

Daniel's Great Vision about the End Times (Dan. 10-12)

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE GREAT VISION

- A. Daniel recorded four visions (Dan. 7:1-28; 8:1-27; 9:24-27; 10:4-12:13). The Antichrist's oppression and the purification and victory of God's people is the primary theme of all four.
- B. Daniel saw a great vision about the end times. This vision was great in its significance for God's people. The angel that visited Daniel may have also visited John to give more details (Rev. 10).
⁸ *I (Daniel) saw this great vision...14 I (angel) have come to make you understand what will happen...in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come. (Dan. 10:8, 14)*
- C. There are three parts to Daniel's great vision.
Dan. 10:1-11:1 Daniel's preparation and his encounter with an angel who gave him the vision
Dan. 11:2-12:3 Daniel's vision of the Antichrist's activity and its impact on Israel
Dan. 12:4-13 Insight into the length and timing of the Great Tribulation
- D. A messenger: Daniel was a messenger while working as a public official. He wrote the message. There is no evidence that he was a preacher. He emphasized the truthfulness of the message because of its new ideas about the Antichrist. Daniel's Babylonian name was Belteshazzar (1:7).
¹ *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia (536 BC) a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. (Dan. 10:1)*
- E. Daniel was about 85 years old and lived in Babylon (modern day Iraq). The Babylonian empire had been conquered by King Cyrus of Persia (modern day Iran) two years earlier in 538 BC.
- F. Cyrus' decree in 538 BC allowed the return of the Jews to Israel (Ezra 1:2-4). Daniel did not return to Israel two years earlier, but stayed to influence the government as an intercessor. His life had been threatened in the lion's den (Dan. 6) just before he received this great vision.
- G. Daniel mourned with fasting for three weeks (Dan. 10:2-3). From Dan. 10:3, we get the term, the "Daniel fast" or a fast that is not 100% abstinence from food, but a fast of a greatly reduced diet.
² *In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. 3 I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all... (Dan. 10:2-3)*
- H. He mourned because of what was happening in Israel. The foundation of the temple had been laid in 536 BC, but the work on the temple stopped due to adversity from the Samaritans (Ezra 4:24). The Persian political policies empowered them against Israel (Ezra 4:1-5, 23-24; 5:16).
- I. He mourned because two years earlier, he received a vision, showing him that the end of the 70 years of Israel's captivity in Babylon was not the end of Israel's great trials (Dan. 9:24-27).

- J. Daniel fasted from the first to the twenty-fourth day of the first month (v. 4) called Nisan (March). The Passover was on the fourteenth day of Nisan, thus it came in the middle of Daniel's fast. The Feast of Unleavened Bread followed Passover and lasted for seven days (Ex. 12:14-18). Daniel was mourning during the time of celebration. Israel had just experienced another Passover with Cyrus' decree. Daniel resists the celebration and enters into mourning and fasting.
- K. Daniel saw a high ranking angel (Dan. 10:4-6). The angel stood over the Tigris River (Dan. 12:5-6), which was about 25 miles from the capital city of Babylon where Daniel worked.
- ⁴ Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz (finest gold)! 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. (Dan. 10:4-6)*
- L. Seven fold description: The angel was dressed in linen like a priest (Lev 16:4) with a belt made of gold, a body like beryl (transparent gem), arms like glowing bronze, a face like lightning, eyes like fire and a strong voice. There are similarities between this angel and the angel in Rev. 10:1.
- M. The impact of the vision on Daniel (Dan. 10:7-10, 16): Daniel lost all of his strength, until he was strengthened by the touch of the angel three times (v. 10, 16, 18), so that he could stand up to listen intently to the intricate message of Dan. 11.
- ⁷ I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide...⁸ I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me...⁹ While I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. ¹⁰ Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. (Dan. 10:7-10)*
- N. The angel came to give Daniel understanding of God's end-time plan (Dan. 10:14). Daniel was overwhelmed with sorrow (Dan. 10:16) by what he saw in the vision in Dan. 11.
- ¹⁴ Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come...¹⁶ I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, "My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength." (Dan. 10:14-16)*
- O. Daniel was strengthened by the revelation of God's love for him (Dan. 10:11, 18). This is the same message that Gabriel spoke to him two years earlier (Dan. 9:23).
- ¹¹ And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright..." I stood trembling...¹⁹ And he said, "O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." (Dan. 10:11, 18-19)*

