

Sermon outline and notes © Dr. Stephen Felker  
Pastor Emeritus, Swift Creek Baptist Church (SwiftCreekBaptistChurch.com)  
18510 Branders Bridge Rd., Colonial Heights, VA 23834  
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## Daniel 10:1-21 (read vv.1-14) “The Vision of Glory”

Intro. Chapters 10-12 compose the final section of the book of Daniel. This prophetic vision gives greater detail about the final years of this present age than any other part of the book of Daniel. In the last of v.1 we are told the general content of the vision. It probably should be translated, “The message ... was about a great conflict.” We will get into the details in our next message. But tonight we are going to focus on the vision of the heavenly visitors that Daniel had.

Now in chapter 9 Daniel had prayed for the return of his people to their homeland. Shortly thereafter his prayer was answered. King Cyrus made a decree to allow all the people of Israel to return home (Ezra 1:1; 2 Chron. 36:22). Daniel began to see the desire of his heart fulfilled in the same year that he had prayed. But after two years, something was bothering Daniel. I believe he was disheartened because the vast majority of his people still had not returned to Israel. The Jews are hardworking, industrious people, and so they were comfortable, prosperous, and too involved in Babylonian society to care about living in the Promised Land, restoring Jerusalem, and rebuilding the Temple. Many did not want to uproot their families again. So the decree of Cyrus allowing Israel to return to Judah was greeted with indifference and unconcern. Even though the Jewish population had grown to hundreds of thousands, Ezra 2:64 tells us that only 42,600 returned with Ezra to the land of Israel. Such a small number could not rebuild very well. The captives who returned found their work difficult to the utmost. Jerusalem was largely a pile of rubble (Neh. 4:2). They were opposed and harassed by all of the local population surrounding Jerusalem.

And so Daniel began fasting, and praying concerning the situation. We read in vv.2-3, “In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. 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.”

What we see in this chapter is Daniel, and the spiritual forces of God and Satan engaged in spiritual warfare. The veil of the spiritual world is partially and momentarily lifted, and we get a look into the unseen world. This chapter gives implications concerning angels and demons and their respective interests in the people and work of God. I hope we all will be more like Daniel as we learn about him today.

Now let’s see first of all tonight:

### I. A MANIFESTATION FROM HEAVEN

Daniel has a vision of a heavenly visitor. Notice what we read here about this manifestation from heaven. First of all, notice:

A. The Place of the Manifestation – In v.4 we read, “Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris.”<sup>1</sup> That great, long River runs mostly parallel to the Euphrates, flows through Nineveh in Assyria to the north, and Babylon to the south. It is possible that Daniel may have been there on some official business. Or maybe he was there to motivate some Jewish residents of that area to go back to their land.

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<sup>1</sup> The KJV says “Hiddekel”, which is the Hebrew form of the Tigris River.

B. The Person Who Was Manifested – In vv.5-6 we read, “I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! 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.” Who is this “certain man clothed in linen”? Some suggest it was Gabriel, or some other great angel. But I believe it was none other than the preincarnate Son of God. Jesus Christ was not created when He was born; He has always existed (John 1:1). This interpretation is evident when one compares Daniel 10 with the description of Christ in Revelation 1:12-16.<sup>2</sup> These two passages are very similar (read). So I believe Daniel saw Christ in His preincarnate glory. And this is not the first time that Jesus appears in the book of Daniel. I believe He appears in the 3rd chapter as the fourth person in the fiery furnace. A second time the theophany occurs is in the 7th chapter of the Book of Daniel when in the vision of the throne of the Ancient of days, there comes one like unto the Son of man, and to Him is given an everlasting kingdom that shall never pass away.

Notice some of the aspects of His marvelous appearance. The attributes of God are revealed in His appearance. He was clothed in linen. White linen was the garment of the priests (Ex. 28:39-43; Lev. 6:10) and of heavenly visitors, such as the angels that appeared at the tomb of Christ (Mk. 16:5). Such clothing was symbolic of the holiness and purity of Jesus Christ. On more than one occasion God said to His people, “Be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy” (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:26; 21:8; 1 Peter 1:15-16). His body was like beryl, a transparent, flashing jewel. Its flashing quality signifies a manifestation of God’s glory. Also notice that His eyes were “like torches of fire.” His eyes flashed more brightly than His face. That pictures the penetrating eyes of God’s omniscience. He knows all about you. He even knows your thoughts! These same eyes of fire will see through every excuse you might offer for your sin and rejection of Christ at the Day of Judgment. Furthermore, the fact that his arms and feet were like polished bronze (cf. Ezek. 1:7) seems to indicate the judgment of God. The altar of sacrifice was overlaid with bronze (Ex. 27:2; 35:16; 38:2). And His mighty voice is an indication of His power and authority.

