

Daniel 10 – Vision #5 – The Final Vision

By Holly Effiom

V1

Who is king at the time of this vision?

Is this before or after Ezr 1:1-3 takes place? How do you know?

Was Daniel confused or lacked understanding about this vision?

Was this vision due to occur in the next week?

Where else was Daniel shown a vision about the end times? Dan 8:11-19

Was the prophecy of Dan 9 chronological?

What did we learn from Dan 9?

VV2-3

What does it mean that Daniel was mourning 3 full weeks? Has this happened with any of the other visions?

Has this ever happened to you?

Why was Daniel mourning? Was there a particular reason for his grief?

What did mourning involve, according to this scripture? Could this be fasting?

What is it to fast?

Why do you fast? When do you fast? Ezra 9:4

Are the weeks noted here actually years? How do you know?

VV4-9

What is the first month, January? Lev 23:2

What day of the month did this take place?

Where was Daniel at this time?

Is this the same river mentioned in Gen 2:14? What do we call that river today?

What did Daniel see? Is this vision similar to any other that we've seen? Rev 1:16

Would you say that the person Daniel was seeing is one and the same as the One in Rev 1:16?

Was the person Daniel was seeing Gabriel? Why or why not? See Dan 7:16; 8:15-18; 9:21

Did the other people with Daniel see what he saw?

What happened to them?

What happened to Daniel in the presence of this "great vision"?

Where else have we seen this reaction from the prophets of God? Isa 6:5-6; Eze 1:27-28 through 2:2; Rev 1:17 (See Rev 1 study of Throne Room Visions.)

Why did Jeremiah not have this reaction the presence of God?

What do we know about these prophets, based on the fact that they saw God? Matt 5:8

VV10-12

Who was it that touched Daniel? Was it the "vision"?

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What did the hand help Daniel to do?

V11

Why did the vision repeat Gabriel's words from Dan 9, "man greatly beloved"?

Did Daniel need to know that he was loved by God?

What does this tell you about God?

What does the vision tell Daniel to do? Why?

What was Daniel's response to the command? Did Daniel say he was afraid?

What do we learn about God in this verse?

LESSON: God does not seem to stand on formality. His *Godliness* does not depend upon man understanding his own comparative likeness to a worm. When God appears before man, He wants to interact with man, especially those with whom He already has a loving relationship – He wants His creation to stand before Him and be able to carry on a discussion with Him – such that, if His creation is unable to stand on their own, He will help them stand.

V12

Why did the vision tell Daniel not to fear?

What about Daniel's disposition made the vision think he was fearful?

Did the vision just appear because He felt like it?

What prompted the vision's response?

When did Daniel set his heart to understand God and to chastise himself? Dan 1:8? Dan 9:3-6?

What do we learn about God from this verse

LESSON: Notice, God did not want Daniel's fear, He wanted to give Daniel His love, to give him the strength to stand. I believe that this is one of the many powerful messages in the whole Bible – God has given us His love which is the strength that enables us to stand before Him. Amazing!

My Bible commentary describes this "vision" as a "theophany", which is the appearance of God Himself, instead of a messenger, or angel; however, based strictly on the scripture, I can only say with certainty within myself that this vision was not Gabriel. I'll further discuss my hesitation in verse 13.

Theophany make appearances in other places in the Old Testament, but not frequently. Hopefully, we will get to study this to a greater extent, but for now, the focus is on what elicited this response of a theophany to Daniel – "I am come for thy words." That is so amazing to me! Daniel's mere words wrought such a response! And, it wasn't because it was Daniel. Proverbs 18:21 says "Death and Life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." All of God's children have this power in our words – we are beloved by God. God draws near to those of a broken heart and saves those of a contrite spirit (Ps 34:18). Daniel modeled perfectly a humble heart and contrite spirit in his prayer of Dan 9, and he was rewarded with God Himself showing up!

Recently, God reminded me of the power of my words when the president made derogatory comments about immigrants from certain African nations, and Haiti. My first thought was, let no rain fall on this land for 3 years! I didn't say this aloud, I thought it. God reminded me that many will suffer if such a thing were done; and that it might not be His will for such a thing to occur; and that I had over-stepped

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myself. While I might be able to call down rain or stop the heavens from raining with mere words, in that same action, I might be bringing punishment upon myself because I'm speaking against God's will.

This made me think about God's kingdom, for this is where I want to live – how will we be able to survive it if our honest response to real provocation can get us killed? How can one avoid bringing punishment on oneself with just an idle word? By controlling what you say, was God's response to my thought. So, when we consider the power we wield with our words, as children of God; be mindful of the possible punishment resulting from wielding *idle* words.

V13

What happened when the vision was on His way to Daniel?

How long did it take to extricate Himself from that battle?

Was Daniel's 3 weeks of mourning related to this battle with the prince of Persia?

Who arrived to help the vision?

Who is Michael?

Who is the prince of Persia? Is he the same as the king of Persia?

Was the vision fighting against or defending the kings of Persia?

What have we learned about God from this verse?

What do we learn about princes? Are all princes at the same level?

What do we learn about what is happening in the heavenlies during this time?

