

Daniel 10

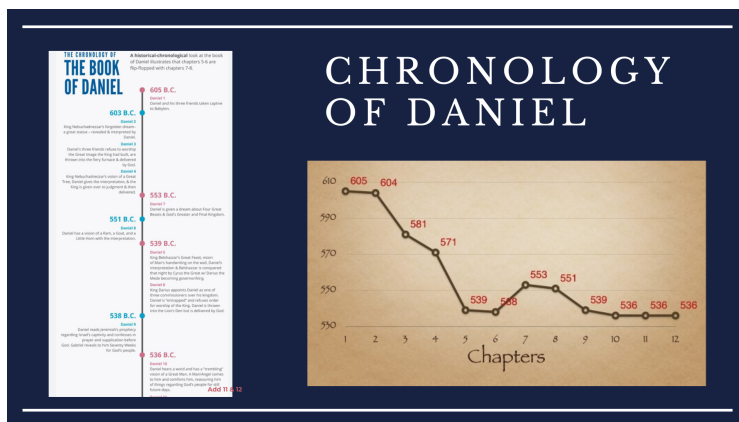
Teaching Notes

Chapter 10

Verse 1: Historical Timeline

(Daniel 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia 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.)

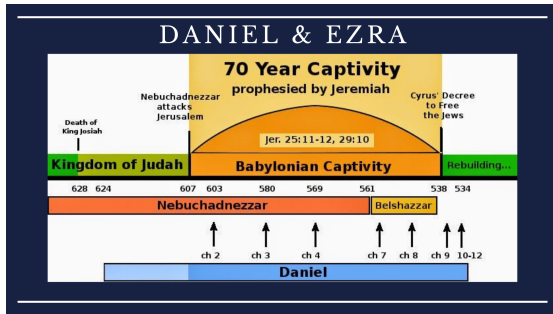
(Graphic 1)



Again, the book of Daniel is not in chronological order. Chapter 10 fast-forwards a couple of years into the Persian empire. Verse 1 makes it clear that Cyrus is King of Persia, particularly that Cyrus is now ruling over the province of Babylon for 3 years. Cyrus was ruling in Persia since 558 BC. But when Babylon was finally taken over in 539 BC, Daniel is noting Cyrus' rule over Babylon in the 3rd year. So that places what we are reading here in chapter 10 at 536 BC.

Why is that significant to our study? What you must understand is that Daniel overlaps with the historical record in the first few chapters of Ezra (which will be the next book that we study together after we finish Daniel).

(Graphic 2)



In 538 BC, King Cyrus decreed that the Jews were allowed to return to Israel and rebuild their temple.

Why does King Cyrus ring a bell?

Well, the prophet Isaiah prophesied King Cyrus more than 200 years prior to this event: before Cyrus was born; before Persia was a growing superpower; before the prophecies of Jeremiah detailed the 70 year captivity, etc. Isaiah prophesied that a man named Cyrus will arrive in future history as God's instrument to liberate the Jews and cause them to return to the land. Daniel finds himself in that future historical period. Let's see Isaiah's prophecy 200+ prior,

(Isaiah 44:28 Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."')

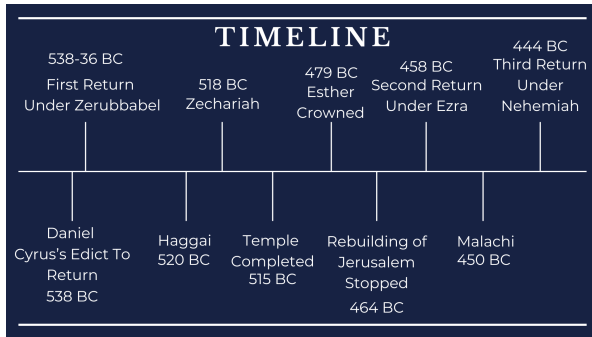
(Isaiah 45:13 I have raised him up in righteousness, And I will direct all his ways; He shall build My city And let My exiles go free, Not for price nor reward," Says the Lord of hosts.)

So track with me here.

Daniel realizes in chapter 9, around 538 BC that Jeremiah's prophecy of the 70 year captivity is closing. Daniel sees this Persian King, Cyrus, make this decree, the prophecy made 200+ years prior by the prophecy Isaiah. Daniel now hears (which is detailed in the first few chapters of Ezra) that almost 50,000 Jews under Zerubbabel left in 538 BC to go back to Jerusalem; that the sacrifices were reinstated in Jerusalem in 537 BC; and by 536 BC, they had begun the rebuilding of the Temple. Put yourself in Daniel's shoes...