One time I was making a visit to a family that occasionally attended out church. They probably were professing Christians. I knocked on the door and no one responded. Then I knocked again, and I heard from inside the man say to his wife, “Open the \_\_\_\_\_ door!” Well, imagine how his wife felt when she opened the door and saw the preacher! She knew I must have heard her husband’s profanity. Well listen, I don’t see why people get nervous when the preacher hears or sees something that is sinful. God hears every word we say, sees every action, and even knows every thought that we have (Mt. 9:4; Lk. 6:8; 11:17; Jn. 2:25). The Son of God has eyes as flames of fire, signifying His penetrating omniscience. [Illus.#C-3111]

There are those who say that Jesus is just another prophet or religious leader. They compare Him to Buddha, Confucius, or Mohammed. But as we see here, that is like comparing the sun with an electric light bulb! Jesus manifests the very glory of God, as He did on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Now, imagine what was:

C. The Reaction to this Manifestation – In vv.7-9 we read, “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. 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. Yet I

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<sup>2</sup> There are also some similarities to the vision of Ezekiel 1.

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.” The men that were with Daniel did not see the vision, but they knew that something supernatural was going on, so they fled in fear. Daniel was left alone, and all alone he experienced God.

Sometimes God has to get us alone in order to deal with us in the best possible way. Moses was sent to the backside of the desert of Midian, and at the Burning Bush he was alone with God. John the Baptist was in the desert alone, but God was there. Paul spent three years in Arabia, mostly alone, after he was saved. The apostle John was exiled on the lonely isle of Patmos, but God was with him in a special way. Friend, have you ever tried being alone with God? That is where God will meet with you. In contrast, the ungodly and the unbeliever want to go to the nightclubs. They run in packs, and they like to have people around them. They don't like to be alone.

So what was Daniel's reaction? Upon seeing Him, Daniel was overwhelmed by the glory of His person. Daniel experienced severe emotional trauma and became fearful and as weak as water. Even he couldn't handle too much of the overwhelming presence of God. He then fainted with his face to the ground.

This is similar to the reaction that other people in the Bible had to the manifestation of God's presence. After Job had a vision of God, he abhorred himself, and saw himself as the sinner that he really was (Job 42:5-6). Isaiah had a vision of God's holiness in chapter 6 and cried “Woe is me....” When Peter witnessed the divine power of Christ, he said, “... Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (Lk. 5:8).

Even so, when a sinful man stands in the presence of God, he immediately finds himself bowed to the ground. If you think you are good enough to get to heaven based on your own goodness, you've been comparing yourself to other people rather than God. If you get a glimpse of the glory of God as revealed in His Word, you will join the saints of old in saying, “Woe is me. I'm a sinful man” or “I'm a sinful woman.”

Have you ever wished that God would appear to you? Do you think God is just a good buddy that you could walk up to boldly and speak to? Do you stand in awe of God's presence when you pray? You *can* come to God boldly in prayer (Heb. 4:16; 10:19), but only through the righteousness that Jesus gives. But as long as we are sinners, living in this flesh, I would not want to have such a vision of God, for I certainly would not fare any better than Daniel. I can see God and rejoice on that great day only when I have a new body and a sinless spirit. When you face the living God some day, you will be devastated far beyond what Daniel experienced, unless you are clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ through faith in Him.