LESSON: If the vision is a theophany, i.e., God Himself appearing to Daniel, this would mean that God Himself is fighting in the heavenlies. I don't know about you, but I've never pictured God actually doing battle Himself, though He refers to Himself as a warrior throughout scripture, especially Exodus; and, He even appears before Joshua as a warrior, such that Joshua didn't even realize who it was standing before him! Josh 5:13-15 (If you ever get a chance to read this, Joshua will have you singing that song from years ago, "What a man, what a man, what a mighty, mighty good man!" 😊)

If the vision is a theophany, it would mean that these "princes" must be powerful, that the prince of Persia could delay God Himself from His purpose for 3 weeks! It is unknown at this point whether the vision is fighting on behalf of or against the prince of Persia; however, the arrival of Michael, one of the chief princes, freed Him to continue on to His meeting Daniel. I just can't imagine any being having the ability to thwart God's purposes. Or perhaps, my understanding of God is limited – the prince of Persia didn't "thwart" God's purposes, only "delayed" them for a time. Imagine the "chutzpah" or temerity that a created being would *dare* to contend with his Creator, but we as humans do this all the time... This verse also provides us a peek at the battles that were taking place in the heavenlies – not all was peace and calm and controlled in heaven!

What do we learn about the fact that Daniel had been mourning in his spirit that same 3 weeks, prior to the arrival of the vision? Could there be some kind of spiritual connection between God and those who love and trust Him? Is it possible that when we make a petition to God and have not received an answer and it feels like our life goes into a "holding pattern" – unable to address some simple issues or starting to doubt yourself and your understanding of what you're to be doing – until you have an answer to that petition; is it possible that the answer was dispatched and for some reason delayed, causing your spirit to mourn? What I've come to understand from this section of scripture is that God's purposes toward us may sometimes be delayed but never thwarted.

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Who is Michael? Wow! He must be quite powerful. He is one of the chief princes – how many “chief” princes might there be? And, why would it be Michael that would come to the aid of the vision in the battle with the prince of Persia? And, over whom would Michael be chief? Does this mean that there are ranks among the angels?

When we did the Revelation study, we spent some time looking at this scripture from the perspective of what we can learn about the angels, but for this study of this section of Daniel, we have the opportunity to discover what we can learn about our God.

V14

How is this vision different from that of Chapters 2, 7, 8, and 9?

What is the vision’s purpose in this visit?

Is that purpose different than those that were given in Chapters 2, 7, 8, and 9?

What time period is being discussed specifically in this section? How does it relate to Chapters 2, 7, 8, and 9?

LESSON: God Himself is the “vision” of Chapter 10. This tells me that there has been a subtle change in the relationship with Daniel. Why do I say a change? In the previous visions, God would send an angel or would give Daniel an understanding of things. Here, God personally shows up to speak with Daniel! This is significant. Look at Numbers 12:6-8. In Numbers 12, Moses’ brother and sister are angry with him because he’s decided to marry a black woman. And God says something to Aaron and Miriam that gives insight to how He interfaces with His creation – He didn’t even mention Aaron and Miriam’s racism. God went right to the heart of the matter – Aaron and Miriam *knew* that Moses had a special relationship with God Himself – He spoke personally with Moses. Aaron and Miriam knew this, and still had the audacity to rebel against what God had blessed!

I can go off on a tangent on Numbers 12, but I brought it up here because God shows how His relationship with Moses was different from that with other prophets, pointing out that He speaks *personally* with Moses – mouth to mouth. This marked a difference in the relationship to *God*. So, the fact that He endeavored to speak with Daniel personally, places Daniel’s relationship with Him on another level. Just as Moses sought to draw closer to God in setting out to discover the mystery of the burning bush, Daniel sought the same thing in setting out to intercede on behalf of Israel and Jerusalem – both were rewarded by God personally revealing Himself to them.

Can the same thing happen for me and you, today?

VV15-18

What happened to Daniel when the vision spoke with him?

Who had to touch Daniel’s mouth so that he would be able to speak? Was it a fellow human being?

Had Daniel bowed down out of respect for the vision?

What was Daniel’s concern?

Why was Daniel unable to stand before this vision?

What did Daniel acknowledge to be his problem or need?

What happened when he made this admission?

Was the “one like the appearance of a man” indeed a fellow human being? Why, if yes or why, if no?

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V19

Was Daniel unable to stand because his flesh failed in the presence of such glory? Or, was Daniel unable to stand because he was afraid of the vision?

Did the vision berate Daniel for his weakness in His presence, or because Daniel didn't seem to know that they had a "special" relationship?

Did the vision know that Daniel was having some trouble in communicating with Him? Did the vision comment on Daniel's troubles?

So, when the vision spoke, to which of Daniel's concerns did He speak?

LESSON: Daniel complained that he had no strength in the vision's presence and was unable to speak. Immediately an angel was dispatched to strengthen Daniel, but also, the vision told Daniel how he felt about him and what his desire was for him:

1. O man, greatly beloved – Daniel, you are held in high esteem by God Almighty.
2. Fear not – Daniel, don't be in fear because I love you.
3. Be at peace and strong – Daniel, I speak peace and strength into your life and flesh. Yes, be strong!

God spoke to all the things that were causing Daniel's weakness, spiritual and physical. God's love gave Daniel the strength he needed to stand before and interact with Him.

VV20-21

What was the reason that the vision came to Daniel?

Where was the vision to go after his visit with Daniel?

Would He be fighting on behalf of or against the prince of Persia? How do you know?

Who will be coming after the battle with the prince of Persia?

Who else is fighting beside the vision?

Who is Michael?

Michael is the prince for which nation?