

Daniel 10

The Invisible Spiritual
Warfare



Organization of Daniel

- ◆ Chapters 1-6 are historical
 - ◆ 1 — Deported as a teenager
 - ◆ 2 — Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
 - ◆ 3 — the Fiery Furnace
 - ◆ 4 — Nebuchadnezzar's Pride
 - ◆ 5 — the Fall of Babylon
 - ◆ 6 — the Lion's Den
 - ◆ 7 — Times of the Gentiles

Aramaic

- ◆ Chapters 7-12 are Visions

- ◆ 7 — the Times of the Gentiles

- ◆ 8 — the Ram and the Goat

- ◆ 9 — the Seventy Weeks

- ◆ 10 — a glimpse of Spiritual Warfare

- ◆ 11 — the “Silent Years” (in advance)

- ◆ 12 — the Consummation of all Things

Hebrew

Chronological Order

- ◆ 1 Babylonian Captivity (606 B.C.)
- ◆ 2 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (602 B.C.)
- ◆ 3 Nebuchadnezzar's Image
- ◆ 4 Nebuchadnezzar's Pride
- ◆ 7 The vision of the 4 beasts (556 B.C.)
- ◆ 8 Ram and He-goat vision (554 B.C.)
- ◆ 5 Babylon falls to Persians (539 B.C.)
- ◆ 9 Vision of seventy weeks (538 B.C.)
- ◆ 6 The Lion's Den
- ◆ 10-12 Closing visions

Preamble to Unseen Warfare

2 Kings 6:8-23

- ◆ 8 Now the king of Aram (Syria) was warring against Israel; and he counseled with his servants saying, "In such and such a place shall be my camp." 9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Arameans are coming down there." 10 The king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God had told him; thus he warned him, so that he guarded himself there, more than once or twice.

- ◆ 11 Now the heart of the king of Aram was enraged over this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?" 12 One of his servants said, "No, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

- ◆ 13 So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and take him." And it was told him, saying, "Behold, he is in Dothan."
14 He sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

- ◆ 15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- ◆ 18 When they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike this people with blindness, I pray." So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. 19 Then Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he brought them to Samaría.

- ◆ 20 When they had come into Samaria, Elisha said, "O Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the Lord opened their eyes and they saw; and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. 21 Then the king of Israel when he saw them, said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

- ◆ 22 He answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master." 23 So he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the marauding bands of Arameans (Syrians) did not come again into the land of Israel.

Daniel 10:1

- ◆ In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

- ◆ this is the 4th and final vision (that we have recorded) of Daniel
- ◆ he was in his 80's
- ◆ he was in "retirement"
 - ◆ out of public office; he was in office until the first year of Cyrus (Daniel 1:21)

- ◆ many believe that Daniel's life was full of visions and dreams everyday of his life
- ◆ one preacher noted that the events listed in the book of Daniel would have been about a 5 day span in Daniel's life
- ◆ he lived approximately 34,000 days
 - ◆ so what did he do the rest of the time?
 - ◆ he worked and prayed
 - ◆ he had his first vision at 69 and his last at 86

- ◆ this vision was in great detail and chapter 10 is the prelude to chapters 11-12, where the vision is told to us in great detail
- ◆ Daniel understood this vision

Daniel 10:2-4

- ◆ 2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.
- ◆ 3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.
- ◆ 4 And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;

- ◆ he had been fasting 21 days
- ◆ it was not a complete fast, but partial
- ◆ he explains the fast he was on
- ◆ he only ate things to keep him alive and surviving - nothing that was pleasing

- ♦ why was Daniel fasting?
 - ♦ this should be a time of rejoicing, as his people were back in their land by the decree of Cyrus
 - ♦ they would be in their second year in their land
 - ♦ Daniel hadn't gone
 - ♦ age?
 - ♦ wanted to wait for all to go back?
 - ♦ God didn't want him to?
 - ♦ he died in Shushan (Persia)