So Daniel experiences a manifestation from heaven. I believe Jesus Himself appeared to him in all His glory. Next he sees:

## II. A MESSENGER FROM HEAVEN

Though it is not explicitly stated, I believe the heavenly being described in vv.10ff is different from the one described in vv.4-9. The first is descriptive of a theophany, a manifestation of God. The second is more descriptive of an angel. I say that partly based on v.13, where we read that this heavenly visitor needed assistance from Michael.<sup>3</sup> I don't think the Son of God would have

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<sup>3</sup> However, Criswell believes that this person is Christ, because he points out that God does allow others to oppose Him. When Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, the Scriptures say He did no great work there because of their unbelief. When He came to Gadara, the swine keepers and the pigsty owners begged Him to leave, and He left. There is such a thing as opposing God and hindering God and thwarting the will of God. But it is temporary.

needed such assistance! So taking on the physical form of a man, an angel appeared to minister to him. This may have been the angel Gabriel.

A. The Purpose of His Coming: To Encourage Daniel – In vv.11-12 we read, “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. 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.’” God doesn’t make a personal appearance to everyone. But Daniel was a special man, and the angel made that known to him to encourage him at this traumatic time (also in v.19). He called Daniel “greatly beloved,” or literally, “a man much desired.” The same word is used in v.3 of “pleasant food,” that is the kind of food that we desire. That must have encouraged Daniel’s heart. There are others in the Bible who were greatly loved by God. David was called “a man after [God’s] own heart” (I Sam. 13:14). Abraham was called the friend of God (Isa. 41:8). John was called “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (Jn. 21:7). The angel announced to Mary that she was “highly favored” by God (Lk. 1:28). There are people who, by their special delight in God and their consistent obedience to Him, become not just beloved, but *greatly* beloved. Wouldn’t you like to have such a relationship with God?

The angel also encouraged Daniel by saying, “Do not fear” (v.12). Seeing Daniel still trembling, the angel stated directly that he had no reason to fear. The logic of his following words is that Daniel did not need to fear, because God had already shown favor toward him in having heard his words of petition (v.12). Not only were his prayers heard, but the coming of the angel was in response to his prayers. I know that I am encouraged to pray more when I see God answer prayer.

Have you ever been discouraged? Of course you have. Sometimes I get a little discouraged in the Lord’s work. It looks like we are losing ground to Satan. At such times we need to do what Daniel did. We need to pray, and perhaps even fast, and we will see God go to work in answer to our prayers, and He will encourage us as He did with Daniel. Have you ever engaged in intensive prayer for three weeks?

B. The Demonic Hindrance to His Coming - The angel explained why 21 days had elapsed between God’s having sent him and his actual arrival in Daniel’s presence. He said in v.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.” This “prince” was not a man. He must have been more than mortal or he couldn’t have resisted the coming of a holy angel. This evidently was an envoy of Satan, one of the demons.<sup>4</sup>

Now what was he doing there with the Kings of Persia? His job was:

1. To Influence the Affairs of Persia so he could work against the Jewish people and the plans of God. It was God’s will for His people to return. It was out of that return that the great Messianic hope was to be born in fruition and realization in Bethlehem. So the demon was prompting the Persian king to show ill-will and disfavor toward the Jews, refusing their requests and bringing hardship in general.

Next, we read that:

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<sup>4</sup> Cf. Rom. 8:38; Eph. 2:2; 6:12; Col. 2:15. See also Deut. 32:8. Instead of “sons of Israel” the LXX has “angels of God.” The Dead Sea scrolls have “sons of God.” Thus, there are angels assigned to nation states.

2. The Demon Hindered the Messenger Angel (v.13) - Satan didn't want that kind of information to get to Daniel.

This reveals that in the unseen world there is a conflict going on, a conflict of the ages between good and evil, light and darkness, God and Satan. Satan and his demons are actively opposed to the program of God. Satan has an incredibly clever organization. His demons are engaged in ceaseless warfare to capture the souls of men. Satan often assigns special emissaries to influence governments against the people of God and the work of God. There was a demon assigned to Persia, and another assigned to Greece as we see in v.20, for they would be the next world empire.

I believe that Satan and his demons are still active in the affairs of this world. I believe that he has been responsible for influencing religious and governmental persecution of Christians. He has been behind the rise of communism and socialism. I believe that Satan and his demons had a hand in the Supreme Court removing prayer and Bible reading from our public schools, and legalizing abortion in all 50 states. Forgive me if I offend anyone, but I believe demons are influencing those who are behind the Marxist revolution that is going on in our own country right now. You see the evidences of the work of Satan in this movement for he is a liar, and he sows discord, lawlessness and destruction in our cities.

