

Study on Daniel Chapters 10, 11 and 12

Chapter 10 through chapter 11 verse 1, is like an introduction to the vision

Chapter 11 is the subject matter of the vision

Chapter 12 is likened to an epilogue (an ending or bringing together)

Chapter Ten

Read chapter 10:1-9

Daniel here is using earthly illustrations to describe the vision he saw (Compare this to Revelation 1 verses 13–17) Read

“The man like a “son of man” is Jesus himself. The title son of man occurs many times in the New Testament in reference to Jesus as the Messiah. John recognised Jesus because he lived with him for three years and had seen him both as a Galilean preacher and as the glorified Son of God at the transfiguration. Here Jesus appears as the mighty Son of man his white hair indicates his wisdom and divine nature (See also Daniel 7:9). His blazing eyes symbolised judgement of all evil. The golden sash round his chest reveals him as the high priest who goes into God’s presence to obtain forgiveness of sin for those who have believed in him.

The sword in Jesus’ mouth symbolises the power and force of his message. His words of judgement are as sharp as swords (Isaiah 49:2, Hebrews 4:12.) As the Roman government stepped up its persecution of Christians, John must have wondered if the Church could survive and stand against the opposition. But Jesus appeared in glory and splendour, re-assuring John that he and his fellow believers had access to God’s strength to face these trials.

If you are facing difficult problems, remember that the power available to John and the early Church is also available to you see 1 John 4:4. Our sins have convicted and sentenced us but Jesus holds the key to death and Hades. He alone can free us from eternal bondage to Satan. He alone has the power and authority to set us free from sin’s control.

Believers don’t have to fear Hades or death because Christ holds the key to both. All we must do is turn from sin and turn to him in faith. When we attempt to control our lives and disregard God, we set a course that leads directly to Hell. But when we place our lives in Christ’s hands he restores us now and resurrects us later to an eternal, peaceful relationship with him”

Verse 1

Prior to this vision Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem but Daniel stayed in Babylon. Why didn’t Daniel return to Jerusalem? He may have been too old to make the long hazardous journey (after all he was over 80) or his government duties could have prevented him or God may have called him to stay behind to complete the work he was called to do. The bible is not 100% clear on this point - these are just assumptions

Read Verses 2, 3

Daniel refrained from eating choice foods and using lotions because these were signs of feasting and rejoicing and he was in mourning because although his fellow countrymen had been returned to Jerusalem to re-build the walls they were facing a lot of opposition from the Persians and such was his anguish about this he extended the seven day fast to three weeks

Daniel here is referring to the annual feast of the Passover when all Jews would remember their release from Egypt. For one week this entailed self-denial of all but the basic necessities, but especially the leavened bread. The feast took place from the 14th to the 21st of the 1st month of

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the year (Nisan) (read Exodus chapter 12 verses 15 – 19.) In the vision Daniel seems to have lengthened it to three weeks (Fasting seemed to be visually connected with a time of prayer). Daniel may well have been looking for an understanding of the vision he had had in Chapter eight.

Read Verses 5 -6

Daniel alone saw this vision but it was different in that he was not in a trance but fully awake. When he was young he saw the future in images but now that he was old, he receives messages visually from angels. The consummation is when Daniel (the seer) looks up from the earth into the unseen world and has the future shown him by the angels. He saw a man dressed in linen (this was the raiment of priests the symbol of sanctity being more pure than wool) He had a belt of gold and his body was like Beryl which is identical with chrysolite or topaz – translucent, a shimmering moving image like a hologram.

Verse 7 tells us that the men who were with Daniel, although they did not see the vision they must have sensed that there was something out with their understanding Looking at Daniel they must have sensed that there was something unworldly taking place so in fear they took off and left Daniel alone. Again that is our interpretation of it and not a biblical reference (So much for friendship!)

Verse 8 - 11 Daniel must have blanched (which the men may have seen) and when he heard the angel's voice he must have passed out and went into a deep sleep for in verse 10 he feels a hand touch him and sets him up on his hands and knees. The angel speaks and tells him that Daniel is highly esteemed by God, to stand up and listen carefully

Verse 12

It is obvious that Daniel had been praying because now his prayer had been answered. Daniel is truly in awe of God and highly esteemed.

Verse 13

Each nation is thought to have a guardian angel and Michael is regarded as the guardian angel of Israel. It was Michael who came to Daniel's aid after three weeks during which time he was doing battle with The Prince of the Kingdom of Persia. (Who was the angel of darkness that guarded the Persian Empire) who had tried to stop the messenger getting through to Daniel.

This answers the question of why Daniel fasted for three weeks. This is indicative of the unseen battle that goes on, on a daily basis between the powers of good and evil. Daniel faithfully continued praying and fasting and God's messenger finally arrived assisted by Michael.

Unseen obstacles or forces may hinder answers to our prayers. Don't expect God's answers to come too easily or too quickly. Evil forces may challenge prayer so we must pray fervently and pray earnestly and then expect God to answer at the right time

Verse 14

Daniel finally is going to have the vision explained of what would happen to his people in the future

Verse 15

Daniel is speechless – i.e. he lost his power of speech

Verse 16-17

Daniel was frightened by this vision but the messenger re-assured him. Daniel lost his speech but the messenger's touch restored him. Daniel felt weak and helpless but the messenger's words strengthened him. God can bring us healing when we are hurt, peace when we are troubled, and strength when we are weak. Trust God to minister to you as he did to Daniel.

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Verse 18

Daniel is so overcome with awe that he finds it difficult to speak. The angel re-assures Daniel We can relate to this today as when we reach out to somebody with a loving touch this is a very powerful form of comfort and re-assurance

Verse 19

The angel continued to re-assure Daniel with soothing words. Daniel's words are reminiscent of the young boy Samuel when God first spoke to him [1 Samuel 3:1-15](#). You can read that for yourselves. Daniel is strengthened by God's words

Verse 20–21

The heavenly warfare was to be directed against Persia and then Greece. Each of these nations was to have power over God's people. Both Persia and Greece were represented by evil angelic princes or demons but God is on control of the past, present and the future and he has all events recorded in His book of truth.

The book of truth was the secret book of God's decree – the things which are surely going to come to pass. All the world powers were against Israel and Michael was delegated to protect the Israelites against them. The prince of Greece was a fresh adversary

This is Daniel's final vision in 536B.C. In it he was given further insight into the great spiritual battle between God's people and those who wanted to destroy them.

1. Who is the "Son of man"? ([Verses 1 – 9](#))
2. Why do you think Daniel didn't return to Jerusalem with the rest of the captives? ([Verse 1](#))
3. Can you remember who the guardian Angel of Israel was? ([Verse 13](#))
4. What was the difference between this vision and the previous visions? ([Verses 5 – 6](#))
5. Why did Daniel's companions leave him? ([Verse 7](#))
6. God can bring us healing when we are hurt, peace when we are troubled, and strength when we are weak. [In what ways does God rule your life and are you aware of it?](#)

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