

## THE TIME OF THE END (PT 1)

### (Daniel 10:1-11:1)

#### ❖ The situation (Daniel 10:1-3).

- The date of this final vision is given as the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of Cyrus.
  - Cyrus came to power in 559 BC.
  - We know this isn't the date of the writing of this vision, so this means the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Cyrus' reign over Babylon.
  - This places it in 537-536 BC.
  - This is the latest date given in the book of Daniel.
- Daniel had been given a revelation about a great conflict that was coming.
  - The KJV says, "but the time appointed was long".
  - The word for "long" can also be translated "conflict" or "war".
  - The ESV has, "and it was a great conflict".
  - The NIV has, "and it concerned a great war".
- What was coming caused Daniel to mourn for three weeks and to fast during that time.
  - He probably only ate vegetables and drank water.
  - He also did not use any anointing oils which were used to make one smell better.
  - They didn't have deodorant like we do so these oils were used.
- So the situation is Daniel has been mourning and fasting for three weeks because he had been given a true revelation about a great conflict that was coming for his people.

#### ❖ The presentation (Daniel 10:4-6)

- On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the first month Daniel was by the Tigris River, the KJV has Hiddekel.
  - Compared to anything in Israel, the Tigris is a great river.
  - We don't know why Daniel was there but it was about 50 miles from Babylon.
- This would have been just a few days after the Passover feast.
- While he was by the Tigris, he saw what looked like a man clothed in linen.
  - Linen was worn by priests and royalty.
  - This showed the significance of the being.
- His loins were covered with gold.
  - Some have translated this as a sash covering his chest.
  - They have done so because of Revelation 1:13 and Revelation 15:6.
  - Again, the use of gold shows the prestige of the being.
- The term for beryl is unknown.
  - This is some type of gem.
  - Some translations have topaz.
  - Whatever it was, it is showing the glory and radiance of the being Daniel was seeing.
- His majesty is described by his having a face like the appearance of lightening.
- His ability to perceive and know is described by his eyes being as lamps of fire.

- His arms and feet appearing like polished brass describe his having been used by God to carry out His will.
- He had authority which is seen in his voice sounding like a multitude.
- Who was this being?
  - There are two ideas as to who this was.
  - One is that it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Godhead.
    - This is because of the similarity of the being to that of the description of Jesus in Revelation 1 and what is seen in the book of Ezekiel in chapter 9.
    - This would not be the first instance of the Son appearing in the Old Testament.
    - He is seen for sure in Joshua 5 and other passages.
  - The second is that it was Gabriel in all of his glory.
    - This is because of what is revealed about Michael, the archangel, later in this chapter.
    - The one presented to Daniel had Michael to help him and some do not believe the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Godhead would need help.
  - I don't know the answer.
  - I will say that Homer Hailey made an interesting observation in that in each of the visions, the one giving the vision gets progressively greater in appearance in importance.

#### ❖ **The trepidation (Daniel 10:7-9)**

- Could you imagine how you would react if you were in Daniel's position?
- Somewhat like what happened with Saul of Tarsus's traveling companions, the ones with Daniel did not see the being but were overcome with fear and ran away.
  - They did not hear or see the being.
  - However, they knew something incredible was happening and it caused them to tremble with fear and run away so only Daniel saw the being.
- What Daniel saw took all his strength away.
  - The KJV says his comeliness was turned in me into corruption.
  - The New American Standard has "my natural color turned to a deathly pallor".
  - His color left him and he was scared to death.
  - When Daniel heard the voice of the being he passed out.
- I don't blame Daniel at all.
  - He had been fasting so he was somewhat weak.
  - He was nearly 90 years of age more than likely.
  - This was simply too much for him.

#### ❖ **The rejuvenation (Daniel 10:10-19)**

- A hand touched and strengthened Daniel enough to get him awake and at least on his knees.

