

A Study of the Book of Daniel

Daniel's Final Climax

Chapters 10

REVIEW: The last two studies focused on Daniel 8 and 9. Chapter 8 provided more details about the Papal Little Horn that was first introduced in chapter 7. The symbols of chapters 8 and 9 pointed to the great Day of Atonement. The conclusion of the 2300-year/day prophecy marks the start of this time of judgment. In chapter 9, we discovered that the decree of Artaxerxes in 457 BC provided the starting point for the 2300 “days” which reach to the year 1844. We saw how the 70 “weeks” predicted over 500 years in advance the exact year of Christ’s baptism, His death, as well as the end of the probationary period for the nation of Israel.

In chapters 10, 11, and 12, God reveals more guideposts of prophecy. These three chapters provide details that describe the final enlargement of the 2300-year vision and events that occur just before the second coming of Christ. These three chapters of prophecy outline carefully the exact history of God’s people all the way down to our day and beyond.

PRAYER AND FASTING: LONGING FOR CAPTIVITY TO END

Daniel 10:1

"In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision."

“Third year of Cyrus” – The Greek Septuagint writes “first” year instead of the “third” year. During the first two years Cyrus was co-regent with Darius over the Medo-Persian Empire. The “third” year of Cyrus was the **first** year of his independent reign over the Persian Empire. In that year, Cyrus issued the first of the three decrees leading to the restoration of the temple and Jerusalem.

Ezra 1:1-3

"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem."

Comparing **Ezra 1:1-3** with **Daniel 1:21**, we see that Daniel **“continued even unto the first year of King Cyrus.”** Thus, the time of this vision was approaching the end of the 70 years of Babylonian captivity (605 BC to 536 BC). Daniel was an old man of approximately 87 or 88 years. This vision occurred about three years after the vision of Daniel 9 given in **“the first year of Darius”** in reference to his co-regency with Cyrus (Dan. 9:1).

“It was a great conflict. And he understood.” Some versions render this portion of Dan. 10:1 as **“the time appointed was long.”** However, the Hebrew word **tsaba** interpreted as “time appointed” is more accurately translated as “war” or “battle.” Thus, Daniel saw the “Great Battle.” He finally understood the *outline* of the GREAT CONTROVERSY between God and Satan. The Bible declares that Daniel **“had understanding of the vision”** of the 2300-year prophecy of chapters 8 and 9.

Daniel 10:2-4

*"In those days **I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.** I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. **And in the four and twentieth day of the first month,** as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;"*

"24th day of the first month" – The **"first month"** in the Jewish religious calendar was the month of **the Passover**. *"In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's Passover" (Lev. 23:5).* Daniel had understood the prophecy of 70 years of captivity in Babylon from the writings of Jeremiah. He apparently anticipated God would bring Israel out of bondage on the Passover once again as when the Lord brought Israel out of Egyptian captivity at the Passover time. However, the Passover had come and gone, and the Babylonian captivity had not yet ended. Daniel was in deep prayer and fasting for three weeks during this time, seeking understanding from God.

VISION OF CHRIST

Daniel 10:5-9

*"Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, **and behold a certain man clothed in linen,** whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore **I was left alone, and saw this great vision,** and **there remained no strength in me:** for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and **I retained no strength.** Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground."*

"And behold a certain man clothed in linen" – Daniel sees a vision of Christ. Compare this description with that seen by John in **Revelation 1:12-18**.

Revelation 1:12-18

"And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

Christ was alive and active in the affairs of His people even in the Old Testament times. The same view of Christ was described in simpler language as He appeared to Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration (see **Matt 17:2** and **Mark 9:3**).

Matthew 17:1-3

"And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and

his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him."

"Daniel alone saw the vision." – When Saul saw Christ on the Damascus Road (**Acts 9:4-7**), the men who accompanied Saul did not see the vision. The same thing happened in Daniel's case.

"There remained no strength in me . . . I was in a deep sleep on my face." – In Revelation 1:17, John "fell at His feet as a dead man." On the Mount of Transfiguration, the disciples "fell on their faces and were filled with awe." Likewise, Daniel "retained no strength" and he "was in a deep sleep."

GABRIEL'S EXPLANATION

Daniel 10:10-12

*"And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, **Fear not, Daniel:** for **from the first day** that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words."*

"Fear not, Daniel" – In Matthew 17:6-7, Jesus touched the disciples and said "Rise, and have no fear." In Revelation, Christ touched John and said, "Fear not" (**Rev. 1:17**). Daniel, likewise, was touched by the angel; then Gabriel commanded him, "Fear not."

"From the first day" – As soon as Daniel set his heart to understand, when he humbled himself before God, his prayers were heard. God hears our heartfelt prayers in the same way.

WHO IS MICHAEL?

Michael is identified as, a "Prince" of God's people who delivers God's people from the power of death (Dan. 10:13). This passage parallels **Dan. 10:21** where Gabriel refers to his divine Associate as **"Michael your Prince."**

Jude 1:9

"But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, disputed about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a reviling judgment upon him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

Michael the Prince rightfully claimed the body of Moses and resurrected him. Moses later appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration because Michael our Prince had power over death and the devil.

