



Life More Abundant Bible Study

Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 10

A transition has occurred in the kingdom of Medo-Persia where Darius the Mede, King of the first half of the conquering alliance of Medes and Persians, has died and is succeeded by his nephew and possible son-in-law, Cyrus the Great of Persia in reigning over the former territory of Babylon. The chapter commences during the 3rd year of Cyrus' reign where Daniel is communicated a message ["thing" - *debar* (Aramaic))] from God, but unlike the vision of Daniel chapter 8 where Daniel was initially left with no understanding of the vision, he here clearly understood the message to be an exposition of world history. The message (thing - *debar*) is the same Aramaic word used in Daniel Chapter 9:23 for "*matter*", that specifically describes the rise and fall of Nations and the desolation of God's people for a period of 1,260 years. Additionally, Daniel understood the vision, also mentioned in Daniel 9:23 to include Christ in the Most Holy Place as High Priest at the conclusion of the 2,300 day period. Daniel spent the next three weeks fasting from food, fruit of the vine, and [clean] meats while *mourning* over the magnificent message.

This chapter also marks a transition point of prophetic revelation within the book of Daniel. Thus far, Daniel has beheld and understood three visions delineated in Chapters 2, 7, 8&9 respectively. Daniel 10 introduces Daniel's final vision that will span the last three chapters of the book, chapters 10, 11, and 12. Daniel's experience in this chapter is a foreshadowing of the actual experience of the people of God at the end of time that have both an understanding of the "thing" (message) and the "vision". That Daniel is called to a fast upon understanding the "thing" and "vision" speaks of those who are called to *sigh and cry*, fast and pray in these last days [the anti-typical Day of Atonement] for the solemnity of the times (Leviticus 16:29-31).

1. Daniel describes a glorious person whose voice was as the voice of a great multitude. Give details of this person's description. Compare this Person's description with that given in Revelation 1:13-15 and Revelation 3:14-18.
 - a. Who do you perceive this person to be?
 - b. What do His *white garments* signify?
 - c. What do His eyes like lamps of fire signify?
 - d. What does the *gold* around His waist signify?

Consider that Daniel, in the company of others, was the only one to behold the glorious personage of Jesus (*mar'ah* - meaning vision: Hebrew), while for his companions "a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves" (v7). Saul, turned Paul, had a similar experience recorded in the book of Acts 9:1-7.

2. What of Daniel's companions? What was their response to the wonderful visitation? Compare Daniel's experience with the words of Jesus in the following accounts:
 - a. John 9:35-41
 - b. Matthew 13:10-17

Could the bible be possibly drawing an object lesson through the experience of the prophet and those accompanying him? Perhaps this is the actual experience of those whose eyes have been opened and ears attuned to hear and obey the voice of God in the last days (Revelation 1:1-3), in contrast to others? Indeed, God is presenting an object lesson contrasting those who through patience, perseverance, obedience, faithfulness, and soul searching (Daniel 10:2, 3, 19), are given understanding of the "thing and the vision", and will eventually stand alone, seeing God in His glory, while others will flee in fear (Revelation 6:15-17).

3. Consider Daniel's condition in verse 8 and 9 after seeing the vision (*mar'ah*: Hebrew) of Christ. Compare Daniel's response to that of the following individuals:
 - a. Job: Job 42:5, 6
 - b. Isaiah: Isaiah 6:1-7
 - c. Peter: Luke 5:8
 - d. John: Revelation 1:17

As we consider the solemn work of Christ in the investigative judgment of the world today, are we not also overtaken with overwhelming fear in recognizing our own unrighteousness? This experience is required of all who will be among the sealed of God. It is only when we recognize our unworthiness, our need for a Savior, that Christ imparts His righteousness to us by grace!

Daniel, after hearing the words of the Lord Jesus Himself, is left faint, in a deep sleep with his head towards the ground. Gabriel is sent to strengthen, encourage, and give greater explanation to the marvelous *message* for which Daniel had fasted three full weeks.

4. Consider Gabriel's response to Daniel, that his prayers were heard the first day that he prayed, but the response from God by way of Gabriel was delayed for 21 days (v12). Based on your knowledge of the situation, how did Daniel handle the delay? Should our response be any different when awaiting God's answers to our prayers?

