**A Quick Glance Behind the Veil into the Spiritual World**

Daniel 10:1 – 11:4

Today, God is going to pull back the veil and allow us to see into Spiritual Realm. What we see is shocking, but as it turns out exactly what the Scriptures tell us exits in this realm.

Daniel 10 serves as the start to the end of this book. It is the prelude of chapter 11 and serves as the introduction of both chanters 11 and 12 (the rest of the book of Daniel). It is the longest of all of the visions and dreams and by far the most complex.

To set up our lesson let’s look at the first four verses of our text:

***1 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. 2 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. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)***

Daniel is 86 or 87 years old.

It is the third year of Cyrus king of Persia. Chapter 9, that great and incredible vision that we just reviewed, that occurred two – three years earlier. Now it is **537-536 BC.**

**What has happened since chapter 9, in the life of Daniel and the nation of Israel?** The decree:

*Ez 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, 2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. 3 Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. 4 And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem. 5 Then the heads of the fathers’ houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. 6 And all those who were around them encouraged them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered. 7 King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods;”*

By now Daniele has likely aided many who left the region of Babylon to go to Jerusalem:

*“Now these were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried captive to Babylonia. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town.” (Ezr 2:1 ESV)*

We are then given a list in chapter two that concludes with:

*“The whole assembly together was 42,360, besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337, and they had 200 male and female singers.” (Ezr 2:64-65 ESV)*

This is smaller than we would have guessed, but almost 50,000 are going back home, not Daniel.

The exiles arrived in Jerusalem in the **summer of 537BC** and by autumn they had cleared the temple area and resumed the daily sacrifices. We read in Ezra 3:

*“1 When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem. 2 Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. 3 They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening. 4 And they kept the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the rule, as each day required,” (Ezr 3:1-4 ESV)*

The following spring, they had completed the foundation of the temple:

*“****10*** *And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel.* ***11*** *And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.* ***12*** *But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy,” (Ezr 3:10-12 ESV)*

**Things are looking good. You can imagine the excitement! But then,** as recorded by Ezra, namely the difficulty that the people faced in rebuilding the temple. This is likely late in the year of **537BC:**

*“****1*** *¶ Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel,* ***2*** *they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers’ houses and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here."* ***3*** *But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers’ houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."* ***4*** *Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build* ***5*** *and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.” (Ezr 4:1-5 ESV)*

**So by the third year of Cyrus, both Daniel and indeed the entire nation are discouraged, the work has proven much tougher than they realized. The resistance has also proven much stronger than they ever imagined. This resistance, against God and against His people, has resulted in the stopping of this great work!**

*“This opposition, on top of the difficulties of scratching out a basic living in their new home, caused the returned exiles to cease the work on the temple, a hiatus that would continue for more than fifteen years until the time of Haggai and Zechariah. The third year of Cyrus would therefore have been a time of discouragement for God’s people, both in Judah and in Babylon. The euphoria that surrounded the initial return and the rededication of the altar was fading and the challenges of maintaining faithfulness over the long haul in the midst of great opposition would have been on Daniel’s mind.” Duguid, Iain M. “Daniel”*

Back to our text:

**Vs 1 –** The year 537-536

**Vs 4 –** the First Month, 24th day

**Vs 4 –** Significance of this month and time of the month. Jewish calendar:

*Lev 23:5 ‘On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD’S Passover.*

*Ex 12:18 ‘In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.*

**Vs 2 -** Daniel was mourning, praying (vs 12), fasting from certain foods and drinks, and did not anoint his body.

Daniel had prayed, and the heavens seemed like they were shut. That is the appearance. The last time we had seen Daniel pray, God had dispatched the answer immediately. Daniel went from an ultimate high, to the ultimate low. That change in circumstances did not push Daniel away from God, but instead caused Daniel to pursue God even harder.

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***4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.***

**Vs 4 –** He was standing on the bank of the Tigris. Daniel remembers not only the time, but the place.

Then behold! Daniel **sees a man**.