- ◆ why is he sad and fasting?
- ◆ he realized that everything was going wrong by the reports he had received
 - ◆ Some Jews had gone back but the rest would not go (50,000 had gone and the rest had given money to go). Those who didn't go back sent money for the rebuilding project.
 - ◆ Those who had gone began to rebuild with enthusiasm, but then it dwindled. The building came to a stop
 - ◆ Among the 50,000 Jews they were dividing and arguing among themselves
 - ◆ There were enemies all around the 50,000 opposing them

- ◆ everything wasn't so wonderful as one would think
- ◆ We think the same thing so many times — that once we get such and such or have such and such that everything will be okay. Not always the case, but getting spiritually right with God is what we need for things to be right

- ◆ this fast took place in the first month, the month of Nisan
- ◆ he began fasting (mourning) on Nisan 3 until Nisan 24
 - ◆ religious/sacred calendar
 - ◆ Passover / Unleavened Bread / First Fruits
 - ◆ 7 day period — so why 21 days?

- ◆ because he wanted an answer from God about his people and nation; he wanted to better understand the visions he had already received; he wanted the Lord to reveal additional truths to him about his people and the future of Israel
- ◆ he was asking "Why?"
- ◆ because of Daniel's burden and because he fasted and prayed we are able to study his prophecies today

Daniel 10:5-9

- ◆ 5 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz:
- ◆ 6 His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

Daniel 10:5-9

- ◆ 7 And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.
- ◆ 8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.
- ◆ 9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

- ◆ who is this “certain man”
- ◆ the appearance of this man was overwhelming, so much so that the men with Daniel fled and hid due to the powerful presence and Daniel was left alone
- ◆ Daniel had no strength, listening to the man but unable to respond — he then fell to the earth in a deep sleep
 - ◆ “corruption” = he feels inadequate and is aware of his lack of holiness
- ◆ Angel? (Gabriel?)
- ◆ Christ?

- ◆ Daniel 10:10 — ¹⁰And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. ¹¹And he said unto me, O Daniel...
- ◆ is this the hand of the “certain man” or of a different person?
- ◆ NASB — ¹⁰Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹He said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem...

- ◆ if it's the hand of a different being then the first person Daniel saw standing on the other side of the bank could have been Christ (resemblance to Revelation 1:12-16 and John's response was the same as Daniel's)
- ◆ if it's the hand of the same being then I doubt it is Christ because he needed help from Michael to get past the prince of Persia, and Christ doesn't need that kind of help

Daniel 10:10-13

- ◆ 10 And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.
- ◆ 11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

Daniel 10:10-13

- ◆ 12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.
- ◆ 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

- ◆ if this was Christ, why would He appear to Daniel?
- ◆ something to think about:
 - ◆ to Abraham He came as a traveler (Gen 18)
 - ◆ to Jacob He came as a wrestler (Gen 32)
 - ◆ to Joshua as Captain of the Lord's armies (Joshua 5:13-15)
 - ◆ to Isaiah He revealed Himself as the King on the throne (Isa 6; John 12:37-41)
 - ◆ to Daniel and John (isle of Patmos) he appeared as the glorified King Priest
 - ◆ after seeing Him, both were given visions of future events
- ◆ when we know that Jesus is standing with us and fighting for us, we can accept any circumstance and accomplish any task He gives us

- ◆ lesson for Christian leaders:
 - ◆ there is a price to pay if we are to see what God wants us to see and hear what He is saying to us
 - ◆ Daniel didn't have this great vision early in his ministry but at the end of a long and faithful life
 - ◆ Matthew 5:8 — Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God
 - ◆ spiritual leaders often see what others can't see and hear what others fail to hear
 - ◆ they must stand when others flee and they must receive God's message even if it makes them feel weak and helpless

- ◆ the angel had come to give Daniel a special revelation concerning the Jewish people and what would happen to them in the latter days (Dan. 10:14)

