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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Daniel 10.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Daniel 10.

Topics.

- Cyrus the Great the King of Persia.
- Daniel mourns for three weeks.
- Daniel sees a man in linen **clothing**.
- The man in linen touches Daniel.
- The prince of Persia withstood the man in linen, twenty-one days.
- One in the likeness of a man touched Daniel's lips.
- The one having the appearance of a man speaks to Daniel.
- The prince of Persia and of Greece.
- Spiritual warfare.

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Cyrus the Great King of Persia.

Daniel 10:1 ----- ¹In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

With the rise of Cyrus the Great began the renowned Persian Empire, which was to continue until the coming of Alexander the Great Emperor of Greece. After Darius (acting as vice-regent for Cyrus) had taken the city of Babylon Cyrus entered and conquered it. The third year of Cyrus was equal to Darius' first year.

Belteshazzar: when Daniel was taken by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to be trained in the king's palace as counsellor to Nebuchadnezzar he was given the Babylonian name Belteshazzar (meaning may Bel protect his life) so at the time of this vision he is probably now in his mid-eighties. By the third year of Cyrus, the first wave of exiles had returned from Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem under the leadership of Ezra (Ezra 1-2). Daniel understood this vision, he knew it was true, would come to pass and involved great conflict (v1).

Daniel Mourns for three Weeks.

Daniel 10:2-4 ----- ²In those days (of the vision) I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. ³I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. ⁴On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris).

Tigris River: this vision was given while Daniel was beside the great river Tigris which originates in the Taurus Mountains of Armenia and being 1,150 miles long flows past many famous cities.

Daniel did not go back with Ezra's group of exiles to build the temple in Jerusalem, probably because he was in his mid-eighties at this time and his governmental duties may have prevented him from going or simply because he could serve the exiles better from his high position in government at Babylon than he could with them in Jerusalem. Since Cyrus had allowed the starting of the rebuilding of the Jerusalem and the temple of God about two years earlier, one would think that

Daniel would be extremely happy especially since the Jews could return to their beloved city, so why is he spending three weeks in serious mourning and prayer (v2). Some say Daniel may have been troubled because: -

- After such a long time in Babylon many Jews had established their homes and did not want to leave.
- Ezra faced severe opposition in rebuilding the temple.
- Conflicts were occurring during those two years making it hard for those who returned.
- The Samaritans (Israel's enemies) were telling Cyrus that the people that had returned were planning a revolt.

But it is more likely that Daniel's troubled spirit was a direct result of his understanding of the vision and seeing the future conflict it contained which was about to come upon the people of Israel (v1, 14).

Daniel sees a Man in Linen Clothing.

Daniel 10:5-6 ----- ⁵I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. ⁶His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.

Uphaz: the meaning of Uphaz is unknown it is a word used of the famous gold-producing region mentioned in (Jer. 10:9) and (Dan. 10:5) perhaps "Ophir" or "And Fine Gold" should be read instead. Daniel sees in this vision (v1, 7) a man with: -

- Clothing of linen, a belt of fine gold around his waist and a body looking like beryl (symbolising righteousness).
- His face appearing like lightning and his eyes like flaming torches (symbolising fury and power).
- Eyes like flaming torches, (carrying the idea of penetrating eyes that can burn through anything) (i.e., like falseness and pretence).
- His arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze (symbolising judgment).
- The sound of his words like the sound of a multitude (symbolising authority).

Some say that this man clothed in linen is Jesus because the language is very similar as that of (Rev. 1:12-16), but Jesus would not need the help of Michael (Dan. 10:13) and we know that Ezekiel also saw an angelic figure clothed in linen (Ezek. 9:2) so it is an unnamed angel of very high rank.

For those who are interested in the question did Jesus pre-exist? See the title: "Trinity (the Doctrine of the Trinity) in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Visions: a vision can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind).

A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream or virtual reality) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet who then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision.

Daniel Friends Flee from the Vision.

Daniel 10:7 ----- ⁷And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves.

This vision brought an invisible presence of fear upon those with Daniel. Daniel saw the vision, but his companions did not, this is like the vision Saul had on the road to Damascus, his companions could not hear the same voice from heaven that Paul heard.

The Man in Linen Touches Daniel.