Daniel is watching all these prophecies fulfilled before his eyes!

(Graphic 3)



The timeline that you see is chronological of what's going on in Daniel 10 and onward, till the Old Testament closes. As you can see, Daniel 10 is almost a century before the book of Nehemiah.

Look at what happens between Daniel 10 and Nehemiah 1, you see all these events that take place. And this is where we are headed in the winter and spring on Wednesday nights lord willing.

What now becomes clear is that Daniel was not with the group of Jews who went back to Jerusalem in the "First Return Under Zerubbabel" in 538 BC, what we read in Ezra 2. For some unknown reason, Daniel stays in Babylon. And while he is here, in the third year of King Cyrus' reign over Babylon, about 536 BC, Daniel receives this message:

Verses 2-9: The Setting of the Vision

(Daniel 10:2 *In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.*

Daniel 10:3 *I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.*

Daniel 10:4 *Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris,*

Daniel 10:5 *I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!*

Daniel 10:6 *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.*

Daniel 10:7 *And 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 themselves.*

Daniel 10:8 *Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength.*

Daniel 10:9 *Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.)*

Verses 1-3: The Message

This message that was revealed to Daniel caused Daniel to spend time in mourning, fasting, and prayer for 21 days, 3 weeks. Then God shows up on the 24th day (v4).

Verses 4-9: Similar to Saul's Vision

As you and I look at this vision, it reminds us of another vision in the Bible. Saul, later the Apostle Paul, received a vision on his way to Damascus. Although the other men with Saul could not understand the voice from heaven, they heard and saw the supernatural occurrence. Picturing Saul's conversion in Acts 9 and comparing it here is rather interesting.

- What is clear is that God had a special message and vision only for Daniel, not for the other men present.

So, what's the vision?

Spoiler Alert: We will not study the revelation/vision tonight. That's not until chapter 11, which we will study next week if the Lord wills.

Verses 10-14: The Delay

(Daniel 10:10 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.

Daniel 10:11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

Daniel 10:12 Then he 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.

Daniel 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

Daniel 10:14 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.")

This is one of the rarer yet more revelatory verses in the Bible. Here, we learn a bit more about spiritual warfare:

Many commentators think that the *angel* speaking to Daniel is Gabriel, although unnamed. Regardless, we will say, the angel.

Verse 12: The Angel is Stopped

Verse 12 makes it clear that Daniel sought to understand more of God's revelation, and God heard that request and sent the Angel to explain the revelation of God to Daniel. Along the way, the Angel is intercepted. Who intercepts him?

Verse 13: Who is Who?

Verse 13 says that the Angel was challenged for 21 days, for 3 weeks, the same 3 weeks that are revealed in verses 1-3.

So if that's the case, the Angel would have been there the moment Daniel heard the "message" and started to pray to the Lord. The Angel was God's answered prayer, now revealed to be delayed.

And the prince of the kingdom of Persia wasn't the only one who withstood the Angel. Verse 13 makes it clear there were *kings*, plural. This blockade became so intense that Michael needed to come and help the Angel.

So, who is "the prince" and "the kings" of Persia?

Michael, A Chief Prince

Because Michael is called a chief prince, and Michael is an angel, we see that contextually this is a reference to other angelic beings, **demons** - demons that were influencing kings and kingdoms. Therefore, it is clear to us that the Angel was in warfare with other demons. And because of the greatness of the warfare, God sent Michael to help the Angel overcome the demon's blockade.

Application 1: God's Sovereignty

God is sovereign. God is in control. This text does not imply that God was limited; or that he did not have control. Rather, this text gives insight into the sovereignty of God.

This text reminds us that there is **spiritual warfare** that happens simultaneously with time. It's happening right now! A good verse to insert here, (**Ephesians 6:12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*)

Here's the connection between unanswered prayer requests and God's sovereignty. In God's sovereignty, He allows there to be delays in the answering of our prayer requests because of the spiritual battles He allows between His angels and the demons.

So, think of a prayer request that was according to the will of God that you said earlier today or earlier this week. You may not realize that God has answered that prayer outside of time? Why? Because God is eternal: and future events are unchanging as history. An answered prayer is eternally answered, yet delayed in real time.

One side is, the demons are hindering; but that can't be separated from the reality that God has allowed the demons to hinder the answering of that prayer.

Three Takeaways

- (1). Answered prayers are according to His purposes which are fulfilled in perfect timing.
- (2). Earthly delays only reaffirm the perfect timing and sovereignty of the Lord.
- (3). You can trust the Lord that He answers our prayer requests in His perfect time. It may delay due to spiritual warfare, but you don't have to worry because God is sovereign.

