

Session 9 The Power of a Life Dedicated to God (Dan. 10)

I. OUTLINE OF DANIEL 10-12

- A. Daniel's angelic encounter (10:1-11:1)
 - 1. Context of the fourth vision (10:1-3)
 - 2. The description of the mighty angel (10:4-6)
 - 3. The angel's impact on Daniel (10:7-9)
 - 4. The angel's conflict related to Daniel's prayer (10:10-14)
 - 5. Daniel was given divine strength (10:15-19)
 - 6. The angel's continued conflict (10:20-11:1)
- B. Daniel's fourth vision (11:2-12:13)

II. INTRODUCTION

- A. Daniel 10 is the context for Daniel receiving his fourth vision that is described in Daniel 11-12. Called a "great" vision (10:8), it is the longest and most detailed prophecy about the Antichrist in the Bible, giving insight into his political decisions, religious attitudes, and military activities, as well as into the Great Tribulation and Israel's deliverance (Dan. 11:21-12:3).
- B. Daniel 10 gives us insight into what happens in the spirit realm when we pray, drawing back the veil and showing what happens as we offer our weak prayers made powerful by the blood of Jesus. It reveals the conflict in the spirit between high-ranking angels and demons as manifested in earthly spheres. There are angelic and demonic authority structures over each city and nation; we wrestle against these demonic principalities and rulers of darkness in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12).
¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts...in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)
- C. Political leaders and governmental infrastructure are affected by the activity of angels and demons; the result of their conflict affects the events, decisions, and cultures of the cities of the earth.
- D. Demonic spirits target leaders with governmental authority to harass, oppress, and oppose them. For example, demonic powers can incite negative feelings in a king (heads of state). Prayer releases greater Holy Spirit activity (including angelic activity) to hinder demonic activity so that a king might "feel" differently—thus, leading his cabinet meeting with a whole different tone or posture.
¹The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. (Pr. 21:1)
- E. Paul said to pray for those in authority because it will affect our lifestyle, families, economy, etc. There is a relationship between prayer and an increase of the Spirit's activity to influence a king.

¹I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life... (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

III. CONTEXT OF THE FOURTH VISION (DAN. 10:1-3)

- A. Daniel received this vision during the third year of the reign of King Cyrus—in 536 BC. This was just over two years after the Persians had conquered the Babylonian Empire (539 BC). In 538 BC, Cyrus gave the decree for Israel to return to Jerusalem. They arrived there in 536 BC.

¹In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia [536 BC] 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. (Dan. 10:1)

1. A common view is that after the death of King Belshazzar, Cyrus established Darius as viceroy over Babylon. Darius is the name of several Persian leaders. Darius the Mede (Dan. 11:1) was the son of Ahasuerus (Dan. 9:1). Some see Darius as the name of a political office such as *governor* and name Gobryas as the man holding this office in Daniel's time.
 2. The first year of Cyrus and the first year of Darius both occurred in 538 BC.
- B. Daniel's life was threatened when he was thrown into a lion's den (Dan. 6). This probably happened near the time that he received the vision in Daniel 9 or Daniel 10. We cannot be decisive about the exact date, but Daniel 6 is assumed to have occurred near the beginning of the Persian rule because of the language of establishing its government in Babylon. Daniel 6 expresses the demonic rage against Daniel near the time that he received great prophetic insight. Daniel was in his mid-80s at this point.
- C. Daniel was mourning for Israel because of what was happening with the remnant back in Jerusalem.
- ²In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³I 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. (Dan. 10:2-3)***

IV. WHAT IS A DANIEL FAST?

- A. There are two primary scriptures related to the Daniel fast. In Daniel 10:3 we learn that Daniel ate *no meat or tasty foods and drank no wine*. In Daniel 1:12 we see that he *ate vegetables and drank water*. The word that is translated *vegetables* in the NKJV is translated as *pulse* in the KJV—it comes from the Hebrew *zeroa*, which means ***“that which grows from seed.”*** Thus, *zeroa* includes vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes (peas or beans), nuts, seeds, tofu, and herbs.
- ³I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth...[for] three whole weeks... (Dan. 10:3)***

¹²...ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. (Dan. 1:12 NKJV)

- B. **Daniel fast:** A common approach includes eating *vegetables, fruits, whole grains* (breads or rice from whole grains), *legumes* (peas or beans), *nuts, seeds, tofu*, and *herbs* in strict moderation. Many agree that Daniel abstained from all meat, sugar, dairy products, fried foods, wine, and from all pleasant foods (all that enhances the flavor of food—seasonings, salad dressings, sweetener, etc.). It calls for abstaining from all pleasant foods, not only “meats and sweets.”
- C. Biblical fasting is abstaining from food for spiritual reasons. The Daniel fast is a *real* fast from food. It is not merely a diet or eating with moderation. It involves significantly reducing the types and amount of food that we normally eat and greatly increasing our time with the Lord. Going on a Daniel fast mostly for health reasons is good, but that is a *Daniel diet*, not a Daniel fast.
- D. Fasting food is an expression of “voluntary” weakness, as we position ourselves before the Lord that our heart may be tenderized and become more sensitive to receive more from the Lord.

V. THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND ITS IMPACT ON DANIEL (DAN. 10:4-6)

- A. Daniel saw a high-ranking mighty angel (10:4-6). John saw a mighty angel like this one (Rev. 10:1). White linen is worn by some angels (Ezek. 9:3; Dan. 10:5; 12:6-7; Rev. 15:6), priests (Ex. 26:42; 1 Sam. 2:18; 22:18), and the saints (Rev. 19:8)

⁵*I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man [angel] clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! ⁶His 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. (Dan. 10:4-6)*

¹*I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. (Rev. 10:1)*

- B. Daniel was deeply impacted by this angel (10:7-9) and the vision of Daniel 11-12 (10:8, 15-16).

⁷*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. ⁸Therefore 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. ⁹Yet 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. (Dan. 10:7-9)*

¹⁵*When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless...¹⁶I 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. 10:15-16)*

VI. THE ANGEL’S CONFLICT RELATED TO DANIEL’S PRAYER (DAN. 10:10-14)

- A. A mighty angel came in response to Daniel's prayer to give him understanding (10:10-14). Angelic and demonic powers were both at work in the spirit realm to affect the king of Persia. Daniel's prayer with fasting had a significant impact in shifting things in the spirit realm.
- ¹¹And he [angel] said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you...¹²for 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. ¹³But the prince [demonic principality] of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes [archangel], came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴...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. 10:11-14)*
- B. **Set your heart to understand:** Daniel sought understanding about each of his four visions.
- C. **I have come to make you understand:** The angel gave Daniel understanding (10:12, 14) of what will happen to Israel in the end times. He gave the prophet the Daniel 11-12 vision. Daniel's four visions give insight into God's end time plan for Israel and to transition the earth to the age to come.
- D. **From the first day:** There is activity in the angelic realm from the first day that we set our heart to understand and to humble ourselves before our God.
- E. **I have come because of your words:** Angels respond to the prayers of the saints. If Daniel had not prayed, the two angels would not have come. Daniel wrestled against demonic powers with fasting and prayer. Our prayers make a dynamic impact on what happens in the earthly and heavenly realms. Michael the archangel came because of Daniel's continued prayer.
- F. **Greatly beloved:** The Lord revealed His love to Daniel in a fresh and deep way (10:11, 19). The angel revealed that Daniel was greatly beloved of the Lord. Jesus spoke of the Father loving all who obey Him. He loves the relationship and life choices of all who obey Him (Jn. 14:21).
- ²¹"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (Jn. 14:21)*
- G. **The prince of Persia:** The demonic principality of the kingdom of Persia (Iran) withstood the angel for twenty-one days.
- H. **Withstood me:** The mighty angel was resisted by a demonic prince (principality) over Persia. This demonic power sought to stir up the human king of Persia against Israel (10:13, 20-21).
- I. **Came to help:** Michael, one of the chief princes or archangels *came to help this mighty angel*. The mighty angel had been left alone without another high-ranking angel to assist him in his battle against the demonic principalities of Persia.
- J. **Archangels:** Michael and Gabriel are the only two angels mentioned by name in the Bible.