The Hebrew word "Michael" is composed of three Hebrew words:

mi	=	Who
cha	=	As
El	=	GOD

Literally, **Michael** means "Who is like God" or "Who is as God." The very name Michael draws attention to Christ's equality with God.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

*"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, **with the voice of the archangel,** and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"*

“Archangel” – This term is made up of two Greek words: *archos* + *angelos* which mean “Ruler of the angels.” Therefore, Michael our Prince is also the “Ruler of the angels”.

The Lord Jesus Christ has **the voice of the Archangel**. If He has the voice of the archangel, He must be the archangel; thus the Bible shows us that Jesus is the Ruler of the angels.

Remember in Daniel 8, we learned the Little Horn Power would magnify himself “even to the **“Prince of the host.”** That means he would oppose Jesus Christ, the Ruler of the angels.

Key Point:

Michael, the Old Testament name for Jesus Christ, is the One who is as God. He is not a created being, but as Prince He reigns as the eternal Son of God and the Ruler of the angels.

Micah 5:2

*“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; **whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**”*

In Genesis 22, Abraham prepared to offer his only son Isaac to God. Then the **“Angel of the Lord”** declared that Abraham “fears God and has not withheld his son from **Me.**” Abraham was offering Isaac to God. The Angel was saying He, the Angel of the Lord, was God. Read the following verses:

Genesis 22:1, 2, 12, 13

"After these things God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

*But **the angel of the LORD** called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear **God**, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from **me.**"*

Key Point:

Jesus Christ = The Prince = Eternal God = Michael = The Archangel (Ruler of the Angels)

Other passages show this relationship. The key point is that Jesus was just as active in the Old Testament times with His people as He was in New Testament times. Michael, the One who is as God, was the Old Testament manifestation of Jesus Christ!!

IF GABRIEL IS NOT ENOUGH, CHRIST HIMSELF WILL COME!

Daniel 10:13

*"But **the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me** one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."*

*“**The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me.**”* In verse 12, the prince of the kingdom of Persia resisted the angel Gabriel until Michael came to help him overcome the opposing prince. **Who is this “prince of the kingdom of Persia”** that resisted Gabriel and had to be overcome by Christ?

He was not King Cyrus whose historical titles included Great King, King of Babylon, and King of Lands. This person was the spiritual **“prince”** of Persia. On three different occasions, Jesus

identified Satan as the “**prince of this world**” (KJV) or “**ruler**” (RSV) of this present world:

John 12:31 *“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall **the prince of this world** be cast out.”*

John 14:30 *“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the **prince of this world** cometh, and hath nothing in me.”*

John 16:11 *“Of judgment, because the **prince of this world** is judged.”*

Paul also tells us who are our real spiritual enemies:

Ephesians 6:12

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

KEY POINT:

We see the Great Controversy revealed in Daniel 10:13. Here is portrayed the unseen spiritual battle in the history of God’s people. In a great conflict, Satan tried to prevent Cyrus from issuing the important decree to release the Hebrews and allow the rebuilding of the temple. At last, Christ came to the rescue, and He prevailed over Satan. The decree of Ezra 1:1 was issued, allowing God’s people to return home.

Daniel 10:14-15

“Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.”

Gabriel had come to help Daniel understand what will happen in the future. The details presented in chapter 11 and part of chapter 12 gives an enlargement of the 2300-year vision

Daniel 10:16-20

“And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me. Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.”

Here we see Daniel’s reaction and the angel’s reassurance. The prophecy is repeated: Greece will conquer Persia. In chapter 8, the ram represented Persia and he-goat represented both Greece and the demonic influence of Satan as pictured by the scapegoat of the Day of Atonement.

Daniel 10:21

“But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.”

The purpose of Gabriel’s visit was to show Daniel “*that which is noted in the scripture of truth.*” The angel emphasized that “*there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but*

Michael your Prince.” We see the angel Gabriel and Michael our Prince standing up for God’s people in this great spiritual controversy. And when Gabriel cannot prevail, Michael Himself will stand for His people!

THE CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF DANIEL 10 to 12

Chiasm: writing that is built like a “mountain” with corresponding levels



Dan. 11:22

**Michael (Jesus) the Prince
of the covenant is broken.**

Dan. 10:21

Michael stands up
for His people and
Israel is freed from
captivity.

of

Dan. 12:1

Michael stands up
to God’s people. At
the end of the 1260 years,
Christ stands up (Dan. 7:13-14)
and delivers His people out
spiritual captivity.

Dan. 10:1-4

Daniel has a disappointment,
and spends time praying and
purifying of himself before
this freedom occurs.

Dan. 12:1

God’s people, prior to this rescue
will go through a time of trial and
and waiting.

The stories given in the Old Testament parallel the end-time experiences of God’s people.

“Now all these things happened unto them for **examples**:
and they are written for **our admonition**,
upon whom the **ends of the world** are come.” (1 Cor. 10:11)

KEY POINT:

The poetic, or chiastic, structure of the prophecies presented in Daniel 10 thru 12 center upon the death of Christ on the cross. The **CENTER** of the chiastic structure falls in Daniel 11:22 with the reference to the “*Prince of the Covenant*” being “*broken*” on the cross for you and for me.

The Great Center of all prophecy, as with all Scripture, is Christ Jesus and what He did for us on Calvary. The great controversy between Christ and Satan, which we have seen as the theme through the books of Daniel and Revelation, started in heaven, then has continued on this earth and will find its final conclusion when Satan and all his followers are destroyed in hell fire. Jesus is calling for you to surrender to Him and make Him Lord of your life. He is going to win this war and wants you to be on His side.