When I read a portion of scripture like this, it brings me to a greater appreciation in my Heavenly Father. When I pray, I just pray. But eternity will tell of all the energy, effort, and love it takes to see every prayer succeed. **Again, the Bible says that every prayer according to the will of God is successful.** But now, I think many of you appreciate the cosmic work it takes to see those prayers fulfilled.

- There are 8 billion people on this planet. From my understanding, there are hundreds of thousands if not millions of true Christians on this planet. Among the millions of prayers that rise up to the Lord daily from believers, our infinite God hears your prayer as well as the million others.

When you sit back and try to wrap your head around the behind-the-scenes work in prayer, I hope you realize right now **how special you truly are**. You are His son, you are His daughter. He listens to your prayers.

So when someone asks you, “Why has God not answered your prayer request?”

- From one angle, you can say, spiritual warfare.
- From another angle, you can say, God is so good that He answers our prayers in His perfect timing.

Application 2: Persistent Prayer

The text tells us that Daniel fasted and prayed persistently for 21 days. Then the Angel showed up as the answered prayer on the 24th day.

Knowing that spiritual warfare occurs because of our prayers; and knowing that spiritual warfare is a hindrance to answered prayer, **does not imply we pray less or stop praying**.

Sadly, there is a tendency among any of us to become discouraged because of “Unanswered prayer.” There’s a famous phrase that Pastor Chuck Smith would say which I will rephrase on this topic:

If your theology causes you to pray less or stop praying, your theology is bad.

Persistent Prayer

So rather, follow Daniel’s example. In other words, because we know that spiritual warfare occurs because of our prayers and because we know that spiritual warfare is a hindrance to the timing of answered prayer should only cause you to be persistent in prayer.

Persistent prayer is God's design for effective prayer.

Look at the reason why Jesus spoke the parable of the woman and the unjust judge:

(**Luke 18:1** *Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,*)

Verse 14: The Details of the Vision

Back to the text. Gabriel tells Daniel that God will reveal to Daniel what will happen to the Jewish people. When? “In the latter days.”

Why is that important?

As you recall, the Bible the early church was familiar with was the Septuagint, the Old Testament translated into Greek. This phrase “latter days” in verse 14 is the same word for “last days,” ESCHATON HEMERA (ἔσχατος ἡμέρα). So, as we see Daniel 10:14 speak of the “last days,” it should cause us to buckle up. Because we are on this side of prophecy, you and I have Genesis to Revelation, particularly the book of Revelation, we are able to have a clearer understanding of what Daniel will now discover concerning the “last days.”

Spoiler Alert Again: We will not be looking at chapter 11 tonight. Next week we will. But to help you understand chapter 11, verse 14 is helpful. Chapter 11, can be divided into two portions:

Verses 2-35: World History (Greater detail to the world history described in chapter 8).

Verses 36-39: The Antichrist and the Tribulation Period (The ESCHATON HEMERA, the Last Days).

So when you look at Daniel 10:14, you are given a crystal clear direction of what God is going to show Daniel.

Before the revelation is revealed, **Daniel is encouraged.**

Verses 15-19: The Encouragement

(Daniel 10:15 When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

Daniel 10:16 And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then 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.

Daniel 10:17 For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me."

Daniel 10:18 Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.

Daniel 10:19 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.")

It's clear Daniel is truly struggling here. He doesn't feel worthy to talk to the Angel. He finds himself without strength. How is Daniel encouraged?

He is told:

- (1). Do not fear.
- (2). Peace be to you.
- (3). Be strong (2x).

What a powerful word of encouragement that the Lord gives to Daniel. The statements of this encouragement are familiar to us because these are statements that God says to multiple throughout the Old and New Testaments. How many times do you find, "Do not fear," "Peace be to you," "Be strong." It's worth a standalone Bible study research. The verse I want to project to you reveals these statements as a distinct characteristic of what God exclusively gives us: Look at,

(2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.)

Our emotions don't master us. A spirit of fear, timidity is not from God. God enables all His children to experience and walk in the Spirit's power.¹

Verse 19: The Strength of God

¹ Constable has some powerful words in 2 Timothy 1:7. Some thoughts taken FOR SURE.

Somehow, somehow in this moment Daniel knew and felt the strength of God. The word was spoken, and it strengthened Daniel to hear the revelations of chapter 11.