1. Michael is mentioned five times in the Scripture— three times in Daniel (10:13, 21; 12:1) and in Jude 9 and Revelation 12:7. Each time he is described as fighting. Thus some refer to him as the “warrior angel.”
 2. Michael is referred to as a chief prince or archangel (one who leads angels).
- K. In the end times Michael will again stand up to help Israel (Dan. 12:1; Rev. 12:7-9). Michael’s involvement implies that it involves Israel’s destiny as Michael is entrusted with protecting Israel.
- 1“At that time [the end times] Michael shall stand up, the great prince [archangel] who stands watch over the sons of your people [Israel]; and there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation], such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people [Israel] shall be delivered...” (Dan. 12:1)***
- L. The mighty angel’s continued conflict (10:20-11:1).
- 20Then 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. 21But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.” 11:1“Also in the first year of Darius the Mede [538 BC, two years earlier], I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him [Michael].” (Dan. 10:20-11:1)***
- M. Before giving the details of Daniel 11, more parenthetical information was given. The first year of Darius (11:1) was 538 BC (or two years earlier than this current vision).
- N. The mighty angel came (10:20) to aid Israel in fighting against the prince of Persia and to give Daniel prophetic insight into Israel’s future (Dan. 11-12).
- O. ***Must return to fight***: Israel faced great resistance from Persia over the next 100 years or so—to such a degree that they stopped the work on the temple for 16 years (535-520 BC).
1. The restoration of Jerusalem and temple (the house of prayer) did come in God’s timing, even though it was delayed for 16 years. The story of this restoration is found in three passages (Ezra 1-6; Hag. 1-2; Zech. 3-8). Soon after arriving at Jerusalem, they laid the foundation of the temple, but because of opposition from enemies and economic troubles (Ezra 4:1-6; 24) and quit for 16 years (535-520 BC). In 520 BC they restarted their labors (Ezra 5:1-2).
 2. The main obstacles included the ***Samaritans*** who opposed them (Ezra 4:1-5, 24), the spiritual compromise and fear in the ***remnant of Israel*** (Hag. 1:1-11; Zech. 1:1-6), and the ***economic crisis*** that was intensified by drought and agricultural failures (Hag. 1:1-11).
 3. Two years earlier, in Daniel 9:25, Gabriel prophesied that the blessing of the restoration of Jerusalem would occur in the context of trouble and difficulty.

25...to restore and build Jerusalem...the street [open square] shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. (Dan. 9:25)

- P. The demonic principality of Persia/Iran who resisted this angel is still very powerful today. The Antichrist will bring many nations to fight Israel (Ezek. 38:5). Persia is the first one mentioned.
- 3“I am against you, O Gog [Antichrist]... 4I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army...5“Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them [Antichrist’s army], all of them with shield and helmet; 6Gomer [Turkey] and all its troops; the house of Togarmah [eastern Turkey] from the far north and all its troops...” (Ezek. 38:3-6)***
- Q. God is raising up a “corporate Daniel” to pray for Israel. Michael will again stand up to fight for Israel and will cast Satan down (Rev. 12:7-9). Michael gives leadership in a war in the spirit against Satan and his fallen angels. I believe Michael will do this in response to the prayers of a “global corporate Daniel” in a way that parallels his response in Daniel 10.

7And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought...9The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan...he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:7-9)

VII. THE LIFE OF DANIEL: THE POWER OF A LIFE DEDICATED TO GOD

- A. No study on the book of Daniel would be complete without mentioning Daniel’s dedication, with emphasis on his prayer life. The effectiveness of his life was undergirded by a lifetime of prayer (6:10) and setting his heart to walk in wholeheartedness (1:8) and gain understanding (10:12).

10Daniel...knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. (Dan. 6:10)

8But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank... (Dan. 1:8)

12“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...” (Dan. 10:12)

- B. Daniel is the only man who was used by God as an example while he was still alive.

13“When a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it...14Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves”... 19“If I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it...20even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it...they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.” (Ezek. 14:13-20)

- C. The first six chapters of Daniel give insight into the effectiveness of his prayer here in Daniel 10.
Daniel 1: Dedication of youth; refuses to compromise; embraces a fasted lifestyle in Babylon
Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar’s first dream – receiving the word of Lord in crisis
Daniel 3: Being faithful witnesses (Rev. 13); deliverance from the fiery furnace
Daniel 4: Nebuchadnezzar’s second dream – calling leaders to righteousness
Daniel 5: Belshazzar’s feast – the sudden downfall of governments (fall of Babylon)
Daniel 6: Daniel in the lion’s den – supernatural deliverance of believers in persecution
- D. ***The forerunner spirit:*** seeking greater understanding of God’s heart and end-time plan. The four visions in Daniel give insight into God’s plan for Israel and for transitioning the earth to the age to come. One emphasis in all four visions was for Daniel to understand God’s end-time plan (7:16; 8:15-19; 9:2-3, 22-23; 10:1, 11-14; 11:33, 35; 12:4, 9-10).
22“O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.” (Dan. 9:22)

12“...you [Daniel] set your heart to understand...14Now I [an angel] have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days...” (Dan. 10:12-14)
- E. Part of our ministry assignment is to function in a forerunner spirit which includes proclaiming some of the unique dynamics that will occur in the generation in which the Lord returns, both positive and negative ones. The Lord is raising up forerunners from many streams in the body of Christ who will give some understanding of what both the Lord and the enemy will do in that hour. Understanding will be essential in equipping God’s people not to be fearful, deceived, confused, offended, or seduced by sin in the context of the unique dynamics occurring in that hour. The Lord’s people are to be filled with peace, gratitude, confidence, clarity, and holy love.