

Doing hard things well

Daniel 10:1-11

- Daniel is well up in years having lived long enough to see Jeremiah's prophecy fulfilled of the seventy year Babylonian captivity, and the first group of Jewish exiles return to the land and start to rebuild the temple. After everything that we've read about Daniel If we read that Daniel said "he needed a break" it wouldn't surprise anyone.
- Here is a man around ninety, taken from his family and homeland as a young teenager, forced to live in a foreign land, learn a foreign language and a foreign culture, involuntarily made a eunuch, so unable to have children, persecuted by two governments, under pressure daily, his life threatened constantly, having been thrown into the lions den, finally Daniel should be at a place of sitting back, relaxing and drinking some lemonade right? Wrong!

V1-11

- **V1-3** the first few verses of this chapter describe Daniel as a concerned prophet, one who has fasted and prayed for three weeks as he seeks the face of God for direction. One of his main concerns was that less than fifty thousand Jews had gone back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and a flow of discouraging news came flooding back. **Ezra 4:1-5, 24-25** had traveled back to Babylon how the work had been opposed and actually stopped, and this greatly troubled the aging prophet.
- Daniel is interceding on behalf of the people, and wanting to know why the work of God is not going forward, he knows what **Jer 29:10-11** says about God bringing the people back into the land and prospering them, but that is not the news that is traveling back to Babylon. But instead of mope and complain, he seeks God face, this is what all of us should do when we see the work of God stagnant in our lives and the lives of others, go and fast, seeking God's face, looking for His answers.
- In **V2** Daniel is going to be shown an "appointed time" he's seeking answers for why the work has stopped during the Jewish exile back, but unbeknownst to Danile he will be shown troubling times to come throughout the history of man for the Jewish people. So what we see now Daniel is being shown then, and he will be given the understanding of the vision, what an amazing thing to comprehend for anyone.

- Since this is the third year of Cyrus that means three years have passed since they went back, and around just forty two thousand Jews went back which was discouraging and showed the lack of faith concerning God's promise. As the people of God had become comfortable in the enemies territory with their businesses, homes, lives, and they didn't want to go back to Jerusalem, despite God opening up the door for their return, and those who do have now shut down, very discouraging.
- **V4-7** three days after the end of Daniel's fast during the first month of the Hebrew year which is when Passover happens, Daniel while standing by the Tigris River sees this remarkable figure of a man wearing a linen garment with a golden girdle, with a body like Beryl or Topaz, and a face like lightning, with eyes like fire, and arms and feet like polished brass, and His voice sounded like thousands were speaking.
- We are not told what He said but the combination of His appearance and His speech was overwhelming, now the people around him didn't see the vision, but they felt the terror of a powerful presence near, so they went and hid themselves leaving Daniel alone to deal with it by himself. All of this happened during the first month of the Hebrew year when the Jews were supposed to celebrate >
 1. Passover- Israel's release from Egyptian bondage, and now their being permitted to leave Babylon and go back to their homeland Jerusalem.
 2. Feast of the Unleavened bread- a week before Passover the Jews had to remove all leaven from their houses as a picture of sin being taken from their lives
 3. Feast of the First Fruits- a dedication of their first bounty belongs to God in asking for His blessing for the rest of the harvest.
- **V8-9** here's a man who's lived a holy sold out life for The Lord, yet when he encounters this man he does the same thing that another ninety year old man did when he found himself alone in the presence of The Lord > **Rev 1:13-17**- John falls down. As godly as Daniel was, he was still undone by this vision of the glorious man, Daniel's experience shows us that even the holiest of men fall short before God and even before His closest associates, if this was an Angel.
- The description of The man, and the response of John and Daniel cause me to believe this is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ and not Gabriel or an angel, but many commentators think differently, so we can't be too dogmatic.

- **V10-11** I believe this is a different being as he introduces himself to Daniel and explain what has happened these last few weeks. He is been made weak in the knees by the whole experience but is strengthened by the words “O’ Daniel greatly beloved” this is the second time he is called “greatly beloved”. Each time it’s a reminder to him that he is favored both now, in the midst of what he’s going through, and this revelation of the future is a blessing from God that He’s sharing with him.