



RESOLVED

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL



But Daniel **made up his mind**
[resolved in his heart] that he
would not defile himself with the
king's choice food or with the wine
which he drank; so he sought
permission from the commander of
the officials that he might not defile
himself. Daniel 1:8



Daniel 10



In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia [536 BC... 3 years after chapter 9] a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision.

Daniel 10:1



This vision represents the fourth of four visions God gives to Daniel...

- **Vision #1** Daniel 7:1 - First year of King Belshazzar (553BC)
- **Vision #2** Daniel 8:1 - Third year of King Belshazzar (551BC)
- **Vision #3** Daniel 9:23 - First year of Darius the Mede (538/539BC)
- **Vision #4** Daniel 10:1 - Third year of Cyrus the Persian (535/536BC)

What has happened since Daniel chapter 9 ended?

In 538 BC, Cyrus, King of Persia, issued a decree to Zerubbabel, a descendant of David, to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

- Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia—in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah—the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up!’ ”
2 Chronicles 36:22-23
- Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying: “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.’” Ezra 1:1-3



History Lesson

- In 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian forces broke through Jerusalem's walls, burned the houses and the temple, and carried many captives (like Daniel) into exile.
- Cyrus, founder of the Persian Empire, first came to the throne of Anshan in Eastern Elam in 559 BC.
- In 549 BC Cyrus conquered the Medes and became the ruler of the combined Persian and Median Empire.
- In 539 BC Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon (Daniel 5:30)
- In 538 BC Cyrus issued a decree that the Jews could return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. (Ezra 1:1-3)
- The Jewish returnees built the Temple, completing it in 515 BC.
- In 444 BC Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to rebuild the city walls.



Is Bible prophecy trustworthy?

- Thus says the Lord, “It is I who says of **Cyrus**, ‘He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.’ And he declares of Jerusalem, ‘She will be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation will be laid.’ ”
Isaiah 44:28
 - Thus says the Lord to **Cyrus** His anointed, whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him and to loose the loins of kings; to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:
Isaiah 45:1
 - “I have aroused him in righteousness and I will make all his ways smooth; he will build My city and will let My exiles go free, without any payment or reward,” says the Lord of hosts. Isaiah 45:13
- ** The book of Isaiah was written between 739 and 681 BC.**
- ** So God kept a promise made more than 100 years earlier!**



In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks [sevens]. I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks [sevens] were completed. Daniel 10:2-3



Why was Daniel in mourning?

Despite the decree of Cyrus granting the Jews in Babylon the freedom to return to their home, only 42,360 Jews desired to return to Jerusalem.

- The whole assembly numbered 42,360, besides their male and female servants who numbered 7,337; and they had 200 singing men and women. Ezra 2:64-65 (total of 49,897)

It is believed that over 90% of the Jews remained in Babylon.

The cause of Daniel's mourning may have been the lack of concern in the hearts of most of his people. They had become acclimated to the profane in Babylon and no longer had a heart's desire for the holy in Jerusalem. Look at America today!



The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capitol, that Hanani, one of my brothers, and some men from Judah came; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. They said to me, “The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire.”

When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:1-4



By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion. Upon the willows in the midst
of it we hung our harps. For there our captors demanded of
us songs, And our tormentors mirth, saying, “Sing us one of
the songs of Zion.” How can we sing the Lord’s song in a
foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right
hand forget her skill. May my tongue cling to the roof of my
mouth If I do not remember you, If I do not exalt Jerusalem
above my chief joy. Remember, O Lord, against the sons of
Edom The day of Jerusalem, Who said, “Raze it, raze it to its
very foundation.” O daughter of Babylon, you devastated
one, how blessed will be the one who repays you with the
recompense with which you have repaid us. How blessed
will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones
against the rock. Psalm 137:1-9

Why didn't ALL the Jews return to Jerusalem?

- Not all the Jews went back home. Some of them took advantage of Cyrus' decree and left Babylon, while others stayed in Babylon and helped by donating gold, silver, and other resources.
- Some Jews would have been too old to return. It had been 70 years since the destruction of Jerusalem, and there were many who would have been unable to endure the journey of approximately 900 miles. The same would have been true for families with young children and those who were sick or disabled.
- Some of the Jews probably refused to move due to the comforts of Babylon. Many of them had been born in Babylon during the exile, and they knew nothing else. Many Jews had attained significant status during the reign of Cyrus. They were comfortable where they were.
- Some Jews would not have returned to Jerusalem out of concern for personal safety. The road to Jerusalem and the land of Judea itself were fraught with peril.
- Unfortunately, some Jews were living in disobedience to God at this time. As a result, they would not have sensed the need to return to Jerusalem.
- Some of the Jews elected not to return because of the amount of work it would take to reestablish the nation there. Jerusalem would have to be rebuilt. It was not an easy challenge to rebuild an entire city, including the city wall.



Why didn't Daniel return to Jerusalem?

Some postulate he was too old (mid-80s or older). Others postulate he reasoned he would be of greater use to the Jews in Babylon than in Jerusalem. The truth is that the reason is not clearly stated in Scripture.

On the twenty-fourth day of the first month [just after Passover ended in the month of Nisan], while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, Daniel 10:4



*Daniel is NOT in Jerusalem at this time

THE PERSIAN EMPIRE (CA. 538-332 B.C.E.)



It took Ezra and the caravan he was traveling with four months to traverse the nearly 900 miles from Babylon to Jerusalem.



