

# DANIEL

## Lesson 17: Daniel 10:1-21 Mission Critical Intel

- “Transformers” are more than meets the eye.
- Don’t you get the sense that this is true in life. Doesn’t it seem as though there are forces at work behind world events, battling to move history either away or towards God?
- This is not just a “feeling;” there is solid biblical evidence for it, and Daniel 10 reveals that in world affairs there’s far more going on than just what’s on the surface. Get ready to look behind the curtain.

- This vision given to Daniel spans three chapters.
- It is, by far, the most detailed description of what was, for Daniel, a master roadmap of future world events.
- Much of what is predicted can be verified because, for us, it has already happened.
- But the precision of fulfillment (of what has already happened) calls us to take what is unfulfilled seriously.

- There are three parts to this vision.
- Preface (chapter 10) – explanation of how Daniel received this amazing treasure trove of information.
- Timeline of Events (chapter 11) – a detailed account of world events pertinent to God’s people post Daniel.
- Implications (chapter 12) – practical applications for those who will experience these events.

- Especially in chapter 11, it will be detailed and tough sledding.
- You might be inclined to ask, “Do we really need all this historical information?”
- I will say more next week, but for now...
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 – *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

- God says that this passage can help a man or woman of God to be adequate and equipped for every good work.
- God knows what He is talking about and, in Daniel 10, shows us key principles for prevailing saints.
- This is not just a theoretical exercise.
- This matters! You will not grow in Christ and please Jesus without understanding WWD<sup>2</sup>.

### CONTEXT

- Daniel 10:1–3 – *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed.*

### CONTEXT

- This is a summary intro.
- Third year of Cyrus, so perhaps after or immediately before Lion’s Den.
- Message is (1) reliable and (2) laced with a recurring theme of warfare.
- Daniel was mourning, but his reason is not specified. We can speculate:

- Two years earlier, Gabriel explained that instead of seventy years, God would use 70 “sevens” of years to fulfill His good plan for Israel. **Long time!**
- Furthermore, these three previous visions (7, 8, 9) predict hardship and suffering for Israel. **Ouch!**
- Daniel has experienced first hand the animus that can throw you in a lion’s den. **No one is safe!**
- A group has departed from Babylon to return to the rubble of Jerusalem – **much uncertainty.**

### ENCOUNTER

*Daniel 10:4-6 – On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.*

### ENCOUNTER

- At Tigris river = about 50 miles from Babylon.
- Man-like angelic figure dressed in white linen and pure gold belt.
- Eyes, arms, legs gleaming; voice like listening to a stadium crowd.
- Like Jesus (Rev. 1)? Gabriel? Some other? Unnamed! But definitely other-worldly!

### REACTION I

*Daniel 10:7-10 – Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength.*

## REACTION I

*But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.*

- Daniel's associates freak out – panic attack but don't know why. They flee and see nothing.

## REACTION I

- Daniel's Reaction:
  1. Sapped of strength
  2. Color drained
  3. Sound of voice triggers him to unconsciousness
  4. Then touched and trembling on all fours
- Daniel is experiencing sensory overload awe!

## EXPLANATION I

*Daniel 10:11-14 – He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words."*

## EXPLANATION I

*"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."*

## EXPLANATION 1

- You are esteemed – considered valuable by God.
- I am here for your benefit.
- Angel commands Daniel to stand - and he could stand.
- Your request was grounded in humility.
- I was instructed to come to you (presumably by God) on day one.

## EXPLANATION 1

- I was on assignment in Persia when I was commissioned to come to you.
- But I was engaged in a profound ongoing struggle with a demon connected to Persia.
- Michael, a high-ranking angel, came to Persia to oppose the demon so that I could be freed to come to you.

## EXPLANATION 1

- I am here to provide a thorough and somewhat detailed account of what will happen to your people (Israel) in the future.
- But I am not just going to dispense information, I want you to connect with this vision.
- This so-called “prince of Persia” (a demon) was attempting to keep me from giving you this info.

## REACTION 2

*Daniel 10:15-19 – When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, “O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength.”*

## REACTION 2

*“For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me.” Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. He said, “O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!” Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”*

## REACTION 2

- The conversation so far causes Daniel’s head to go limp and he cannot talk
- By a touch, Daniel is strengthened and can speak.
- “The vision so far has made me fearful and drained me of strength.”
- Big Question: “How is it that I am able to receive information from you. I am dumb-founded!

