

## Daniel's Divine Visitation

### Daniel 10:10-21

#### Introduction

In this chapter Daniel receives both a vision and a visitation from an angel. Daniel has just finished a twenty-one day partial fast during the Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread (vv. 1-4). We were given the duration of the fast (21 days) and the location (the banks of the Tigris River; v.4). A fascinating description is given of the angel (vv.5-6); we are told of the angel's radiance like a dazzling gem and Daniel's reaction (vv.7-8). Daniel is faint and weak with fear (vv.7-8). This leads to the Angel's reassurance (vv.9-12); revelation (v.14) and resistance the Angel receives in the course of answering Daniel's pleas and petitions for his people (vv. 13;15-20). It gives us a glimpse into the combat of spirit beings; the invisible war that is apparently taking place all around us.

#### The Angel's Reassurance (vv.10-12)

*Daniel 10:10–12 (NKJV)10Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.*

The angel offers a gentle touch and tenderly lifts Daniel who is trembling on bended knees and shaking hands.

*11And 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.*

*12Then 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.*

The words Daniel uses speak of frailty and fear; Daniel trembles (v.10;11). No wonder the angel says; "Do not fear, Daniel". The time of fasting from food is over. The time has now come for feasting on **God's fresh revelation**. The angel recognizes Daniel's anxiety and offers words of sweet comfort and divine **reassurance**.

The angel reminds Daniel that he is greatly beloved (v.11). The angel has been sent in response to Daniel's humility, confession and persistent prayers (v.12). The angel says; "*and I have come because of your words*" (v.12). This is a clear Biblical example of **God sending an angel in response to the prayers of a human being** (see Ron Rhodes; p.245).

It would seem that the focus of Daniel's prayers concerned the promises and prophecies that surrounded Israel's future.

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Once again we are impressed by the angel's use of the phrase "man greatly beloved." Doesn't God love everyone? Yes. Some people seem to be recipients of extraordinary favor.

Is that you? Are you a recipient of God's extraordinary favor?

There is much that could be said about this passage. We could speak of the ministry of angels in the comfort and aid to the saints. And of course we must make mention the supreme importance of prayer. For the person who doubts the benefits and blessings of intercessory prayer we need not look further than Daniel. This passage is by no means the only example of the Bible's testimony that God answers prayers.

### **The Angel's Resistance (v.13)**

*13But 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.*

We learned "from the first day"(v.12) that Daniel's prayer was heard in Heaven. It must have been very comforting to learn that from day one Daniel's prayers were heard and that an answer was on its way! But yet the answer was delayed. Now we discover the reasons for the delay. God had dispatched an angel in response to Daniel's prayer but now we learn the angel encountered **resistance**.

The prince of Persia is not a human being. The being was some kind of Satanic being sent to supervise the affairs of that region or perhaps that civilization. It could be that this spirit being (fallen angel) is tasked with orchestrating the religious and social and cultural conduct of that region.

The angel reveals a hostile confrontation. The confrontation began the moment Daniel's prayer was received in the headquarter's of heaven.

We are given the additional information that another angel called Michael comes to the aid of the angel Gabriel. The angel discloses that he had been left alone with the kings (plural) of Persia.

F.F. Bruce

*(Satan and his demonic forces) rank among the highest angel-princes in the hierarchy of the heavenly places, yet all of them owe their existence to Christ, through whom they were created (Col.1:16), and who is accordingly the head of all principality and power (Col.2:10). But some at least of the principalities and powers have embarked upon rebellion against God and not only seek to force men to pay them the worship that is due Him, but launched an assault upon the crucified Christ at a time when they thought they had Him at their mercy. But He, far from suffering their assault without resistance, grappled with them and overcame them, stripping them*

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*of their armor and driving them before Him in His triumphal procession (Col.2:15). Thus the hostile powers of evil which Christians must encounter are already vanquished powers, it is only through faith-union with the victorious Christ that Christians can make His triumph theirs” (see F.F. Bruce; The Epistle to the Ephesians; Westwood NJ: Fleming H. Revel Company, 1961; p. 127).*

We appear to be at war on several fronts. We know there is an angelic front; invisible to us where angels fight (see v.20).

The angel mentions another angel; Michael who's name means “who is like God”—comes and joins the fight. Some Bible scholars see in Michael a most powerful angel—perhaps the most powerful angel.

It would appear that Satan has tasked certain powerful fallen angels to occupy and disrupt human hosts and human governments and perhaps even human civilizations.

