

The Book of Daniel

Daniel's Final Vision: A Supernatural Introduction

Daniel 10

1. Daniel's Message (v.1)

The message was given to Daniel during the third year of the reign of Cyrus (cf. Dan. 1:21), and it is found in the following chapters (Dan. 11:1-12:4). The 'great conflict' that it is being described are the various wars and conflicts until the end.

2. Daniel's Preparation (vs.2-3)

Though Daniel's devotion to prayer was disciplined and well known, he was so concerned, likely about the present state of affairs with Zerubbabel's return (cf. Ez. 4:1-5), that he devoted himself to fasting and prayer for three weeks.

3. Daniel's Visitors (vs.4-12)

A. The One Seen and Heard (vs.5-9)

This is most likely an appearance of the pre-incarnate Christ because of the description of his appearance (cf. Josh. 5:13-15; Rev. 1:13-14) and Daniel's reaction to him (Rev. 1:17; cf. Isa 6:5)..

B. The One Touched and Heard (vs.10-12, 20)

If this one is able to be identified at all, it would seem most likely that this is Gabriel who had visited Daniel once before (Dan. 8:16).

4. Reactions to these Events

A. Daniel's Companions (v.7)

While they could not see or hear what was going on, the awareness that they did possess gave them great fear and caused them to flee.

B. Daniel's Reaction

Throughout the events of this chapter, Daniel repeatedly collapsed (vs. 9, 15), his face became pale (v.8), and speechless (v.15). Each of these times he had to be comforted, strengthened, and encouraged in order to continue (vs. 10-12, 16, 18-19).

5. An Angelic Drama

A. The Heavenly Angel (vs.10-14)

Whether or not this angel (likely Gabriel) had been charged by God with tasks related to Persia, when he is sent specifically to Daniel, he is then opposed and delayed by the prince of Persia for three weeks.

B. The Prince of Persia (vs.13, 20)

This must be a reference to an unnamed fallen angel because of his ability to

stand against the power of Gabriel to such a degree that another angel had to be called in for assistance.

C. The Kings of Persia (v.13)

Because of the context, this appears to be another reference to demonic powers in Persia (cf. Eph. 6:12).

D. The Prince of Greece (v.20)

This is another unnamed demon who is over the affairs of the kingdom of Greece.

E. Michael (vs.13, 21)

He is specifically described to Daniel as "your prince" (v.21). Because of the relationship between angelic beings and nations that has marked this chapter, it is best to see this as a reference to the fact that Michael is Israel's prince.

6. The Spiritual Struggle

A. It is Spiritual (Eph 6:12)

B. The Christian's Weapons are Spiritual (Eph 6:17, cf. 2 Cor 10:4-5; Heb 4:12)

C. Demonic Influence is Broad (Deut. 32:17; 1 Cor. 10:20)

D. Demonic Influence can be Apparent (Luke 8:26ff; Acts 19:13ff)