So what should we do in light of this? We need to be aware of the spiritual warfare going on behind the scenes and we need to follow the command of 1 Tim. 2:1-2a, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority...." Prayer is one of the primary ways we do battle against Satan. Pray that God will put a hedge of protection around these elected leaders. Pray that ungodly leaders will repent and be saved. In Romans 15:30-31 Paul wrote, "Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, ... that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe...." Demon-inspired political leaders have been the primary persecutors of Christians, and we need to pray for deliverance from them. Real prayer is agonizing. It is getting through the barriers to release spiritual power. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 says, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds)." Have you been praying like this? If we fail to obey these commands things are only going to get worse in our country.

But after the delay, the angel arrived. Daniel had been quite ignorant concerning the struggle that had ensued. Little do the people of God at any time realize what contention may go on concerning them among higher powers.

There is one more application about prayer I want to make. As we see here, sometimes the answer to our prayer is delayed. For about 3 weeks Daniel must have felt like God was not hearing or answering his prayers. The heavens seemed as brass. But it's not that God did not hear his prayer, it's just that the *evidence* of God's response was delayed. So keep praying! Jesus said in Luke 18:1, "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

So following these manifestations from heaven by Jesus and the angel, we are encouraged by assurances of:

### III. THE MASTERY OF HEAVEN

In spite of all the evil and suffering in the world from Satan, demons, and evil men, God is still in control and will gain the ultimate victory. That is a major theme of the book of Daniel. God

wanted Daniel to know that His purposes would be fulfilled in His own time. Now as we see here, God would accomplish His mastery of future events:

A. Through Revelation of the Truth - Daniel had spent 21 days asking the Lord what would happen to his people. Satan sought to interfere, trying to keep Daniel from receiving the Word of God. How Satan hates God's Word! Notice that v.1 says that "a message was revealed to Daniel" and that the "message was true." In the Hebrew there is emphasis upon the word "true." Furthermore, the angel said in v.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." Daniel was concerned about what would happen to his people. This was a direct answer to his prayer. Then in v.21 the angel said, "But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth." Probably Daniel had been praying and thinking mainly about days in Israel's near future, but the angel was saying in v.14 that his words would concern, not only near days, but those far ahead, which would involve great conflict. The content of this revelation is found beginning in chapter 11. The thought is that the information given the messenger involved great conflicts in history to come, including the Great Tribulation. The Lord did not want His people taken by surprise when the future events take place. Paul said in 1 Thess. 5:4, "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief."

Sometimes we fool around with such petty things while God is trying to give us glimpses of monumental, eternal truth. Some Christians don't ever study the Bible; they play around with churchianity and never ever plumb the depths of God's marvelous revelation. A recent poll indicated that evangelical Christians are more than twice as likely to check and read their Facebook daily than read their Bible.

Do you realize that God wants you to know truth, including the truths relating to future prophecies? You need faith and hope in God's Word to have victory, especially in difficult times

Another way the Lord will help us as we face the future is this:

B. By Strengthening His Servants – As we see in v.15, Daniel became speechless. If some people become speechless, you know something is up! In v.16 we see that he experienced intense sorrow and loss of strength. In v.17 we see that Daniel even had a hard time breathing! So he clearly needed strengthening to receive the revelation God had for him to give us. Notice how God strengthened Daniel through this angel:

1. By a Touch - 3 times in this chapter Daniel received a touch from the heavenly visitor(s). In v.10 Daniel says, "Suddenly, a hand touched me...." This touch enabled him to rise from the ground (v.11). In v.16 we see that the second touch enabled Daniel to speak again. In Ex. 4:10ff Moses objected to the Lord's call upon his life, saying that he could not speak well. But God assured him that since He had made man's mouth, He will be with him and enable him. Then in v.18 still another angel<sup>5</sup> came and miraculously restored Daniel's strength to him. In Daniel's case, it was God who imparted the strength, using the angel merely as an instrument.

One Sunday morning I went off to church and forgot to take my orange juice. At that time that was all I would usually have to eat or drink before the 8:30 service each week. Well, about 15 minutes into the service I became weak, almost faint. Yet I looked to the Lord for strength, and sure enough, by the time I started preaching, the Lord had renewed my strength, and I preached the entire sermon without any problem. [Illus.#C-3113].

