

In the Fire

Part 9

“The Substance and Effectiveness of Prayer”

Daniel 10 NIV

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.

2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. **3** 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.

- By the time of Daniel Chapter 10, The first wave of exiles had returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel.
- Daniel was about 84 years old...
- With that Daniel most likely didn't return to Jerusalem with Ezra because of his age...
- Some think that Daniel was in mourning because so few Jews had returned with Ezra from exile. Others believe it was because Ezra faced severe opposition in rebuilding the temple...
- It's also possible that Daniel was mourning because Daniel 10 sets the stage for Daniel 11 which speaks of war and a great time of testing and persecution for God's people.
- Truth is Daniel was overwhelmed by the burden of “a revelation”, “a message” and the “vision” that God had allowed him to see...

Vs. 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.

- Some might say this is not a fast, because a fast only allows water and no food; none the less this is the biblical reference and model for what many refer to as the Daniel fast...
- In this three week fast Daniel denies himself any choice foods...
- He eats no meat or wine
- He used no lotions, NKJV says - “nor did I anoint myself at all”
- Daniel positions himself to hear from God. He prays, he fasts and he waits on the Lord...

Vs. 4-9

4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, **5** I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. **6** 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.

7 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. **8** So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.

- Daniel found what he was seeking and even more...

Vs. 4,5

4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, **5** I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen

- This was not a dream...
- This was an unexpected moment... *“On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river”*
- When the heart is after God, anything can happen at any moment...

- Daniel is looking at a river one moment and the Lord the next...
- Theologians are divided over the identity of this man dressed in linen. Some believe this is the pre-incarnate Christ, because the description is so similar to what John saw in Revelation 1...
- Others believe this was an unnamed angel of high rank, because Jesus would not need the assistance of Michael...
- Either way Daniel saw it and those around him didn't...

The experience was so powerful Daniel notes:

Vs. 7,8

...those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.

- This is like the Acts 9 instance of Saul on the road to Damascus, when his companions couldn't hear the same voice from heaven that Saul heard. These cases remind us that we can be close to the presence and power of God, yet miss the message that God is bringing.

Vs. 9-13

9 Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

11 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.

12 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.

13 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.

It is one thing for someone to tell you God loves you, it is another when God says it...

Not only is Daniel loved but the message from the Lord to Daniel in Vs. 11 is “Daniel, you who are highly esteemed”

- It’s hard to believe that God catches every detail, but he does...
- It’s hard to believe God hears every word, but he does...
- God not only see’s the actions and hears the words but he also sees the motives of the heart...
- God sees all this in Daniel and then he hears the most comforting and reassuring words we could ever hope for “Daniel, you who are highly esteemed”
- In Daniel Ch. 7; Daniel had a vision where he saw four beasts and the fourth beast he saw Daniel describes as “terrifying and frightening and very powerful.”

Then in Vs. 9 Daniel notes
“As I looked,

“thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.”

- God allowed Daniel to see something that terrified him, then God showed him the throne...
- When God gives a revelation or shares a burden it will always come with the accompaniment of his presence and power...

Acts 9:31 NKJV

Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the **fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit**, they were multiplied.

- Here in Ch. 10 God allows Daniel to mourn three weeks over the revelation and the vision of Israel...

- But God doesn't leave him overwhelmed with a burden...

- **In response**, God sends a Vision of a Heavenly encounter...

- **In response**, God lets Daniel know his prayers were heard...

Vs. 12a *"Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard."*

- **In response**, God sends Angels **Vs. 12b** *"I have come in response to them."*

We can't pass this over lightly... Angels were dispatched because of Daniel's prayer...

- **In response**, God sends Daniel information about the Spiritual Warfare that is going on all around him...

Vs. 13 *"But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days."*

- This prince was some kind of angelic being, and we know he was an evil angelic being because he opposed the word of God coming to Daniel and stood against the angelic messenger.

- Jesus referred to Satan as the prince of this world. (John 12:31)

Vs. 14-21

14 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."

15 While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless. **16** 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. **17** How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe.”

18 Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. **19** “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.”

20 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; **21** 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 so similar to John’s encounter with Jesus in

Revelation 1:17

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

- *“As godly as Daniel was, he was 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.”* David Guzik

Again the Angel of the Lord speaks to Daniel of the Spiritual Warfare taking place over him...

He says:

Vs. 20 “Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come”

Vs. 21 (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

- God watched out for Israel, working behind the scenes in the spiritual realm.
- It's noted in Vs. 21, Michael seemed to be an angelic guardian of Israel, battling against the demonic prince of Persia or any other who opposed God's people. On earth, Israel seemed lowly and weak; but in the heavens, Israel has the mightiest representative of all.