

**BOOK OF DANIEL**  
**PRELUDE TO DANIEL'S FOURTH VISION**  
**DANIEL 10**

**Introduction**

The last three chapters of the Book of Daniel actually comprise one vision, and therefore should be read as a whole. The prophetic detail of this fourth great vision is recorded in the next Chapter, Daniel 11! Chapter 10 that we will be dealing with tonight is the prelude to the vision. It gives us the circumstances of Daniel's receiving of the vision; Daniel 12 is its postlude, launching Daniel into "end time" events as they relate to Daniel's people.

This chapter further lifts the veil on the unseen spirit world, enabling us to learn more about the influence and ministry of angels in the affairs of men. The key verse here is verse 14.

**I. THE TIME OF THE VISION! (Vs 1)**

**A. The Third Year Of Cyrus.**

This would be 534 or 533 B.C., since Babylon fell in 536B.C.

The historical parallel to this vision is the return of many Jews to Jerusalem—i.e. what we've been studying in Sunday School in Ezra 1:1 through Ezra 4:5.

**B. Daniel's Age.**

Daniel had now been in captivity for some 72 years, making him at least 90 years of age. It is believed that this may well have been his last year on earth.

Some of his companions-in-captivity were able to return to their homeland—Ezra 3:12.

Please note that there is no discrepancy between Daniel 1:21; 6:28; and 10:1, because none of these verses tell us when Daniel died—they simply state that he superseded the Babylonian empire.

**BOOK OF DANIEL**  
**PRELUDE TO DANIEL'S FOURTH VISION**  
**DANIEL 10**

**C. Daniel's Name.**

His Babylonian name, Belteshazzar, is used once again.

Perhaps the Holy Spirit inserted this information in anticipation of the many critics who have suggested a number of writers of the Book of Daniel over a considerable span of time.

**D. The Extent Of The Vision.**

*"...the time appointed was long..." (vs 1)*

This vision reveals more details of the prophecies found in Daniel 8 and Daniel 9.

God said it would be a long period—so far over 2,500 years long!

**II. THE PREPARATION FOR THE VISION! (Vs 2-3)**

**A. Daniel Mourns For Three Weeks! (vs 2)**

Why did Daniel mourn? There are a number of possibilities:

**1. Daniel Could Have Mourned Because Of Jewish Apathy!**

Only 42,360 Jews responded to the challenge of king Cyrus and returned to Jerusalem. (Ezra 2:64)

This was a relatively small percentage of the overall Jewish population in Babylon and Persia. Most were now content with their comfortable lives in a strange land. (Contrast this with **Psalm 137:1-6.**)

This same apathetic attitude can be seen in many Christians today as well.

**2. Daniel Could Have Mourned Because He Could Not Return!**

**BOOK OF DANIEL**  
**PRELUDE TO DANIEL'S FOURTH VISION**  
**DANIEL 10**

Although he lived to see some of his people return to Jerusalem, perhaps his age or his duties (**Daniel 8:27**) prevented him from going with them.

We know that the holy city of Jerusalem was never far from Daniel's heart! (**Daniel 6:10**)

**3. Daniel Could Have Mourned Because Of Reports Of Opposition!**

According to **Ezra 4:1-5,24**, there was much opposition to the work of rebuilding the temple.

In fact, the project was effectively stalled by "*legal challenges.*"

**4. Daniel Could Have Mourned Because He Did Not Fully Understand God's Workings!**

He may well have wondered, "*Why wasn't the temple built by now?*"

The 70 years prophesied by Jeremiah related to both the captivity (in which Daniel was involved) and the temple (which wasn't actually destroyed until 586 B.C.!) God was on time (as usual)!!

**B. Daniel Gives Himself To Prayer! (vs. 3)**

For the fourth time we see Daniel as a man of purposeful, intense prayer! (Cf. Daniel 2:17-18; 6:10-11; 9:3-19)

Daniel fasts and prays. Fasting is not just the going without food for a period of time—it involves the setting aside of any normal physical activity so as to accentuate the spiritual. In this case, Daniel set aside certain foods and normal acts of personal hygiene.

**BOOK OF DANIEL**  
**PRELUDE TO DANIEL'S FOURTH VISION**  
**DANIEL 10**

**III. THE GLORIOUS PERSON OF THE VISION! (Vs 4-9)**

**A. The Three Weeks! (vs. 4)**

In contrast with the "Weeks" of Daniel 9, the language here makes it clear that these were literal seven-day weeks. (See also: vs. 13)

**B. The River Hiddekel. (vs. 4)**

This was another name for the Tigris River.(Cf. Genesis 2:14)

**C. The Vision Of Christ In Glory. (vs 5-6)**

The description of this Person closely resembles that of the Lord Jesus Christ as seen by the aged apostle John on the isle of Patmos—Revelation 1:12-16.