- P. The impact of prayer on the activity of angels and demons (Dan. 10:12-13, 20-21; 11:1). Daniel saw the angelic and demonic powers that were working behind the scenes to stir up the king of Persia against Israel. Angels and demons work behind the scenes to affect the kings of the earth. Daniel's intercession impacted governmental structures in the spirit and natural realm.
- ¹² ***Then he (the mighty angel of Dan. 10:5-6) said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince (demonic prince) of the kingdom of Persia withstood me 21 days; and behold, Michael (the archangel), one of the chief princes (chief angels or archangel), came to help me, for I had been left alone (without another high ranking angel) there with the kings of Persia."*** (Dan. 10:12-13)
- Q. The demonic principality of Persia (Iran) is still powerful today. Believers who pray and fast will be used again to release angels to resist this same demonic principality.
- R. This mighty angel could not overpower the demonic prince of Persia without help from Michael. However, this angel's unusual authority is also seen by him strengthening Michael (Dan. 11:1). Michael is entrusted with helping Israel as a prince or an archangel (Dan. 10:21; 12:1; Jude 9).
- ²⁰ ***He said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is noted (emphasized) in the Scripture of Truth. No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince. ^{11:1} In the first year of Darius the Mede (538 BC, two years earlier), I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him (Michael)".*** (Dan. 10:20-11:1)
- S. That angel came to help Israel who was being oppressed by the Persians and to give Daniel prophetic insight into Israel's future (Dan. 11-12).
- T. The first year of Darius was 538 BC (or two years earlier than this current vision) when Daniel prayed, resulting in the decree of Cyrus that allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem (Dan. 9:1).

II. DANIEL'S VISION (DAN. 11:2-12:3): THE ANTICHRIST'S ACTIVITIES

Dan. 11:1-20 Prophesied the history from Daniel's generation until Antiochus IV

Dan. 11:2 Prophecies for the next four Persian kings after Cyrus

Dan. 11:3-4 Prophecies about Greece, highlighting Alexander the great (336-323 BC)

Dan. 11:5-20 Prophecies concerning an on-going conflict between Egypt (the kings of the south called the Ptolemies) and Syria (the kings of the north called the Seleucids)

Dan. 11:21-35 Prophecies concerning Antiochus IV (175-164 BC) as a type of the Antichrist

Dan. 11:36-12:3 Prophecies concerning the Antichrist

Dan. 12:4-13 Insight into the length and timing of the Great Tribulation

III. THE ANTICHRIST'S RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES (DAN. 11:36-12:3)

- A. The Antichrist's religious attitude of arrogance (Dan. 11:36-37). He will claim things about himself that are shocking (Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25; 2 Thes 2:4). God of his fathers: The Antichrist shall despise the religious heritage in which he grew up. Desire of women: Some translate this as the "desire for women". He will hate women.
- ³⁶ *The king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished... 37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. (Dan. 11:36-37)*
- B. Antichrist will worship war (Dan. 11:38-39). The god of fortresses speaks of the combination of military and demonic power. He will honor the god of military strength by greatly financing it.
- ³⁸ *But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know (foreign) he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.* (Dan. 11:38-39)
- C. The Antichrist's military aggression (Dan. 11:40-45). The Antichrist will be attacked from the South (Egypt) and the North (Syria).
- ⁴⁰ *At the time of the end the king of the South (Egypt) shall attack him (Antichrist); and the king of the North (Syria) shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. 41 He shall also enter the Glorious Land (Israel), and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. 42 He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43 He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels (shall submit to him). 44 But news from the east (Asia) and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. 45 And he (Antichrist) shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas (Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea) and the glorious holy mountain (Jerusalem); yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him. (Dan. 11:40-45)*
- D. The victory of God's people over the Antichrist (Dan. 12:1-3)
- ¹ *At that time (Antichrist's reign of terror on earth Dan. 11:36-45) Michael shall stand up, the great prince (archangel) who stands watch over the sons of your people (Israel); and there shall be a time of trouble (Great Tribulation), such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people (Israel) shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake (resurrection), some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. (Dan. 12:1-3)*

IV. OVERVIEW OF DAN. 10-12

- A. ***Dan. 10:1-11:1*** Daniel's preparation and his encounter with a mighty angel
 - 10:1-3 The setting for the vision: its timing (v. 1) and Daniel's fast (v. 2-3)
 - 10:4-9 The vision of the angel: his description (v. 4-6) and his impact on Daniel (v. 7-9)
 - 10:10-14 The angel's explanation of the conflict related to Daniel's prayer
 - 10:15-19 Daniel was strengthened to understand the vision
 - 10:20-11:1 The angel's continued conflict

- B. ***Dan. 11:2-12:3*** Daniel's vision of the Antichrist's activity and its impact on Israel
 - 11:2 Future events related to Persia
 - 11:3-4 Future events related to Greece
 - 11:5-20 Future conflict between Egypt and Syria
 - 11:21-35 Future events related to Antiochus IV, a type of Antichrist
 - 11:36-12:3 Future activity of the Antichrist

- C. ***Dan. 12:4-13*** Insight into the length and timing of the Great Tribulation
 - 12:4 The command to seal the vision
 - 12:5-7 The length of the Great Tribulation
 - 12:8-13 The angel's last words to Daniel