

Chapter 10 – The Vision of the Glory of God

There is nothing else in Scripture like Daniel 10-11-12 (the final 3 chapters).

They contain Daniel's last vision and the last recorded event in his life.

They outline the future of the Jews during the 69 weeks before Messiah, and the Tribulation.

Daniel 10 pulls back the curtain to give us a glimpse of the world of angels and demons.

Daniel 10 is a preface to the most extensive revelation of detailed prophecy: Daniel 11.

Daniel 11 details the wars between Egypt and Syria; they used Israel as their battlefield.

The wars occurred between the Old & New Testaments, between Alexander & Antiochus.

Dan.10:1 – The Setting of Daniel's 4th Vision - In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

Daniel's 4th and final vision came in the 3rd year of Cyrus the Persian king, 536 BC.

The captivity had ended; the 1st group of exiles had left for Jerusalem 2 years earlier.

All the Jews in Babylon were free to return to their homeland, but *most did not want to go*.

At first, less than 50,000 went. Ezra 2:64-65 Many more Jews remained in Babylon.

They had grown comfortable living in a land of idols. They lacked concern for the pilgrims.

They didn't remember Jerusalem; most were born in captivity and never *knew* Jerusalem.

Daniel was grieved that so many were complacent and content to be displaced.

Critics complain of a "discrepancy" with Dan.1:21, but it doesn't say Daniel died in the 1st year.

This vision came almost 70 years after Daniel interpreted the king's dream. Dan.2:24

In contrast to his previous visions, Daniel understood the meaning immediately.

A coming conflict / war would bring great suffering to the Jews (details to come in chapter 11).

War and Peace: The word translated as "great war" literally means "a long period of great conflict". Since the original sin and fall of Adam, our sin nature makes the human race prone to war. Since 3600 BC, the world has experienced only 292 years of peace - all before 30 AD. There hasn't been 1 year without war since the Prince of Peace was crucified.

In 5600 years, there have been 14,531 wars, and 3,640,000,000 (3.6 billion) killed in battle.

The value of the destruction caused by war is equal to a belt of gold around the world.

Based on the price of gold in 1999, the belt would be 100 miles wide and 33 feet thick.

Why are peace-loving, intelligent people consistently driven to violence since Eden?

The answer is found in Daniel 10. There is more at work than our sinful nature.

Demonic forces, constantly active, are working through human governments.

The world cannot achieve peace when so many reject the Prince of Peace.

World peace is an impossible goal as long as Satan is free (impossible until Christ returns).

Satan hates the human race and tries to destroy us because we are made in the image of God.

The Unseen War: Many so-called "enlightened" leaders and intellectuals deny that Satan even exists. But the unseen war between angels and demons is very real and very dangerous.

Unbelievers today are vulnerable to Satan because of their ignorance and curiosity. C.S. Lewis wrote in the preface of *Screwtape Letters*: "There are 2 equal and opposite errors into which our

race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive, unhealthy interest in them. [Demons] are equally pleased by both errors.”

Astrology, New Age philosophy and the occult deceive and lure people away from truth.

The average person today has little knowledge of what the Bible says about demons.

It's like people in the Middle Ages, trying to fight disease while being ignorant of bacteria.

For the past 2 centuries, the church has seemed afraid to admit that demons exist.

The person behind the silence of the church is Satan, who does not want to be exposed.

In this age of scientific “enlightenment,” many Christians felt pressured to compromise.

Evolution replaced creation, and secular humanism replaced the Bible and prayer in schools.

Even Christian schools and pastors began to teach that there is no hell and no judgment.

But if the devil doesn't exist, how do we explain so many unspeakable crimes and atrocities?

We cannot understand the purpose of evil - the *reason* for it, unless we consider Satan.

10:2-3 – Daniel's Preparation for the Vision

Dan.10:2-3 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.

Jerusalem was at peace, and in the process of being restored / reoccupied.

But this vision shattered any hopes Daniel may have had that the peace would last.

Daniel had been fasting and mourning for 3 weeks before the vision. Dan.10:12-13

The phrase “3 weeks” literally means “3 sevens of days”, to distinguish from Dan.9:24 weeks.

The 3 weeks included Passover week which always started on the 14th day of the 1st month. 10:4

Disturbing News from Jerusalem: “One part of the great war was the turmoil in Daniel's heart.”

- David Jeremiah. Daniel felt a tremendous burden for the Jews who remained in Babylon.

But Daniel also fasted out of concern for the pilgrims who had returned to Jerusalem.

Their work had progressed slowly; after 2 years, they were still building the foundation.

Daniel abstained from wine and lotions as expressions of grief. Amos 6:6; 2 Sam.14:2

Daniel's anxiety for their suffering was lifted to God in prayer. Phil.4:6-7; Rom.8:28

Ezra explains the difficulty that the pilgrims experienced in resettling Jerusalem. The altar had been set up, and the temple foundation laid. Ezra 3:2,6,8 The 7th month of Ezra 3:1 may mean the 7th month since they arrived. Or it may mean the 7th month since they left Babylon, or the 7th month on the calendar. In any case, these events happened during the 2 years before Daniel 10.

Renegade Jews were doing everything they could to discourage the builders.

The construction work was finally suspended due to the opposition. Ezra 4:1-5, 24

The Jews had fallen back into the same sins that had led to captivity. Hag.1:1-6; Zech.1:1-6

Would God still fulfill the promise that He made to Jeremiah? Jer.29:10-14

Daniel didn't realize that the end of captivity did not *finish* the 70-year desolation.

After the exiles returned in Ezra 1, it took another 20 years to rebuild the temple.

The prophecy of 70 years had a dual fulfillment: 1st for the *people*, then for the *temple*.

The 1st exiles were taken in 605 BC. The temple foundation was laid in 536 BC: 70 years.

Solomon's temple was destroyed in 586 BC; the 2nd temple was dedicated in 515 BC: 70 years.