Gabriel was sent by God to provide counsel to Daniel; however, his prior assignment of influencing the King of Persia (Cyrus) to fulfill the commitments he had made two years prior when he issued the first of three decrees [536BC, 519BC, 457BC] for the rebuilding of God's temple in Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-4, 6:14; Daniel 9:25) was delayed by none other than Satan, himself. For 21 days, unbeknownst to Daniel, a spiritual battle was being waged where God's providence and will for His people were being challenged by Satan (Isaiah 44:24-28). The bible here gives a glimpse of the cosmic conflict that wages behind the scenes for the control of our minds and over world

events. It is not until Michael arrived to Gabriel's aid, dispelling Satan, that he is able to complete his first assignment and then bring words of counsel to Daniel (v13, 21).

5. So who is Michael? The name Michael means "[He] who is like God". Consider the following verses before you draw your conclusion

- a. Daniel 9:25; 11:22; 10:21; 12:1; Acts 3:15; 5:30, 31; Revelation 1:5
- b. John 5:25; 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- c. Jude 9
- d. Joshua 5:13-15; Revelation 12:7-9; Luke 10:18
- e. Exodus 3:1-6 and Revelation 15:4
- f. Judges 13:8-23

It is to be noted that Michael is the pre-incarnate God, the Second Person of the Godhead, Jesus Christ Himself. Consider that Jesus Christ, the eternal God, before any mention of form was ascribed to Him, was called the Word of God, the author and beginner of all things (John 1:1-5, 14-17; Revelation 3:14). Further, the same Jesus chose to appear as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to the Children of Israel while in the wilderness (Exodus 13:21, 22). Also consider that Jesus, whose name means Savior, in time took on humanity to become the Son of Man in order to redeem the human race. Seeing that Jesus, the I AM, who is, was, and will always be all things to His creation, assumed many diverse images in the past, it is not a stretch to consider that He also in times past manifested Himself in the likeness of an angel to the heavenly hosts of angels, while remaining "*One like God*" (Heb - *Michael*). It is interesting to note that with each mention of the name Michael in the bible, He is found in direct conflict with the enemy of souls, Satan. It is *Michael the Prince* that stands guard over the sons of God.

Consider that Michael is called Prince of God and Prince over the kings of the earth (Acts 5:31, Revelation 1:5). Based on your understanding of bible prophecy, when will Michael become King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:11-16), and what event marks the commencement of this process? Consider the following:

- a. Luke 19:12-27
- b. Daniel 2:44
- c. Daniel 7:13, 14
- d. Daniel 8:14

Gabriel affirms that the vision given to Daniel, a comprehensive exposition of world history, including events leading to the close of man's probation, "refer to many days yet to come".

After beholding the extreme persecution to befall the people of God ("thy people") in the distant future, Daniel was overwhelmed with sorrow, where there remained no strength in him (v16). The term "thy people" undoubtedly refers to members of the Jewish Nation up through and beyond the time of Christ, but more specifically, all who throughout time have followed Christ wherever He leads them, whether Jewish

or non-Jewish. Those who would endure persecution and remain faithful to the true God in Daniel's future are the subject of the final vision.

Gabriel informs Daniel that his purpose is to give understanding to the events of Daniel's final vision, while fighting along-side the King [Prince] of Persia, Cyrus, influencing him who had backslidden in his commitment to strengthen the hands of Daniel's people in the rebuilding of the temple of God in Jerusalem (Ezra 1). The bible says that Gabriel would continue to strive to influence Cyrus and subsequent kings of Medo-Persia for God's purposes until the divine will should see it fit to depose them for the King [Prince] of Greece (v20).

Summary:

Daniel chapter 10 introduces Daniel's final vision that is written specifically for those upon whom the ends of the age have come. It is given so that we clearly see the experience of the righteous that is required to prepare them to be victorious in the last days. Through the angel of prophetic revelation, Gabriel (Luke 1:11-19; 26-37; Daniel 8:16-19; 9:20, 21; Revelation 1:10), the only one who understands and conveys prophecy as well as Jesus Christ Himself (Daniel 10:21), Daniel is prompted for a prophetic account of epic proportion. The chapter also shows God's direct involvement in world affairs. Through His messengers the angels, God influences kings, princess, you and me to chart the course of world history. Similarly, the chapter reveals the spiritual warfare between the devil and his fallen angels versus the angels of God to perform the divine will of God. It is only with the explicit intervention by Michael, the pre-incarnate God that victory is won, even for heavenly angels.

For a better understanding of prophetic imagery, terms and symbols used in this bible study, refer to the study, [Interpreting Bible Prophecy](#), also located on the Life More Abundant Bible Study website.