

DANIEL 10 | *Great Conflict in the Latter Days*

1 In the third year¹ of Cyrus king of Persia a message (דָּבָר) was revealed (גִּלְיָה) to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar (בֵּלְטַשְׁצַּר). And the message was true (אֱמֶת), and it was a great conflict/tribulation (וַיִּצְבֹּא גְדוֹל).² And he understood (בִּין) the message and had understanding (בִּינָה) of the vision (מַרְאֵה).

Man Clothed in Linen

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris (חֲדָקִיל)). 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen (וְהָיָה וּמְתַנְּיוּ חֲגָרִים בְּכֶתֶם),³ with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist (וּמְתַנְּיוּ חֲגָרִים בְּכֶתֶם),³ with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist (אֶשֶׁת־אֶזְרָא לְבוּשׁ בְּדָדִים). 6 His body was like beryl (וּגְוִיָּתוֹ כְּתַרְשִׁישׁ), his face like the appearance of lightning (וּפְנָיו וּכְמַרְאֵה בָרָק), his eyes like flaming torches (וְעֵינָיו כְּלַפְיֵדֵי אֵשׁ), his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze (וּזְרָעוֹתָיו וּמַרְגָּלָתָיו כְּעֵצִיּוֹ נְחֹשֶׁת קִלְקֵל), and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude (וּקוֹל דְּבָרָיו כְּקוֹל הַמַּיִם).⁴ 7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision (מַרְאֵה), for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves.⁵ 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. 9 Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.⁶

Gabriel

10 And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And he said to me: Daniel, man greatly loved (דְּגִינְיָאֵל אִישׁ־חֲמֻדוֹת), understand (בִּין) the words that I

¹ Daniel is about 85 years old.

² “[M]isc. צָבָא גְדוֹל Da 10:1 great tribulation; for an explanation see Bentzen *Daniel* 70: either necessity (caused by war, with reference to the contents of a vision), or effort (i.e. the seer who suffers under the revelation)” (*HALOT*, 995). The great conflict occurs in heaven between angels (Da 10) and on earth between men (Da 11).

³ **Da 12:5-7** 5 Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. 6 And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, How long shall it be till the end of these wonders? 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream. He raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

⁴ **Re 1:12-16** 12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man (ὄμοιον υἱὸν ἀνθρώπου), clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

⁵ **Ac 9:7** 7 The men who were traveling with [Saul] stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

⁶ Like the Israelites at Mount Sinai, Daniel needs a mediator, Gabriel, between himself the man clothed in linen.

speak to you and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me:

Do not fear, Daniel (אַל־תִּירָא דְנִיֵּאל), for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God (אֲשֶׁר נָתַתְּ אֶת־לִבְךָ לְהִבִּין וּלְהִתְעַנּוֹת לִפְנֵי), your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia (וְשָׂר מַלְכוּת פָּרְס) withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me (וְהִגֵּה מִיכָאֵל אֶחָד הַשָּׂרִים הָרְאשֻׁנִים בָּא) (לְעִזְרָתִי),⁷ for I was left there with the kings of Persia (וְאֲנִי נֹתַרְתִּי שָׁם אִצְל מַלְכֵי פָרְס) 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days (לְהַבְיִינְךָ לַעֲבוּר יְמֵיךָ). For the vision is for days yet to come (אֵת אֲשֶׁר־יִקְרָה לְעַמְּךָ בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים).

15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. 16 And behold, one in the likeness of the sons of Adam (וְהִזָּה כְּדַמוֹת בְּנֵי אָדָם) touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me:

My lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. 17 How can my lord's servant talk with my lord (וְהִיךָ יוּכַל עֲבָד אֲדֹנָי זֶה לְדַבֵּר עִם־אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה)? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me.

18 Again one having the appearance of a man/Adam touched me and strengthened me (וַיִּסְרֵי וַיִּחַזְקֵנִי אִישׁ־חֲמֻדוֹת). 19 And he said, Man greatly loved, do not fear (וַיִּגְעֵ־בִי כְּמִרְאֵה אָדָם וַיִּחַזְקֵנִי). Peace be with you (שְׁלוֹם לָךְ). Be strong and of good courage (תִּזְק וְחֻזַּק). And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened (חֻזַּק) and said, Let my lord (אֲדֹנָי) speak, for you have strengthened (חֻזַּק)⁸ me. 20 Then he said:

Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia (שָׂר פָּרְס). And when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece/Javan (שָׂר־יָוָן) will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth (אֵת־הַקְּרָשִׁים בְּכֹתֵב אֱמֶת). There is none who contends by my side against these except Michael your prince (שָׂרְכֶם מִיכָאֵל).⁹

⁷ **Da 10:21** 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your [Israel's] prince. **Da 12:1** 1 At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people [Israel]. And there shall be a time of trouble [the great tribulation], such as never has been since there was a nation [just after the flood] till that time. But at that time your people [Israel] shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book [based on their faith in Messiah Jesus]. **Jud 9** 9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, The Lord rebuke you. **Re 12:7** 7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back....

⁸ We need God to give us the strength in order to pay attention to understand his special revelation.

⁹ Daniel 11 continues the scene.

Observations

1. About the man clothed in linen we learn:
 - a. He is clothed in linen (v. 5).
 - b. He has a belt of fine gold (v. 5).
 - c. His body is like beryl (v. 6).
 - d. His face is like lightning (v. 6).
 - e. His eyes are like flaming torches (v. 6).
 - f. His arms and legs are like bronze (v. 6).
 - g. His words are like the sound of a multitude (v. 6).
 - h. Daniel alone saw him (v. 7).
 - i. Daniel heard the sound of his words (v. 9).

2. About the one who touches Daniel we learn:
 - a. He touches Daniel and sets him on his hands and knees (v. 10).
 - b. He has been sent to Daniel (v. 10).
 - c. He has come because of Daniel's words (v. 12).
 - d. The prince of Persia withstood him 21 days (v. 13).
 - e. He is helped by Michael (v. 13).
 - f. He comes to make Daniel understand what is to happen to Israel (v. 14).
 - g. He is in the likeness of man (v. 16, 18).
 - h. He touches Daniel's lips (v. 16).
 - i. Daniel calls him, "my lord" (v. 16).
 - j. Daniel has no strength to talk with him (v. 17).
 - k. He touches and strengthens Daniel (v. 18).
 - l. He will return to fight against the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece (v. 20).
 - m. He will tell Daniel what is in the book of truth (v. 21).
 - n. Only Michael contends by his side (v. 21).

Lessons for Life

1. God wants to communicate to us, but only if we have ears to hear (v. 1).
2. We are to set our hearts to understand God and his plan (v. 12).
3. We are to have a healthy respect for angels, God's messengers (vv. 7-10).
4. We need supernatural strength to receive and understand God's word (vv. 10-11, 18).
5. We have the opportunity to know what is inscribed in the book of truth (v. 21). Amazing!
6. Like Daniel, we too may become "greatly loved" by God (vv. 11, 19).
7. Provided we are in fellowship with God, we are live in his peace without fear (v. 19).