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<sup>5</sup> Wood believes they are all one and the same angel.

Have you ever been so weak or discouraged that you needed a touch from God or one of his angels? In such times, do you look to the Lord for strength? God will strengthen you if you ask Him to, and place your trust in Him! The apostle Paul expressed what he had learned in 2 Cor. 12:10, “when I am weak, then I am strong.”

You may say, “I have never been touched by an angel.” How do you know? The book of Hebrews says that angels are “ministering spirits.” You can see an angel only when they choose to manifest themselves, unusually in human form. Otherwise, they are invisible. There are times when God may have strengthened you through the touch of an angel (see Mt. 4:11).

Daniel was also strengthened:

2. By His Words – In v.19 the angel said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” He commanded him, “Fear not” and added, “Peace be with you.” Fear is the opposite of peace. Daniel was commanded very emphatically to be strong. When fear is replaced by peace, one can be strong, for fear can turn you into a coward.

God still will strengthen His people through His Word. When you go through times of trouble, turn to the Word of God for comfort and strength.

So we see here that God intervened to help Daniel. He will help us as well in our time of need. As Paul said in Romans, “If God is for us, who could be against us?” Or as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Psalm says: “Why are you cast down, O my soul? ... Hope in God” (v.5).

Finally, the angels helped:

C. By Waging Battle against Satan and His Demons - In v.13 it appears that the angel emerged victorious over the resisting demon. The fact that he remained with the king of Persia indicates that he gained controlling influence over the king, instead of the demon. After it was won, the messenger had come on to meet Daniel, as here described. In v.20 the angel is saying in effect, “I’ve got to give you this message quickly because I have to get back to the battle.” That the angel had to return to wage war with his demonic opponent, over whom he had already gained a victory, shows that this victory needed to be renewed. In other words, Satan’s representative would be trying again and again to regain his place of influence with the Persian rulers, and Daniel’s visitor was needed to resist these attempts. Daniel’s visitor made clear that he alone contended with Satan’s emissaries, assigned first to Persia and later to Greece, except that he could call on Michael for help at any time. In 11:1 we see another example of this angelic work which took place 2 years earlier. The angel speaking to Daniel assisted Michael in influencing Darius (Cyrus) to allow Israel to return to their land. God apparently assigns holy angels to nations to carry out His purposes. That kind of spiritual warfare must be going on all the time.

I often wonder what’s happening behind the scenes in our own nation. We need to be more aware of what is going on in the spirit-world, and we need to engage in spiritual warfare through prayer. God works in response to the prayer of His people. We need to pray that God will open doors for the Gospel. We need to pray that governments will remove hindrances to the Gospel. When the Soviet Empire fell, the door was opened for the gospel in many countries in Eastern Europe, and even in Russia. We need to pray against the coronavirus and the lockdowns that governments are imposing. We need to pray that our government, educational institutions, and businesses do not come under greater control and influence by Communists.

Conclusion: What does God want to accomplish in your life? I’m sure it is greater than you have planned. What does God want to accomplish in the ministry of our church? Again, more than we might think. What is God up to in our country, and in our world? In every realm of life, you can be

sure that Satan and his demons are seeking to oppose the work of God and His angels. So will you make a commitment to engage in spiritual warfare through the study of God's Word, and by being prayerful and watchful? Ephesians 6:12 says, "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."

Sources: W. A. Criswell, *Expository Sermons on the Book of Daniel* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976); Stephen Felker, *Devotional & Explanatory Notes on the Entire Bible* (Col. Hghts, VA: Published by Author), 2021; Tremper Longman III, *The NIV Application Commentary: Daniel* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999); John MacArthur, Jr., *An Uncompromising Life* (Panorama City, CA: Word of Grace Communications, 1983); J. Vernon McGee, *Thru The Bible*, Vol. 2 (Pasadena, CA: Thru The Bible Radio, 1983); Larry Pierce, *Online Bible* [Ver. 5:30] (Ontario: onlinebible.net, 2017); Leon Wood, *A Commentary on Daniel* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973). Other sources listed in the footnotes. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982).

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