**1. His Garments!**

"Linen" speaks of righteousness! (Revelation 19:8)

"Gold" speaks of deity! (Matthew 2:11).

**2. His Bodily Appearance!**

Beryl has been described as a green translucent gemstone with a "*refulgence like that of gold.*"

Our Lord is like a giant jewel!

**3. His Face And Eyes!**

Perfect perception. Omniscience.

**4. His Arms And Feet!**

Brass speaks of judgment.

**5. His Voice!**

Divine authority. (Cf. John 7:46)

**D. The Effects Of The Vision.**

**1. Daniel Saw It Alone.**

**BOOK OF DANIEL**  
**PRELUDE TO DANIEL'S FOURTH VISION**  
**DANIEL 10**

(Cp. John 12:28,29; Acts 9:3-7; Genesis 32:24; Joshua 5:13-15; Ezekiel 1; Galatians 1:11-17.)

The making of a man of God—being alone with God!

**2. Daniel Was Greatly Affected!**

A vision of the glory and holiness of God serves only to amplify the weakness and sinfulness of man.

Compare: Genesis 15:12,17; Exodus 3:2-6; Joshua 5:13-15; Isaiah 6:1-8; Ezekiel 1:28; Luke 5:8; Revelation 1:7.

The mark of a man of God—humble before God!

**IV. THE ANGELIC MESSENGER OF THE VISION! (Vs 10-15)**

**A. Another Personage!**

Vs. 10 indicates there is another spirit being to the "*Man*" of verses 5-6. In fact, Daniel 12:5 shows there were several supernatural beings present during this vision.

(The Lord was accompanied by two angels when He met with Abram at Mamre—Genesis 18:1-2.)

**B. Who Is This Being?**

Although this spirit being is not named, it is possibly Gabriel since he is bringing a message from heaven to earth.

**C. The Real "Star Wars"— Conflict In Outer Space!  
(vs 12-14)**

This passage reveals further insight concerning the nature and ministry of angels. Notice:

**1. The Answer To Daniel's Prayer Came Quickly!**

"...from the first day..."—vs 12. cf. Daniel 9:23.

**BOOK OF DANIEL**  
**PRELUDE TO DANIEL'S FOURTH VISION**  
**DANIEL 10**

**2. There Are Two Hosts Of Spirit Beings!**

When the anointed cherub Lucifer rebelled (Cf. Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19), apparently one-third of the angelic host allied with him! (Cf. Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:4).

The Bible clearly teaches there is a kingdom of darkness over which Satan is the prince! (Cf. Matthew 12:24-27; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)

**3. There Is A Great Unseen Spiritual Battle! (vs 13)**

Cf. Ephesians 6:11-13.

Evidently, behind the kings and rulers of this world are unseen beings seeking to control human events and history.

When we remember that the kingdom of Persia was at this time the dominant Gentile nation, and that its capital was Babylon, the great city in which human idolatry had originated after the Flood, we understand why the spirit of darkness assigned to its affairs was undoubtedly one of Satan's mightiest princes.

Satan is not omnipresent, omniscient, nor omnipotent! Therefore he works through a highly organized kingdom. (Study: Matthew 4:8,9; 12:24-30; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 6:12; etc.)

**4. The Archangel Michael Is Introduced!**

Although Michael is said to be one of the chief princes, he is the only spirit being given the title of "*archangel*" in the Word of God! (Jude 9)

**BOOK OF DANIEL**  
**PRELUDE TO DANIEL'S FOURTH VISION**  
**DANIEL 10**

Michael is a warrior angel, perhaps the supreme commander of the unseen hosts of the Lord!  
(Cf. 2 Kings 6:15-18)

His duties are specifically related to the Jews!  
(Cf. Daniel 10:21; 12:1; Revelation 12:7)

(If Michael is in fact the only archangel, then He will also herald the rapture of the saints! Cf. 1 Thess 4:16)

**V. THE STRENGTH OF THE VISION! (Vs 16-21)**

**A. Angels Are A Source Of Strength!**

Remember how that following the temptation of our Lord, angels ministered to Him! (Matthew 4:11)

Also , When He agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane, it was an angel which strengthened Him! (Luke 22:43)

**B. Daniel Is "*Touched*" Three Times!**

1. The first time, he STOOD! (vs 10-11)
2. The second time, he SPAKE! (vs 16)
3. The third time, he was STRENGTHENED! (vs 18)

(Oh how we need to be touched so that we might stand, speak, and be strong for our Lord!!)

**C. The Scripture Of Truth. (vs 21)**

That which WAS YET TO BE REVEALED and subsequently RECORDED in the pages of the Bible was already referred to as Scripture!

This demonstrates the eternal nature of the Word of God! (Cf. Psalm 119:89; Matthew 24:35)