## REACTION 2

- The angel reaffirms – God values you!
- 4 commands: Do not be afraid, enjoy peace, receive courage and demonstrate it.
- This encouragement and command set strengthens Daniel.
- You have strengthened me. I am ready, proceed.

## EXPLANATION 2

Daniel 10:20-21 – *Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.”*

## EXPLANATION 2

- There is a war raging and I need to re-engage, but I have been able to briefly get away in order to communicate with you.
- At the moment, doing so matters profoundly.
- But I need to get back to the spiritual warfare associated with Persia.
- Plus, a new front will be opening soon. A battle pertinent to Greece is coming.

## EXPLANATION 2

- Michael, an angel specifically assigned to Israel, will be shoulder-to-shoulder with me.
- There is something called “the writing of truth” to which I have access.
- I have been instructed to use this moment before I must return to unpack some of the content from the “writing of truth” that will be helpful to you and those who follow you. **Ready? Next week!**

## APPLICATION

- **Do you want to experience the kind of relationship with God that Daniel did? Do you want to take maximum advantage of insight he offers us?**
- **Don't waste your life living for the approval of men!**
- Daniel is called a “man of high esteem” twice!
- He was living for what God values.

## APPLICATION

- John 12:42–43 – *Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.*
- **We cannot serve both – Daniel chose God and was esteemed by God for it. His is the only approval that matters.**

## APPLICATION

- I Peter 3:13–14; 4:14 – *Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, **you are blessed.** And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled; If you are reviled for the name of Christ, **you are blessed**, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*
- **These are beatitudes that = “Congratulations!”**

## APPLICATION

- **Ask God for guidance, insight, and provision from a place of humility.**
- Daniel 10:12 – *“From the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard.”*
- James 4:6 – *But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

## APPLICATION

- Isaiah 66:2 – *“For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being,” declares the Lord. “But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”*
- **See your true enemy – there is something bigger going on than the mere struggles among men.**

## APPLICATION

- Ephesians 6:10–12 – *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*



## APPLICATION

- 1 Peter 5:8 – *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
- 1 John 3:13 – *Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.*
- These world dwellers who hate us are precisely the ones we seek to rescue.

## APPLICATION

- 2 Timothy 2:25–26 – *With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*
- Daniel did an amazing job of seeing Nebuchadnezzar with such eyes.

## APPLICATION

- Would he not have ample reason to view Neb as the opposition? But Daniel did everything within his ability to promote the true good of Neb and because of that we will someday meet him in heaven!
- The residents of the world (all / some?) are **captives** who have been **ensnared** by the devil's schemes and who are doing his bidding because he has **clouded their thinking**.

## REACH OUT

- I am not advocating denying that sin is sin.
- But sinners who do not know Jesus need rescue.
- And we are the ones who can throw them a life-line.
- So who in your circle needs a rescue? Find someone who feels trapped or stuck or who has lost hope.
- Show them compassion and invite them to come as your friend.

## APPLICATION

- **Know you are not alone and trust God to provide angelic assistance where needed.**
- God did something amazing for Daniel but this was not a one-off.
- In fact, the angel who assisted Daniel was simply following a standard angelic job description.

## APPLICATION

- Hebrews 1:13-14 – *But to which of the angels has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*
- God sees exactly what we need and directs angels accordingly. Trust Him!

## APPLICATION

- Psalm 91:1-2; 10-11 – *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!” ...“No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.”*
- **Don’t go into denial. Daniel “understood the message and ...the vision” (Daniel 10:1).**

## APPLICATION

- Clearly, the “prince of Persia,” a demonic being, did not want Daniel and, in turn, God’s people to know about the information unveiled in Daniel 11-12.
- So when someone says, “Oh that’s not that important” or “why do we need a boring history lesson?” recognize that minimizing this information aids the desire of the enemy of our souls to keep us in the dark.

## APPLICATION

- Our true adversary prefers for us to be unaware of his plans, or worse, to think that understanding his plans is of little consequence.
- 2 Corinthians 2:10–11 – *But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*

## APPLICATION

- Satan wants to take advantage of us.
- One part of a successful strategy is to recognize what he is up to, where we put ourselves at a disadvantage, and how to turn the odds in our favor.
- Daniel 11-12 gives us precise guidance into the tools he has deployed and will yet deploy on the world scene to oppose God and His people.