

THE GREAT CONFLICT IN HEAVEN  
(Dan 10:1-8) 06/10/20  
Grace Bible Church, Gillette, Wyoming  
Pastor Daryl Hilbert

I. SUGGESTED TIMELINE

DATE	DANIEL	EVENT	PHRASE	SCRIP.
538 B.C.	Dan 9	Vision of Daniel's Seventy Weeks	"Cyrus' 1 <sup>st</sup> yr"	Dan 9:1
538 B.C.		Cyrus' Decree	"1 <sup>st</sup> of Cyrus"	Ezr 1:1
538 B.C.	Dan 6	Daniel and the Lions' Den	"Cyrus' appointments"	Dan 6:1
538 B.C.		Daniel retires from King's service	"until 1 <sup>st</sup> yr of Cyrus"	Dan 1:21
538 B.C.		Zerubbabel offers sacrifices	"1 <sup>st</sup> day 7 <sup>th</sup> mnth"	Ezr 2:64; 3:6
537 B.C.		Zerubbabel rebuilds the temple	"2 <sup>nd</sup> mnth 2 <sup>nd</sup> yr"	Ezr 3:8
536 B.C.	Dan 10-12	Daniel's Final Visions	"Cyrus' 3 <sup>rd</sup> yr"	Dan 10:1
458 B.C.		Artaxerxes' Decree - Ezra and priesthood	"7 <sup>th</sup> yr of King"	Ezr 7:8-26
444 B.C.		Artaxerxes' Decree - Nehemiah rebuilds city	"20 <sup>th</sup> yr of King"	Neh 2:1, 5-8

II. CONTEXT

A. *Daniel would have been in his 80's in 536 B.C., and his age may account for his not returning to the Promised Land. Daniel remained in government service until the first year of Cyrus (538 B.C., 1:21), but he remained in Babylon for several additional years, perhaps in "retirement."* (Constable).

B. Perhaps Daniel stayed behind because so many did not go to Jerusalem. In fact, only 42,360 traveled to Jerusalem (Ezr 2:64). Perhaps Daniel felt that his responsibility was to stay behind and give instruction from the Word of God as well as teach them Israel's future through the prophecy that was given to him.

C. *The final three chapters of the book of Daniel record an extensive revelation of the prophetic future that is without parallel in Scripture. This final vision [fourth] is a grand prophetic panorama of events from the time of Cyrus to the final establishment of God's kingdom* (Walvoord).

III. SETTING OF THE VISION (1-4)

A. Great Conflict (1)

1. Cyrus' 3<sup>rd</sup> Year - Throughout the book Daniel reveals the timeline, including the statement here in Ch. 10, i.e. the "third year of Cyrus." The date was approximately 536 B.C.

2. “Great Conflict” - The majority of translations translate the difficult Hebrew phrase *tsaba gadol* as “great conflict (warfare)” instead of the KJV’s “the time appointed was long.”
  3. Message of Great Conflict - “Great conflict” will characterize Daniel’s last three chapters.
    - a. Daniel’s Message of Conflict in Heaven (Dan 10:1-21)
    - b. Daniel’s Message of Conflict on Earth (Dan 11:1-35)
    - c. Daniel’s Message of Conflict in the End Times (Dan 11:36-12:13)
  4. Understood - It appears that Daniel would be able to understand the message of this vision, unlike some of the others
- B. Mourned Three Weeks (2) - Daniel’s three-week (literal) mourning was probably prompted by the news that the return of the Jewish exiles was met with great difficulty (Ezr 4:1-5, 24).
- C. Daniel Did not Eat (3) - Similar to Dan 9:1-3, this vision came in response to Daniel’s prayer and fasting.
- D. Daniel by Tigris (4)
1. Tigris River - Daniel identified the timeline by the phrase, “twenty-fourth day of the first month.” He also identified his location. It was at the bank of the Tigris River, one of the two rivers that contributes to Mesopotamia (land between two rivers). The other river is the Euphrates.
  2. Literal Location - This appears to be Daniel’s literal location at the time as opposed to seeing himself somewhere in a vision (cf. Dan 8:2).

