

Daniel's Fourth and Final Vision

Daniel 10

Daniel 10:1-9 - *"In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia 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. ² In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³ I 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.*

⁴ Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris. ⁵ I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! ⁶ His 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.

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. ⁸ Therefore 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. ⁹ Yet 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."

Background Notes

In the second half of the Book of Daniel, chapters 7-12, we have the record of four prophetic visions that Daniel received from the Lord while he was in Babylon. He received these visions over a course of fifteen to twenty years. In Daniel 9, in the third prophetic vision, we saw that an actual timetable was given, taking us from soon after Daniel's time, to the coming and crucifixion of the Messiah, then all the way to the end time Tribulation period, the judgment of the Roman beast and the return of Christ. Daniel's fourth and final vision begins here in chapter 10, and it continues through chapter 12, the last chapter in the book.

In the first verse of chapter 10 we see that the vision came to Daniel in the third year of the Persian king, Cyrus. That would be 536BC. Verses 2-3 tell us that Daniel was fasting and mourning for three entire weeks. Why? Most likely it was because Daniel had received word from the Jewish captives who had returned to Jerusalem under the edict of Cyrus. From the Book of Ezra we know that the Jewish people who returned home faced opposition, and work on re-building the Temple was delayed. Daniel didn't return to Jerusalem with the exiles who returned to Jerusalem because of his duties under the Persian kings, as well as the fact that he was now in his mid-eighties.

The Jewish feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread took place during the first three weeks of the first month of the Jewish calendar. Apparently Daniel and other godly Jews went to a location on the Tigris River to observe these feasts. It was here that Daniel saw an angel, or possibly the Lord Himself, in the vision. The description of the man in Daniel's vision is very similar to the description of the Lord in the Apostle John's vision of Revelation 1, and this favors the idea that

the man in the vision was the Lord. However, in favor of this man in the vision being an angel is the fact that in verses 10-13 we see that this “man” was sent by God to Daniel, but was hindered for twenty-one days until Michael the Archangel came to help him. So it is most likely that the man in the vision was one of the holy angels.

Doctrinal Points

1. Holy angels help God by serving His people.

Daniel 10:10-21 - *“Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. ¹¹ And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.*

¹² Then he said to me, “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; and I have come because of your words. ¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴ Now 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.”

¹⁵ When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. ¹⁶ And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons^[a] of men touched my lips; then I 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. ¹⁷ For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.”

¹⁸ Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹ And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!”

So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

²⁰ Then 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. ²¹ But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.”

Regarding angels, Hebrews 1:14 says, *“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”* We see this truth in operation here in Daniel 10. The angel was sent by God to serve Daniel in response to Daniel’s prayers and concern for Jerusalem and the people of Israel.

Notice the ways in which this angel served Daniel.

1. He encouraged Daniel with the words, *“O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!”* (v11, 19).
2. He gave Daniel courage with the words, *“Do not fear...”* (v12, 19).
3. He strengthened Daniel – (v18-19).

So we see three ways in which the angel served Daniel, in line with what the Bible teaches about holy angels. They are sent forth by God to serve those who are saved. We don't know all the ways and all the mechanics of how the holy angels serve God's people, and we should not go beyond what Scripture tells us to find out, but we can thank the Lord for the holy angels.

Notice that Daniel **did not seek angelic help!** No, he **prayed to God**, and God chose to send an angel in response to Daniel's prayers.

Verse 21 tells us that Michael, the holy archangel, has special responsibilities in reference to Israel. He is called the archangel in Jude 9. We read in Daniel 12:1, "*At that time Michael shall stand up,*

The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;

And there shall be a time of trouble,

Such as never was since there was a nation,

Even to that time.

And at that time your people shall be delivered,

Every one who is found written in the book."

Holy angels help God by serving His people.

2. Fallen angels oppose God by resisting His purpose.

In verse 13 we read that "the Prince of the kingdom of Persia" opposed the angel of Daniel's vision. Who was this Prince of the kingdom of Persia? He was certainly not Cyrus, the human king of Persia. "The Prince of the kingdom of Persia" here, as well as the "Prince of Greece" in verse 20, would have been fallen angels who were operating behind the scenes to oppose God and resist God's plans and purposes in this world. They did so by seeking to influence the affairs of nations. We read that Satan himself was the evil power source behind the pagan King of Babylon in Isaiah 14, and behind the pagan King of Tyre in Ezekiel 28.

Certainly these satanic attempts to influence nations in opposition to God continue at the present time. This truth helps to explain why so often it seems that there is coordinated evil operating behind the scenes. These are the "principalities and powers" that we read about in Ephesians 6:12.

Right now God allows these conditions to exist **under His sovereign limits and control**, but there is coming a day, when the Lord returns, that these powers of Satan and all the fallen angels will be bound. In Revelation 20:3 says, "*and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.*"

Right now there is angelic warfare going on behind the national and international scenes, just as we see in this chapter. Fallen angels oppose God by resisting His purpose.

Practical Application

Let's understand our role in spiritual warfare.

Based on Daniel 10, there's been a lot of interest in recent years on dealing with what have been called "territorial demons." Whole books have been written on the topic. Unfortunately some Christians have gotten carried away with this subject. As a result, they've lost their focus on the Lord Jesus, and they no longer live balanced Christian lives!

So let's understand **our** role in spiritual warfare. In Ephesians 6:12 leaves no doubt that we **are** involved in spiritual warfare. Let's read the verse, "*For 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 of wickedness in the heavenly places.*"

How do we "wrestle" against these unseen powers? Ephesians 6:13-18 tells us. Let's read those verses, "*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...*"

Notice that there's **nothing** anywhere in these verses about finding out the names of so-called "territorial demons" and their territories. There's **nothing** at all about "binding Satan" and taking away his power for behind-the-scenes evil activity. Now there may be some occasions in which Christians may have to be involved in the ministry of exorcizing demons from demon-possessed people, but we are not to get involved in angelic warfare.

Daniel didn't pray for the success of Michael the archangel or for the defeat of the Prince of Persia or for the Prince of Greece. He didn't try to get involved in angelic warfare **in any way!** Daniel prayed to the Lord, and he left the angelic side of spiritual warfare to the angels. **Let's understand our role in spiritual warfare!**