- The being then reminded Daniel that he was greatly beloved by God.
- The being had come to give him understanding about the things Daniel had prayed about and wanted to understand.
  - He had been wanting to come but had been withstood by the prince of Persia.
  - Here we get a glimpse into Ephesians 6:12.
  - The word for prince can mean a human or heavenly being.
  - Most believe this to be some type of evil angel that was at work against God and God's plan.
  - The archangel Michael came to his aid and allowed him to come to Daniel to give him the understanding about what had been revealed to him.
- What had been revealed to Daniel would not happen for some time but it was to happen to the Jews and it would happen in the latter days.
  - What Daniel had been given was for the future but it was about what would happen to the Jews.
  - When you get into chapter 11 you will see that what is happening is between the Medo-Persian empire and the Greek empire, and then what happened to the Greek empire in breaking apart, especially the Seleucid and Ptolemaic conflict, in which the Jews were caught in the middle.
- Again, this was too much for Daniel and he again had to be rejuvenated because he lost the ability to speak and simply put his head on the ground.
  - The word for sorrows is interesting.
  - It literally means pangs and was used to describe the sharp pains of a woman in labor.
  - What Daniel had seen caused him to physically hurt.
- An angel came and touched his lips and he informed the being that what he had been shown had removed his strength from him, so much so that he felt as if he couldn't even breathe.
- Another angel came and touched him and strengthened him.
- The being then reminded Daniel again of God's feelings for him and encouraged him to not fear.
  - He told him shalom, or peace be unto you.
  - He told him twice to be strong.
- This strengthened Daniel and he was ready to hear what the angel had to say.
- Notice that three times Daniel had to be rejuvenated because of the appearance the being.

#### ❖ **The explanation begun (Daniel 10:20-11:1)**

- The being then asked Daniel if he understood why he had come to him.
  - Remember, Daniel had passed out and been weak.
  - The being wanted Daniel to make sure he understood why he had come to Daniel.

- He told Daniel that he was going to go back to fight with the prince of Persia, because there was still more going on at that time.
  - At some point though, the nation of Greece would rise up and the evil angels involved with that nation would have to be battled.
  - Again, we are given a small glimpse into what was happening on the other side.
- The things going on in Persia at the time would have to include the events taking place with God's people who had gone back to Jerusalem in the first year of Cyrus.
  - Remember that Cyrus made the decree for the Jews to go back to Jerusalem and to build the temple.
  - The first couple of years things went well.
    - They built the altar in the first year.
    - They laid the foundation of the temple the second year.
    - After that, the people around them greatly hindered the work and for several years nothing was done.
- All of what was being shown Daniel was going to be about what happened to the Jewish people.
  - The time of it would be what we call the inter-testamental period.
  - The time between the end of Malachi and the beginning of what we are told in the gospels.
  - Stephen Miller, in his commentary on Daniel, wrote: "This struggle involves all of the decisions and relationships pertaining to the Jews during the Persian period (e.g., the reconstruction of the temple, deliverance for the Jews during the time of Esther, permission for Ezra and Nehemiah to return, and their subsequent construction of the city).
  - Then what happened during the Grecian empire is also discussed in chapters 11 and 12.
- Notice the beginning of Daniel 10:21.
  - The being says that he would tell Daniel what was written in the book of truth.
  - The idea is a heavenly book that tells the future.
  - Remember, God had a plan to bring in His Son into the world in order to redeem mankind.
  - God is in control of this and knew all these things were going to take place.
- Michael the archangel is mentioned as standing with this being and being the prince of God's people.
  - We don't know all that this entails.
  - We see Michael in Revelation 12 leading the angels in heaven, casting Satan out.
  - Michael is somehow involved in the safekeeping of God's people.
- 11:1 is really the end of chapter 10.
  - This being rose up to encourage Michael in the first year of the reign of Darius.
  - He fought with him for God's people.

## ❖ The application

- This chapter tells us how to be beloved by God.
  - Remember twice in the chapter Daniel is called beloved of God and he was called this by Gabriel, recorded in chapter 9.
  - How could he be called this and can we?
  - I believe the answer to that last question is yes, if we are like Daniel.
  - Daniel 10:12 contains the answer.
  - Daniel set heart to understand what God had revealed and he had humbled himself before God.
  - If we will seek to understand God's word and humble ourselves before God, we will be beloved by God as well.
  - James tells us that if we will humble ourselves that God will exalt us (James 4:10).
  - When we seek to understand God's word we are doing what Peter told us to do, "Grow in the grace and knowledge" of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
- We learn that a lot of things are going on of which we have little to no understanding.
  - God's people were under attack and going to be under attack.
  - There would be a plot to kill all the Jews brought about by Haman during the time that is under consideration.
  - Later, Antiochus Epiphanes, a Seleucid king, is going to try his best to destroy all the Jews.
  - These men had to be stopped and it was not Jews that could stop them.
  - God had to have a part and his angels had a part.
  - We don't know what is going on today but God and His angels are at work.
  - I can't tell you how, but this chapter makes me a believer of that for certain.
- We learn also that we aren't ever going to know all that we want to know in this life.
  - No doubt, we would love to know more about the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece.
  - We would love to know more about Michael and Gabriel.
  - Those things, while amazing to think about, are not for us to know right now and we have to be okay with that.