Verses 20-11.1: The Confidence of the Revelation

(Daniel 10:20) *Then 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.*

Daniel 10:21 *But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.*

Daniel 11:1 *“Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)”*

Verse 20: The Warfare Behind the Warfare

Again, the Angel reveals to Daniel the spiritual warfare that is going on behind the scenes. Demons were influencing kings and kingdoms. And the Angel along with Michael were involved in the spiritual warfare behind the politics and warfare of the kingdoms of Persia and Greece.

So, we can reflect on Nebuchadnezzar’s dream decades prior (in chapter 2) and reflect on Daniel’s dream years prior (in chapter 7) in which we saw the revelation of world kingdoms. And if you recall, the order of world kingdoms was Babylon, Medo-Persia, then Greece. Now we learn that in the midst of all these transitions of world kingdoms, there are angelic and demonic forces fighting behind the scenes. You are now seeing and realizing that spiritual warfare surrounded all these prophetic events.

Verse 21: Scripture

Gabriel tells Daniel that Daniel is receiving written scripture. These prophecies are the written truth of God. Note that: “all of these things are **noted** (*written*)” in the past tense.

I’ve shared this quote multiple times in our Daniel series. It is worth saying again:

Prophecy is the future written as history.

Consider,

(**Isaiah 40:8** *The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.*)

One thing our Father is continually teaching all of us is this: **Trust in the unchanging word.**

And what is the confidence in His word? Founded in the immutability of God, (**Hebrews 13:8** *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*)

What does Hebrews 6:18 say?

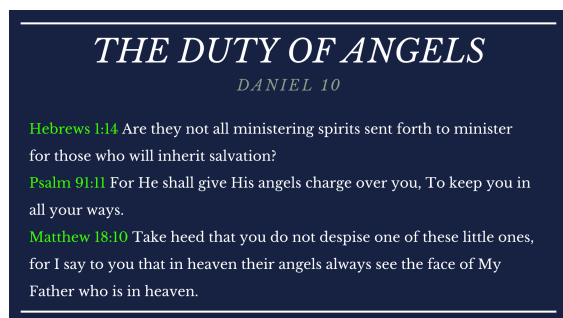
(**Hebrews 6:18** *that by two immutable things, in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.*)

Trust in His promises. Trust in His word.

Verse 21: Your Prince

The Angel tells Daniel that “Michael is **your prince**.” That word *your* (מִיָּדְךָ *’āt-tēm*) in the Hebrew reveals a truth that we find throughout the scriptures:

(Graphic 4)



God commissioned Michael the Archangel to personally help Daniel. We'll see Michael resurface in chapter 12 to help the Jewish people.

The point is this: When you realize that angels are aiding us, watching over us, helping us, fighting and defending the saints against the attacks of the evil one, there is a comfort for the Christian and a confidence to walk by faith.

Comfort: You are God's child safe in His hands.

When you believe the lie that God has abandoned you, remind yourself of the promises of God's word and trust in His promises. You are safe with God.

You are protected by the armies of God, personally.

Confidence: You are safe in the will of God.

For every believer, it will cross one's mind that the more dangerous path should be avoided and the less dangerous path should be taken.

What do I mean? There are some Christians who are afraid to evangelize because of potential danger. There are some Christians who are afraid to go on missions trips because of potential danger. There are some Christians who are afraid to become missionaries because of potential danger. There are some Christians who dissuade Christians, fellow brethren or adult children, from taking "dangerous" steps of faith because of potential danger.

All of us struggle with this mentally. But let's not fail to act biblically when it comes time to take steps of faith.

When you know that God is with you, when you know that all of heaven's armies are protecting you, you can fearlessly go and be an effective witness for Jesus Christ.

Where is the most anti-gospel, hostile place on planet earth?

- God is there and His angelic armies are there.

Where is the darkest corner on planet earth?

- God is there and His angelic armies are there.

I want to close with two verses:

(1). On the Presence of God's Spirit:

(Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Psalm 139:8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

Psalm 139:9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Psalm 139:10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

Psalm 139:11 *If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me;*

Psalm 139:12 *Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.)*

On the Presence of God’s Angelic Armies:

(2 Kings 6:15 *When the servant of the man of God got up early and went out, he discovered an army with horses and chariots surrounding the city. So he asked Elisha, “Oh, my master, what are we to do?”*

2 Kings 6:16 *Elisha said, “Don’t be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them.”*

2 Kings 6:17 *Then Elisha prayed, “Lord, please open his eyes and let him see.” So the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.)*

Chapter 11

Verse 1: Darius and the Angel

Remember King Darius of chapter 6 who believed in Jehovah because of Daniel’s witness and because of the miracle with Daniel and the Lion’s Den? The Angel reveals that God sent him to “protect” and “strengthen” Darius.

God is working out His plan. Keep praying. And keep moving forward.