- ◆ v.11 — “greatly beloved” — again, “greatly beloved” — used of Daniel and John
- ◆ because we, His children, are “in Christ” we are “accepted in the beloved” (Ephesians 1:6) and the Father loves us as He loves His Son (John 17:23, 26)
- ◆ it isn’t enough for us to know that God loves us; we must so live in fellowship with Him that we “keep [ourselves] in the love of God (Jude 21; John 14:19-24)

- ◆ 10:12 — Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.
- ◆ Isaiah 65:24 — And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.
- ◆ notice how Daniel prepared himself to hear from God — he chastened himself, fasting
- ◆ read about fasting in Isaiah 58

- ◆ v. 13 — But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.
- ◆ the reason Daniel's prayer wasn't being answered is because of the spiritual warfare that was taking place
- ◆ there is an invisible warfare taking place in the heavenlies between the forces of evil and the forces of God
- ◆ Daniel had been praying for three weeks, but the answer to the prayer had been delayed

- ◆ there had been some sort of spiritual battle in the heavenlies and the messenger angel (probably Gabriel), while detained due to this evil power, was aided by Michael and together they were able to beat this evil foe and win the battle
- ◆ this was Satan's emissary

- ◆ Ephesians 6:10-18 explains to us that Satan has a well-organized army of evil spirits that obey his every command
- ◆ Jesus, through His sacrificial work on the cross, defeated Satan and his army
- ◆ Colossians 2:14-15 — 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
- ◆ we can claim that victory by faith!
- ◆ our responsibility is to put on the whole armor of God by faith and use the Word of God and believing prayer to oppose and defeat the wicked one

Ephesians 6:10-18

- ◆ 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
- ◆ 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- ◆ 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
- ◆ 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:10-18

- ◆ 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- ◆ 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- ◆ 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
- ◆ 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, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints

- ◆ this is Satan's hierarchy
 - ◆ there was a prince of Persia and of Greece
 - ◆ is there one over the US? UN? EU? — more than likely!
- ◆ we are told to put on the whole armor of God, not to leave any of it off so as to be vulnerable at any moment

- ◆ above all we are to pray
- ◆ this is what Daniel did — he was a man of prayer!
- ◆ Daniel realized the great significance of God's plans for Israel, and once again he fainted and was unable to speak
- ◆ he had been involved in a cosmic spiritual conflict and didn't even know it
- ◆ the Lord was using some of His higher angels to answer his prayers!

- ◆ this lifts prayer out of a humdrum religious exercise and shows it to be one of our strongest and most important spiritual weapons
- ◆ the neglect of prayer is the reason why many churches and individual believers are so weak and defeated
- ◆ Jesus taught His disciples that the demonic forces could not be defeated except by prayer and fasting, the very activities that Daniel had been involved in for three weeks (Matt 17:14-21)

Daniel 10:14-17

- ◆ 14 Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.
- ◆ 15 And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.

Daniel 10:14-17

- ◆ 16 And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.
- ◆ 17 For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.

Daniel 10:18-21

- ◆ 18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,
- ◆ 19 And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

Daniel 10:18-21

- ◆ 20 Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.
- ◆ 21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

- ◆ the angel made it clear that the battle wasn't over yet
 - ◆ he had to return to assist Michael in battling the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece, two satanic evil angels who were opposing the plans of the Lord for these nations
- ◆ the ruler of Persia had shown great kindness and mercy to the Jews in allowing them to return home, and Satan was against this decision
 - ◆ God had plans for Greece (11:2-4) and Satan wanted to interfere there
- ◆ one of these reasons why God tells us to pray for our leaders is so that God's will, not Satan's plans, might be fulfilled in their lives (1 Tim 2:1-3)

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

- ◆ 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
- ◆ 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- ◆ Word of God — Ephesians 6:17
- ◆ Prayer — Ephesians 6:18
- ◆ Worship — 2 Chron. 20:22-23
- ◆ the Name of Jesus — Phil. 2:9-11
- ◆ our Testimony — Rev. 12:11
- ◆ Thanksgiving — Phil. 4:6-7