#### IV. VISION OF CHRIST

- A. Man Dressed in Linen (5)
1. Varying Interpretations - There are varying interpretations as to the identification of the “man dressed in linen.” The possibilities are either an angel or a Christophany (preincarnate appearance of Christ).
  2. Angel - If this “man dressed in linen” was an angel there is difficulty in choosing which angel, Gabriel, Michael, or an unidentified angel.
    - a. Gabriel was mentioned in Dan 8:16; 9:21.
    - b. Michael is mentioned in Dan 10:13, 21.
    - c. An angel apparently speaks in Dan 10:11-15.
    - d. Christ could not be hindered like this being was hindered by a demonic prince as in Dan 10:13a, 20.
  3. Christ
    - a. The description of the “man dressed in linen” is very similar to the description of Christ by Ezekiel (Eze 1:26-28).
    - b. The description of the “man dressed in linen” is very similar to the description of Christ by the apostle John (Rev 1:13-16; 2:18).
    - c. Daniel’s reaction was similar to John’s prostrate position before Christ (Dan 10:9 cf. Rev 1:17).
    - d. Christ would not need Michael’s help in defeating demons (Dan 10:13b, 21).
    - e. The dilemma can be understood as three beings mentioned in this chapter: 1) Christ - Dan 10:5-6; 2) Gabriel, and/or unidentified angel - Dan 10:10-14, 16-21a; and 3) Michael - Dan 10:13b, 21b.
- B. Description of Man in Vision (6)
1. “Man” - Ezekiel described Christ with the “appearance of a man” (Eze 1:26). John described Christ as the “Son of Man” (Rev 1:13). To be sure that is a title of deity, but it emphasizes Christ’s humanity.
  2. “Linen” - The “linen” may represent Christ as the believer’s high priest. OT priests wore linen (Exo 28:39, 42).
  3. Gold belt - The man in Daniel’s vision had a golden belt. John described Christ with a priest’s golden sash (Rev 1:13). Gold is often the symbolism of deity. “Uphaz” is either a location or poetic reference.

4. Beryl - "Beryl" is *tarshish* in Hebrew. TWOT and Strong identify this precious stone as a yellow jasper. It was one of the jewels on the priest's breastplate (Exo 28:15, 20). Daniel's vision described the man's whole body as a beryl stone reflecting the glory of God.
  5. Face of Lightning - Daniel's vision depicted the being's face with "the appearance of lightning." John described Christ that His face "was like the sun shining in its strength" (Rev 1:16). God's divine presence is a great brilliance called the "Shekinah" ("the One Who dwells") (Exo 33:9 cf. Exo 34:29; 2Ch 7:1-2; Eze 10:3-4). This is associated with the evidence of deity.
  6. Eyes - The eyes were described as "flaming torches." Christ was described by John as having "eyes were like a flame of fire" (Rev 1:14). It is symbolic for the penetrating work of Christ in the souls of men. Nothing is hidden from Christ (Heb 4:13).
  7. Arms - "Arms" often symbolize the strength of God, especially in salvation (Isa 52:10). The Lord will save Israel through His Suffering Servant (Isa 59:16).
  8. Feet - Here both the arms and the "feet" are described as "polished bronze." John wrote of Christ's feet like "burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace" (Rev 1:15 cf. Rev 2:18). John's symbolism represented God's judgment, which can purify His people or destroy His enemies.
  9. Words - Daniel's vision includes "words like the sound of a tumult." This could refer to Christ's sovereign words that are more authoritative than anyone else's words. John refers to Christ's words as a "sharp two-edged sword" coming out of His mouth (Rev 1:16). The sword is the Word of God that Christ uses to purify His people and judge His enemies (Heb 4:12; Eph 5:25-27).
- C. Companions Ran Away (7) - Daniel's friends did not see Daniel's vision of the Lord. But they must have in one way or another, sensed the presence of the Lord (cf. Act 9:1-8).
- D. Daniel's Strength Left Him (8) - Only Daniel saw the vision. However, Daniel himself lost all strength in the presence of the Lord. He turned pale as a dead man.

I. SUGGESTED TIMELINE

DATE	DANIEL	EVENT	PHRASE	SCRIP.
<b>538 B.C.</b>	<b>Dan 9</b>	<b>Vision of Daniel's Seventy Weeks</b>	<b>"Cyrus' 1<sup>st</sup> yr"</b>	<b>Dan 9:1</b>
538 B.C.		Cyrus' Decree	"1 <sup>st</sup> of Cyrus"	Ezr 1:1
<b>538 B.C.</b>	<b>Dan 6</b>	<b>Daniel and the Lions' Den</b>	<b>"Cyrus' appointments"</b>	<b>Dan 6:1</b>
538 B.C.		Daniel retires from King's service	"until 1 <sup>st</sup> yr of Cyrus"	Dan 1:21
538 B.C.		Zerubbabel offers sacrifices	"1 <sup>st</sup> day 7 <sup>th</sup> mnth"	Ezr 3:6
537 B.C.		Zerubbabel rebuilds the temple	"2 <sup>nd</sup> mnth 2 <sup>nd</sup> yr"	Ezr 3:8
<b>536 B.C.</b>	<b>Dan 10-12</b>	<b>Daniel's Final Visions</b>	<b>"Cyrus' 3<sup>rd</sup> yr"</b>	<b>Dan 10:1</b>
458 B.C.		Artaxerxes' Decree - Ezra and priesthood	"7 <sup>th</sup> yr of King"	Ezr 7:8-26
444 B.C.		Artaxerxes' Decree - Nehemiah rebuilds city	"20 <sup>th</sup> yr of King"	Neh 2:1, 5-8

