel - on your knees and face to the ground, completely submissive to the Word of God.

Daniel 10:16-17 - Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I feel very weak. How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe."

Daniel is acknowledging his place in the spiritual hierarchy. In the Jewish tradition they believe that there are 3 planes of existence: The 3rd level is where God exists, the second level is the angels and fallen angels and the first level is the earth where we live. Paul talks about it in 2 Cor. 12:2 - *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.*

No matter how much we study it is easy to see why we can't even scratch the surface of what there is to be known about God and the angels and the spiritual realm.

Daniel 10:18-19 - *Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. "Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."*

Again, the angel confirms to Daniel that he is highly esteemed and he gives him strength and Daniel feels his strength increase and now he is ready for the message.

Daniel 10:20-21 - *So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.*

This is probably the biggest surprise of all. We know from other areas in the Bible that God has millions of angels and possibly billions so why is it that this angel cannot get support against the prince of Persia except from Israel's own protector angel?

Next week we start working on this explanation from the angel. Remember - study and pray, study and pray!!!

Lesson Goals - What did we learn?