It would appear that Daniel's prayer serves in some way to fuel the resistance between these creatures. We also know the Believer faces opposition from this world and our flesh.

This is why Paul encourages the Believer to put on the whole armor of God (see Ephesians 6:10-24). In that passage of Scripture Paul exhorts the Believer; be strong (v.10) find strength in God's mighty power. Prepare yourself (put on the whole armor of God (v.11). Stand firm (v.13). Pray always (vv.18-20); for others and for yourself (v.18). Paul then describes our enemies cunning and craftiness (v.11); and his evil demonic cohorts (v.12). Paul then describes the believer's equipment; the belt of truth (v.14); the body armor of God's righteousness (v.14b); the sandals of the Good News (v.15); the shield of faith (v.16); the helmet of salvation (v.17) and the Sword of the Spirit—which is the Word of God (v.17).

### **The Angel's Revelation (vv.14-21)**

*14Now 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.”*

The angel lays out the scope of his mission; it includes vital intelligence of future events. The angel is clear that the events are in the far future. How far?

The expression “latter days” is used throughout the book of Daniel to refer to the future.

The angel's mission; “*to you make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days*”.

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Daniel's people will face persecution, opposition, tribulation leading to the coming of the Messiah. The message that follows includes strong elements of tribulation.

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

*16And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons 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.*

Another translation; "My lord, because of the vision, anguish overwhelms me and I am powerless" (Holman Standard Bible).

The angel's revelation prompts a visceral reaction on the part of the Daniel. His face is pointed down. His speech is gone. How do we explain Daniel's reaction? Age? Weak from being in the presence of an angel? Was Daniel stunned that his prayers had prompted such violent combat in the spirit world? **Was it the prospect for more violence and pain and tribulation for the people of God?**

The encounter that leaves Daniel speechless prompts the touch of an angel on the surface of his lips! Daniel is given strength to respond; My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength".

*17For 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."*

I don't think Daniel is complaining. Some Bible teachers suggest that maybe Daniel felt inadequate or unworthy to speak to such a glorious being. Whatever is happening Daniel's anxiety has brought shortness of breath and paralysis.

Some of you may have had the horrifying and terrifying experience of a heart attack or stroke.

Our bodies are hard wired to shut down in the presence of violent trauma. It means that your central nervous system is working. Sometimes people experience anger or sadness. I have spend many hours in traumatic circumstances. I have learned that because of fear and anxiety:

Your heart rate may increase.

Your vision may narrow (sometimes called 'tunnel vision').

You may notice that your muscles become tense.

You may begin to sweat.

Your hearing may become more sensitive.

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All of these changes are part of the fight or flight syndrome. As the name implies, these changes are preparing you for immediate action. They are preparing you to flee, freeze (kind of like a deer caught in someone's headlights), or to fight.

All of these are adaptive bodily responses essentially designed to keep us alive, and because these responses are important to our survival, they occur quickly and without thought. They are automatic.

*18 Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.*

This is the third time in this chapter that Daniel receives a supernatural support; an angel imparts strength.

There are many examples of angels providing comfort and strength.

*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."*

The angel invites Daniel to refocus on the mission (v.20).

The battle is not over. The angelic being must return and fight with the prince of Persia. The angel intimates that once he leaves the prince of Greece must come. There will be a succession of world kingdoms. Here we are given a hint that the succession of these global kingdoms might be energized and directed by demonic forces.

The text is interesting. It would seem that Satan has assigned evil, wicked, supernatural beings with the task of influencing human leadership on the world stage. It is also interesting that Persia and Greece will figure strongly in the events that effect Israel's future.

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

Before the angel leaves; he must first tell Daniel why he came! The angel is tasked with revealing the content of what he calls *the Scripture of Truth*.

There is broad interpretation of what this might mean. **Could this be a divine Book that contains God's plans for human beings and the nations in which they live (see Daniel 12:1)?**

Could this be a book that contains God's sovereign decrees?

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Isaiah 46:9-11; “Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things **not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’**”

We are given a strange parenthetical note; “No one upholds me against these (the Prince of Persia and the combat with the Prince of Greece save (except) Michael your prince. This angel seems tasked with the protection and preservation of Daniel’s people—your prince.

Michael guards Israel.

In that simple sentence we are left wondering many things. Why don’t other angels help Gabriel and Michael? Has God left divine and sovereign instructions on the rules of engagement? What is allowed and what is not allowed?

The angel says “I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth”. There appears to be a bank of information that the Angel is allowed to disclose.

### **Conclusion**