

## Daniel.13. Chapter 10

### This morning, we continue in the series on the Book of Daniel looking at chapter 10

- Daniel chapters 10-12 record “a word” Daniel was given, and chapter 10 introduces these chapters by describing Daniel’s encounter with the angel who gave him the “word” and revealing the reality of the spiritual warfare that is “behind” and interfaces with the warfare in the human realm on earth

### Outline of Chapter

- Daniel 10:1-4 - Daniel is Given a “Word” of Revelation from God
- Daniel 10:5-17 - Daniel’s Encounter with the Angel
- Daniel 10:18-21 - The Angel Begins to Give Daniel the Revelation

### Daniel 10:1, 4 -Daniel is Given a “Word” of Revelation from God

- **Daniel 10:1**= *In 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...<sup>4</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)*

### These verses introduce the context in which “a word” was “revealed to Daniel” (10:1)

- The year is “*the third year of Cyrus king of Persia*” (v.1), which would be **536 B.C.**
- It is “*on the twenty-fourth day of the first month*” (v. 4), which is probably the month of Nisan, according to the Hebrew calendar, during the annual time of remembering the exodus, the salvation of God’s people from the oppression of the Egyptians when the Passover Lamb was sacrificed, thus again, as in the previous chapter (9:21), alluding to the temple in Jerusalem
- This “word” was “*revealed*” to him, which is the continuing manifestation of Daniel’s spiritual gift of prophecy (Num. 12:6; Daniel 1:17; Rom. 12:6; Acts 2:17)
- This “word” “*was true,*” literally “firm,” because God will to accomplish what He ordained
- It was “*a great conflict,*” meaning either (a) it was about “*a great*” war in the spiritual and human realms, or (b) that there was “*a great conflict*” in the spiritual realm with the demonic spirits resisting the holy angel delivering the “word” of revelation to Daniel
- The “word” came as “*vision*” and Daniel “*had understanding of the vision*” (v. 1)
- The location where Daniel received this vision was “*on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)*” where he “*was standing*”

### The “word” revealed to Daniel

(1) **As the angel states in v.14, the overall subject of the “word” was ““what is to happen to your people in the latter days,”**

- “*The latter days*” is literally that same time that identified in Daniel 2:28, the time of the end of the age
- **Daniel 2:28** = *there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days*

➔ **This, again, is a key to the interpretation of this “word,” and that it is ultimately about what will culminate at the end of the age, as is stated at the conclusion of this revelation in Daniel chapter 12:9, 13**

- **Daniel 12:9, 13** = *He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end..."<sup>13</sup> But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days."*

- The ultimate understanding of these words will be "*sealed until the time the time of the end*"

**(2) This "word" reveals "what is inscribed in the book of truth" (v. 21)**

- The Scriptures state that there are many "books" in heaven, and Daniel mentions another

- **Daniel 12:1** = "*But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book*"

- "*The book of truth,*" literally "the writing" which would be on a scroll, is evidently what God has ordained that will take place through the course of history to the "end of the age"

➔ **It records that which would be similar to, if the same as the "revelation of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1:1) that written on the "scroll" and given to Him (Rev.5:1ff.), which He unseals and unfolds making known the future history of the world**

**Daniel received this "word" while "mourning for three weeks" as he prayed for his people**

- **Daniel 10:2-3** = <sup>2</sup> *In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. <sup>3</sup> I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.*

**The form of his "mourning" was a "fast" during which he "ate no delicacies, no meat or wine" and did not "anoint" himself, a fast that is commonly referred to as a "Daniel fast"**

- While there were specific annual "fasts" of the people of Israel "*mourning*" the destruction of the temple (Zech. 7:5; 8:19), the dates of those fasts seem to be different

- And while the law of Moses required Jews to fast one day a year on "the Day of Atonement" (Lev. 16:29), this "three-week" fast seems to have been an individual time of intercession in which Daniel humbled himself with fasting in order to pray and intercede for His people

**According to what Daniel writes further in this chapter, we can see that this "three-week" fast was critically related to 2 things in regard to him receiving this revelation**

**(1) In accordance with the promises of God in His word, when we humble ourselves with fasting and prayer, God will "hear" and answer our prayers (2 Chron. 7:14)**

- This is explicitly stated by the angel to Daniel

- **Daniel 10:12** = *Then 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."*

**(2) It was through fasting and prayer that Daniel participated in the spiritual warfare that was preventing him from receiving this "word" from God**

- **Daniel 10:13** = "*The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia*"

- Why would these high-level demonic ruling spirits tenaciously resist this angel in order to prevent Daniel from receiving this "word" from God?