I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. Daniel 10:5



His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult. Daniel 10:6





Apostle John wrote... Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:12-15



The comparison of Daniel's vision with John's vision of the risen glorified Christ is striking:

DANIEL 10:6	REVELATION 1:12-16
face appearance of lightning	head and hair white like white wool, like snow
eyes like flaming torches	eyes were like a flame of fire.
arms and feet like gleam of polished bronze	feet like burnished bronze, when made to glow in a furnace
sound of his words like the sound of a tumult	voice was like the sound of many waters.



Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. So I was left alone and saw this great vision
Daniel 10:7-8a

- *What is one blessing of being “resolved”? Visions
- *What are spiritually mature people allowed to see?



yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. Daniel 10:8b-9

* “my face grew pale” Daniel 7:28

* “I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days” Daniel 8:27



Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.


Daniel 10:10-11

*literally... “man greatly desired” – also said to Daniel 2 years earlier in chapter 9

Why was Daniel a man of “high esteem”?

Daniel...

- knew his God (Daniel 11:32b)
- did not compromise (Daniel 1:8)
- no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, faithful, and no negligence (Daniel 6:4)
- stood firm regardless of the cost (Daniel 6:10)
- was able to take action (because he knew God and he walked in the light of what he knew)
- allowed God’s word to be a light to him in the midst of many dark places (Daniel 9:2)



Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.”

Daniel 10:12

*Blessings come to those who are RESOLVED



“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia [demon] was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes [angels], came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.” Daniel 10:13

*Warfare is constant in the spiritual realm



Spiritual Warfare

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12



Angel Michael

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 12:7-9



Meanings of Hebrew Names


- El – Hebrew name for God (singular), means “strength, might, or power”
 - El Shaddai – All Sufficient God (Genesis 17:1)
 - El Elyon – God Most High (Genesis 14:20, Psalm 9:2)
 - El Olam – Everlasting God (Genesis 21:22, Psalm 90:1-3)
- Daniel – God is my judge
- Gabriel – God is my strong man
- Israel – he who wrestles (struggles) with God
- Michael – who is like God?



God has arranged the angelic realm in differing ranks referred to as “rule, authority, power, and dominion” (Eph. 1:21). Gabriel and Michael have been assigned authority over angels who administer God’s affairs for the nation Israel (cf. Michael in Dan. 10:21; 12:1; Jude 9). In imitation Satan has also apparently assigned high-ranking demons to positions of authority over each kingdom. The prince of the Persian kingdom was a satanic representative assigned to Persia. To seek to prevent Gabriel’s message from getting to Daniel, the demonic prince attacked Gabriel as he embarked on his mission. This gives insight into the nature of the warfare fought in the heavenlies between God’s angels and Satan’s demons. - Bible Knowledge Commentary



The battle between Gabriel and the prince (demon) of Persia continued for three weeks until Michael, one of the chief princes of the angelic realm (cf. Dan. 10:21; 12:1), came to Gabriel's assistance. Such angelic-demonic conflict indicates something of Satan's power. While the king of Persia was fighting Michael, Gabriel was able to bring a message to Daniel concerning the future of Israel, Daniel's people (Daniel 9:24). It was to be a revelation of the warfare (10:1) between Israel and her neighbors until Israel is given peace by the coming Prince of peace. This vision contains the most detailed prophetic revelation in the Book of Daniel.



“Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people [Israel] in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.” Daniel 10:14

At that time,” declares the Lord, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.” Jeremiah 31:1

“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up My land.” Joel 3:1-2



“Latter Days” in Daniel 10:14

Other passages in Daniel:

Daniel 8:17 the time of the end

8:19 the appointed time of the end

8:26 pertains to many days in the future

9:26 even to the end there will be war

10:14 in the latter days...pertains to the days yet future

11:27 the end is still to come at the appointed time

11:35 until the end time

11:35 because it is still to come at the appointed time

11:40 at the end time

12:4 until the end of time

12:6 until the end of these wonders

12:9 until the end time



When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless [overwhelmed by the prophecy]. And behold, one who resembled a human being [angel] was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, “O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength.”
Daniel 10:15-16



“For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me.” Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me.
Daniel 10:17-18



He said, “O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!”

Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.” Daniel 10:19



Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece [another demon] is about to come.” Daniel 10:20

What happened later?

“Return to fight against the prince of Persia” Daniel 10:20

- This invisible spiritual war would continue for over two hundred more years (538-331 BC), until the Persians were defeated by Alexander the Greek in 331 BC. This spiritual battle would be taking place at the time of the dramatic events of the book of Esther (483-473 BC), events that one would certainly surmise the demonic prince of Persia had a significant role.

“The prince of Greece is about to come” Daniel 10:20

- The empire of Greece followed Persia in 331 BC and just as with the Persian Empire, the Grecian Empire on earth would be affected by invisible angelic warfare in the heavenlies.





“However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince [Israel’s angel].”
Daniel 10:21

The messenger was about to tell Daniel God’s plans for Israel under Persia and Greece (Daniel 11:2–35) and later in the Tribulation (11:36–45) and the Millennium (12:1–4). – Bible Knowledge Commentary



Next week... Daniel Chapter 11

Learn what prophecies of God regarding the End Times were so significant that the demons of Satan worked tirelessly to prevent Daniel from learning about them.



Lessons from Daniel 10

1. God's plans are true and trustworthy.
2. As we anticipate The End Times, we need to understand the timing of events in God's eternal plan.
3. The proper way to prepare for The End Times is to repent of personal and national sin.
4. The proper way to live before The End Times is to demonstrate a life of repentance and holiness.
5. We need to recognize spiritual warfare.
6. We can be confident that God's power is victorious over all evil and His will always prevails.



“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:15