

# The Book of Daniel / Chapter Ten (Part Three)

## Lesson 59 – Daniel's Apokalypto

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### I. REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

The vision in Daniel Chapter Ten is presented as a significant disclosure ("Apokalypto").

- **Age of Daniel:** Daniel is approximately 63/64 years old at the start of Cyrus's reign, and about 74 at the end of Cyrus's reign.
- **Historical Context:** The vision occurs during a period of significant geopolitical shifts.
- **550-539 BC:** Belshazzar, co-regent of Babylon, is killed during its conquest by Cyrus.
- **555 BC-539 BC:** Nabonidus rules Mesopotamia, with his son Belshazzar ruling Babylon.
- **559 BC-529 BC:** Cyrus the Great begins his reign over the Persian Empire, conquering Ecbatana (559 BC), Lydia (mid-540s BC), and Babylon (539 BC). He ruled for 30 years before dying in battle (529 BC).
- **539-538 BC:** Darius the Mede becomes co-regent of Babylon after Cyrus's conquest.

Daniel's vision in Chapter 10 describes a powerful, otherworldly figure, emphasizing the divine origin and importance of the message.

Description of the Person Daniel Saw:

- **Time and Location:** The vision occurred on the "24th day of the first month" by the "Tigris (Great River)."
- **External Clothing:** "Dressed in linen" with "A belt was of the pure gold of Uphaz."
- **External Physical Features:**
  - *Body:* "like a yellowish stone (resplendent)"
  - *Face:* "like lightening (brilliance)"
  - *Eyes:* "like fire torches"
  - *Arms/legs:* "polished brass (i.e., metal)"
  - *Voice:* "Multitude (strength and power)"

**Significance:** The detailed description of this "one man" highlights his immense "glory and power," establishing the "credibility that this message he was to receive was from God." Daniel's and others' response of fear and trembling further underscores the profound nature of this encounter.

### II. DANIEL'S INTERACTION AND HUMBLING

#### A. Daniel's Initial Response:

- Upon the messenger's touch, Daniel "set me trembling on my hands and knees," and even when commanded to stand, "stood up trembling." This indicates his overwhelming fear and awe.
- He later expresses "anguish" and "distress" from the vision, losing "strength" and "breath," illustrating the profound physical and emotional impact of the divine presence.

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### C. Daniel's "High Esteem" and Humbling:

- The messenger addresses Daniel as "O Daniel, man of high esteem" (**Hebrew: *hāmād***), a term meaning "Preciousness," or "Desirableness," used multiple times in Daniel and signifying his "status before God." This concept was previously used in Daniel 9:23.
- The messenger reveals that his arrival is a direct "response to your words" because "from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard."
- Humbling Yourself (**Hebrew: *ānā***): This term implies "afflict" or "humble" and is linked to Daniel's actions described in Daniel 10:1: "I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 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 were completed." This period of mourning and fasting demonstrates his consistent practice of humbling himself before God, as seen in Daniel 9:3-20.

### D. Strengthening and Command to Understand:

- The messenger repeatedly encourages Daniel not to be afraid and strengthens him, touching him multiple times.
- He commands Daniel to "understand the words that I am about to tell you" and to "stand upright," indicating the gravity and importance of the message Daniel is about to receive. Daniel, once strengthened, requests, "May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

## III. The Spiritual Conflict & Heavenly Princes

### A. The Prince of Persia & Michael's Aid:

- The messenger reveals a 21-day delay: "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia."
- **Prince (Hebrew: *śar*)**: This term denotes "authority or influence in a given area or position" and can apply to both human and "otherworldly beings." The "prince of the kingdom of Persia" is an opposing spiritual entity.
- **Michael (Hebrew: *mīkā'ēl*)**: Translated as "Who is like the God/LORD?", Michael is identified as "one of the chief princes" and is explicitly linked to the nation of Israel as its protector (Daniel 10:20-21, 12:1).

### B. Implications of Heavenly Princes:

- There is an "order concerning these otherworldly beings" ("prince" vs. "chief prince").
- These "princes" seem to oversee "specific nations that are described in Scripture concerning the prophecy (Persia, Greece—v. 20))."
- These spiritual beings "seem to defend and assist one another in conflict."

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### C. Future Conflict:

- The messenger explicitly states his intention to "return to fight against the prince of Persia" and foretells, "behold, the prince of Greece is about to come," aligning with previous prophecies in Daniel (chapters 2, 7, 8, and 9).

## IV. The Message of “Latter Days” & “Writing of Truth”

### A. Purpose of the Vision:

- The messenger states, "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."
- **Latter Days (Hebrew: 'aḥārīt):** This term refers to "the end or the conclusion of something," and when combined with "yom" (day), it speaks to a "particular period" of future events, as seen in Daniel 8:18-19 and 8:23.

### B. The "Writing of Truth":

- The messenger emphasizes the certainty of the prophecy: "However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth." This means the message "has been written and documented as something that is sure to happen!"
- This underscores "the omniscience of God and revealing the events as it pertains to the Israel before it takes place!" This aligns with the principle stated in Amos 3:7: "Surely the Lord GOD does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets."

## IV. Conclusion

**A. The Sum Up: Daniel** completed the prologue of the discourse between the “one” man and himself. After the being who is before him strengthens Daniel due to his intense fear, he begins to prepare to tell Daniel the message that has been inscribed concerning the future.

**End of Chapter Ten...**