Daniel 10:8-10 ----- ⁸So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. ⁹Then I heard the sound of his (the man in linen) (v5-6) words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground. ¹⁰And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

The vision was so vividly real it affected Daniel emotionally, he lost all strength, and his normally joyful spirit was changed to one of fear, it is as though Daniel is actually himself within the vision (perhaps a bit like modern day virtual reality). Daniel falls to the ground and a hand lifts him to his knees.

The Prince of Persia withstood the Man in Linen, Twenty-One Days.

Daniel 10:11-15 ----- ¹¹And he (the man in linen) (v5-6) said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. ¹²Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. ¹³The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me (the man in linen) (v5-6), for I was left there with the kings of Persia, ¹⁴and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come." ¹⁵When he (the man in linen) (v5-6) had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute.

The man in linen tells Daniel: -

- He is greatly loved.
- Not to fear.
- He has been sent to Daniel because of his prayers.

The man in linen then tells Daniel that from the very first day Daniel began to pray his prayer was heard and he wanted to come to him to tell him what would happen to Israel in the days to come, but for twenty-one days the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood him from coming to Daniel, but at the end of this period of time, Michael (one of the chief princes) came to help him.

NOTICE.

The twenty days, is same three weeks that Daniel had been praying. Daniel throughout the previous chapters is always pictured as a faithful man of constant prayer. The following shows two stages of Daniel's prayers: -

1. **Repentance and confession:** Daniel prayed to the LORD with fasting, sackcloth and ashes confessing all the sins of Israel and that they had acted wickedly and rebelled not only by turning aside from God's commandments and transgressing His rules, but also by refusing to obey the LORD'S voice by not listening to the LORD'S servants the prophets, who spoke in God's name (Daniel 9:3-15).

2. **Forgiveness and Blessing:** Daniel pleads for the LORD not only to listen to his prayer, but to hear it then cries, O LORD, hear; O LORD, forgive. O LORD, pay attention and act, show mercy and let your anger and wrath turn away from the city that is called by your name and make your face to shine upon the temple once again (Daniel 9: 15-19).

The Latter Days: (v14) the expression “the latter days” refers to the end of a particular period of time or events, but nearly always culminating in the events surrounding the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The angel has come to tell Daniel of events regarding Israel’s future and at this announcement, Daniel bows his head and could not say a word (i.e., he became dumb).

The latter days could refer to the end of: -

- The Persian rule over Israel.
- The Old Testament period.
- Israel as a single entity (i.e. though the Gospel they become a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles.
- The end of the age as we know it and the return of Christ.

One in the likeness of a man touched Daniel’s lips.

Daniel 10:16-19 ----- ¹⁶And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. ¹⁷How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me." ¹⁸Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

How comforting is this, three times Daniel has been told that he is a man greatly loved (Dan. 9:23) (Dan. 10:11, 19). Daniel has seen in this vision various events that have caused him great emotional pain. He wants to talk to the LORD about the things he has seen, but standing before his LORD causes him to feel weak and speechless.

We may be tempted to think how wonderful it would be to have visions as Daniel did, but these visions brought Daniel enormous pain, he no doubt saw the terrible suffering that Israel was going to suffer in the future days.

Imagine for a moment: being able to see ahead in time, and what you see is not your own children playing, laughing and joyful, but cruelly suffering and being oppressed at the hand of others, how devastated would we feel, this it seems was the effect this vision had on Daniel, perhaps that is one of the reasons why the LORD constantly tells him he is a man greatly loved.

Prayer and humbleness: when Daniel’s Lord came to him, he fell in humility to the ground, often when we enter into communion with God there is an overwhelming awareness of His Holiness and our lack of it which often creates a sense of the infinite distance between us and the Holy God. Our mind questions, “How shall I, dust and ashes, speak to the Lord of Glory?” But from the very first day we humble ourselves before God as Daniel did, he is ready to meet us in the way of mercy and accepting grace.

The One having the Appearance of a Man speaks to Daniel.

Daniel 10:20-21 ----- ²⁰Then he (the one having the appearance of a man) (v16) said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. ²¹But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these (Persia and Greece) except Michael, your (Daniel and Israel’s) prince.

The battle between the Prince of Persia and the prince of Greece is the same battle symbolized by, “the he goat” and the “ram with two horns” spoken of in (Daniel 8:3, 6, 20).