➔ **The most likely reason is that Satan and all in his evil kingdom resist the word of God being made known, and this would especially be true of revelations from God that would reveal and expose what Satan and his evil spirits would be doing in the course of history**

## Daniel 10:5-19 - Daniel's Encounter with the Angel

### God Sends an Angel in Answer to Daniel's Prayer

- **Daniel 10:11-12** = *And he 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.* <sup>12</sup> *Then 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.*

- From the effect of his appearance on Daniel, as well as those who were standing near him who fled in dread (v. 7), it is obvious that this "man" (v. 5) is an angel

- He explicitly states that the reason he "showed up" is because he has "been sent" by God to Daniel (v. 10) "because of" his "words" (v. 12), which means in answer to Daniel's prayer

- While the appearance and effect of this angel is powerful, he is clearly a holy angel and not the preincarnate Son of God for, as he states, he was weaker than the Satanic ruling spirits, "the Prince of Persia" and "the kings of Persia," who "withstood" him for 3 weeks (vv. 13, 20)

### The Appearance of the Angel

- **Daniel 10:5-6** = *I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.* <sup>6</sup> *His 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.*

➔ **What has taken place is that Daniel's "eyes and ears of his heart/spirit" (Matt. 13:16; Eph. 1:18) have been "activated" so that he can see and hear this angel who, although being present near him, could not have been seen or heard by his physical eyes and ears**

### The Effect of the Manifest Presence of the Angel

- **Daniel 10:7- 11, 15-19** - *And 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.* <sup>8</sup> *So 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.* <sup>9</sup> *Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.* <sup>10</sup> *And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.* <sup>11</sup> *And he 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...* <sup>15</sup> *When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute.* <sup>16</sup> *And 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.* <sup>17</sup> *How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me." ...* <sup>18</sup> *Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me.* <sup>19</sup> *And 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*

- This is one of the longest accounts in Scripture of what can be the effect of one angel on a person

➔ **While this powerful effect does not always happen, it does, nevertheless, reveal what can happen to a person as a result of encountering the manifest presence of one angel**

### **Conflict on earth is interfaced with conflict in the heavenly, spiritual realm**

- **Daniel 10:12b-13, 20-21** = *he I have come because of your words.* <sup>13</sup> *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia...* <sup>20</sup> *Then he 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."* <sup>21</sup> *But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.*

### **These verses, in many ways unique in Scripture, reveal a number of things about the spiritual realm and the kingdom of Satan, among these being:**

#### **(1) God has sovereignly given over the spiritual rule of the world to Satan and the spiritual rule of the nations to his demonic ruling spirits**

- This is according to **Deuteronomy 32:8** = *When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God (the ruling demonic spirits).*
- Jesus identified Satan as "*the ruler of the world*" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), and Scripture states "*the whole world lies in the power of the evil one*" (1 John 5:19)
- Beneath Satan's rule is a hierarchy of evil spirits given different levels of jurisdictional authority and different assignments, in this case these spirits ruled over the kingdoms of "*Persia*" and "*Greece*"
- In these verses, the highest level of authority is given to "*the Prince*" (v.13, 20), and the next is the "*kings*" (v. 13)
- These are the spiritual powers "behind" the warfare revealed in the following chapters of 11-12

#### **(2) These evil spirits wage war in the spiritual realm against the holy angels of God**

- **Daniel 10:13** = *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia...*
- In the Hebrew there are two words that are translated by the one English word "*withstood*," which literally mean "to stand before the face of"
- This is literally "face-to-face" combat, or as Paul writes in **Ephesians 6:12**, "*wrestling*"
- These verses simply reveal *what* is happening, not *how* it is happening
- Because there is so much unknown about this reality, there is a great amount of mystery

#### **(3) While Satan and the evil spirits in his kingdom act according to their purposes, plans, and power to "withstand" God's will, they cannot defeat God and His holy angels**

- Michael is identified as "*one of the chief princes*" which means he is one of the archangels
- In **Daniel 10:21** and **12:1** he is further identified as "*your prince*" and "*the great prince who has charge of your people*," which means his assigned jurisdiction is the people of Israel
- While these verses only cite "*Michael*," he is "*the prince*" over the "hosts" or armies of God who wage war against the Satan and his evil spirits, which is probably what is happening here
- That he and his armies are stronger than the evil spirits to defeat them in battle is stated in **Daniel 10:21** in the word translated " *contends*" which means "is stronger than"
- **Revelation 12:7-8** = *Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup> but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.*