Persia: the vast Empire of Old Testament Persia was organized by Cyrus the Great king of Persia and Darius who succeeded him. The kingdom of Persia rose on the ruins of Babylon. It embraced almost one million square miles and emerged as the greatest west Asian Empire of ancient times. It dominated the whole complex of the Iranian tribes and was one of the largest Empires in the world. Persia was the first of the world’s great imperial organizations and a foreshadowing of the system of Rome

The Persian Empire embraced: Assyria, Syria, Turkey, Iraq Palestine and the surrounding nations, the land area Persia encompassed may be taken to mean Iran today as in 1935 the government of Persia/Iran requested that the name Iran be used instead of Persia.

Greece: (Grecians) Alexander the Great king of Greece swept the vast Persian Empire out of existence, and brought under his single rule the great complex of states and kingdoms. When Alexander died four of his generals divided his Empire and out of these divisions the dynasty of the Seleucid Empire and the Oriental kingdoms arose which the Romans later conquered.

Michael: means "who is like God" and is the special guardian angel of the affairs of Israel (Dan. 12:1). There is no doubt that these are difficult verses to understand. The expression, “the prince of the kingdom of Persia and of Greece” could refer to: -

- A prince ruling over the kingdom of Persia and the kingdom of Greece.
- An angelic being that influences the counsels of Persia and of Greece.

Very similar language is used in the book of Revelation: “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write.....etc.” (Rev. 2:1). The seven letters to the churches are addressed to angels, but most scholars accept them to be written to the seven leaders who preside over each church (Revelation chapter 2, 3). This is because the word angels means messengers and can apply to God’s heavenly angels or to human messengers. For further information see the title: “Angels can be Human Messengers,” in Angels (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The prince of Persia and of Greece: Cyrus the King of Persia favoured Israel by giving them at the end of their seventy years captivity in Babylon written permission to return to their beloved land and rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the temple of God, but as time went on new Persian kings arose that caused the Jews great suffering, nevertheless after some years Alexander the Great Emperor of Greece conquered Persia and showed the Jews favour.

The angel that is talking to Daniel tells him that after he has given Daniel his message he will then return to fight and oppose the prince of Persia, then the prince of Greece will come. Therefore the title the prince of Persia and the title the prince of Greece could apply to the king of Persia at the time of Daniel time and the title the prince of Greece could apply to Alexander the Great, who later conquered the Persian Empire and showed the Jews favour, or the title the prince of Persia and the title the prince of Greece maybe seen as angels, representing world power and authority working through the kings of Persia and the king of Greece.

But, the expression, “the prince of the kingdom of Persia and of Greece,” most likely applies to both the king of Persia and the king of Greece and also an angelic angel since God uses angels as his ministering Spirits (Heb. 1:14).

NOTE: the Persian and Grecian Empire were at first favourable to the Jews, but as time passed by and new kings arose both Empires became vexatious to Israel. Such is the state of Israel when it has got clear of one enemy it has another to encounter. The kings of the earth are and will be Israel’s and by extension the churches adversaries, because they set themselves against the Lord, and against his anointed, (Psalm 2:2).

This chapter clearly shows the truth of the following verses: -

- The LORD makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away (Job 12:23).
- The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples (Psalm 33:10).
- God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne (Psalm 47:8).

Spiritual warfare: some in modern Christianity today use this chapter to support their false teaching concerning, “spiritual warfare” they claim Christians need to enter into earnest prayer and cast down evil powerful spirits that are over a nation, an organisation or a government and controlling the minds of these groups through demonic influences. But Daniel is not in aggressive prayer against the angels of Persia or Greece or any other angel in fact all Daniel is doing is praying and seeking God to understand a vision that the LORD has given him and he is doing this in absolute humility before the LORD.

The only way this type of spiritual warfare can be taught from the Bible is by lifting Scriptures out of their context and twisting and distorting them. Nowhere in the Bible do we find the prophets, the apostles, Paul and the disciples aggressively commanding evil Spirits called demons down from the air. Whoever prays in this manner is praying to the wind and totally lacks any faith that God is in control of the nations.

Daniel chapter ten continues in the following chapter the angel is still speaking with him by the Tigress River and Daniel is now ready to receive the angel’s spectacular message/prophecy that he came to give Daniel. It describes in amazing detail a time of great persecution and testing for the people of Israel.

End.