* **Vs 5 - This one he sees is clothed in linen**, fine white linen is the garment of the priests, prophets, and angels and is likely a symbol of God’s holiness.
* **He is girded with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz**, a golden belt to mark someone of great importance! John MacArthur believes this represents God’s sovereignty.
* **Vs 6 - His body is like beryl** (transparent flashing gem stone), possibly emblematic of God’s glory.
* **His face is like the appearance of lightening**. God’s power and omnipotence.
* **His eyes like flaming torches**. God’s Omniscience and penetrating knowledge.
* **His arms and legs gleaming like burnished bronze**, possibly emblematic of the judgment of God.
* **The sound of his words like the sound of a multitude**. Like the echo of the roar of a crowd.

**Daniel is describing an encounter that was simply AMAZING, overpowering, and overwhelming!**

Although there is some disagreement here, and we need not be dogmatic, it appears that Daniel is seeing a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus.

 Many see similarities in:

*“****10*** *I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet* ***11*** *saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."* ***12*** *Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,* ***13*** *and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.* ***14*** *The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,* ***15*** *his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.” (Re 1:10-15 ESV)*

The text here in Revelation, tells us this is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the one who died and is alive forevermore.

**John (as recorded in Revelation 1) saw Jesus is post-resurrection glory, I believe Daniel is seeing Jesus in pre-incarnation glory!**

If it is only an angelic being, it is important to note how the angelic being, reflects the glory of God.

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***7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. 9 Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground. 10 ¶ And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,***

These verses bring us face to face with a great truth that we must recognize and acknowledge. Stated simply, the most powerful forces in our world are unseen forces. The forces I am speaking of are not hurricanes or tornadoes, I am speaking of forces that exist and operate in the heavenly realm. These forces include both forces for good and forces for evil.

Abraham Kuyper wrote: *“If once the curtain were pulled back, and the spiritual world behind it came to view, it would expose to our spiritual vision a struggle so intense, so convulsive, sweeping everything within its range, that the fiercest battle ever fought on earth would seem, by comparison, a mere game. Hot here, but up there-that is where the real conflict is waged. Our earthly struggle drones in its backlash.”*

This means that these Jews were facing much more than human opposition and enmity, but opposition and enmity on the part of powerful spiritual beings in the heavenly realms. That means, that you and I too (at times) can be facing more than our own sinful flesh (which is quite an opponent), more than human beings who are opposed to what we are doing, but we too, can (at times) be facing opposition that has as its ultimate source powerful spiritual beings in the heavenly realms.

**Vs 7 –** Daniel was with others, although he is the only one who **“saw the vision”** apparently, they heard things and a great terror fell on them, and **they fled and hid themselves**.

**Vs 8 –** Notice he is alone when he (sees this great vision). No strength was left in him, his strength was turned to frailty, no strength was left in his body. This vision was both shocking and overwhelming!

**Vs 9 –** Here is a semi-conscience, face down, 86-year-old man… Face in the dirt (and no strength).

**Vs 10** – A hand touches him, and he begins to tremble!

**Vs 11 –** He stands Daniel upright. Daniel’s strength to stand would come from this spiritual being. The same is true for you and I. When we find ourselves in spiritual warfare our strength to stand must originate from the Lord!

**Vs 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.

**Did you see that? It seemed that 21 days had already passed, when Daniel started praying, God had dispatched the answer immediately.**

**Vs 13 -** It seems the Prince of the Kingdom of Persia is an evil (fallen angel). Persia had a prince, not just Cyrus the Great, but an evil, angelic, spiritual prince.

Seemingly this fallen angel, has dominion or influence over the realm (kingdom of Persia).

It appears, that Satan organizes his fallen demons like a general organizes his soldiers.

It seems that this organization is based (at least in part) on geography or geopolitical kingdoms. One would “guess” (my word) that if there was a prince of the Kingdom of Persia (that was a fallen Spirit), then today there is likely a prince of Russia (that is a fallen angel) as well as a prince of the United States (that is a fallen angel).

Objectives Here:

1. **Interfering with God’s word and God’s work**
2. **Interfering with God’s answers to prayers**

This angel was dispatched, but was somehow accosted, detained, hindered by this powerful evil spirit.

Notice, Michael, who is described as one of the “chief princes” or the chief angels came to help this unnamed angel, although we would presume this is Gabriel.

I do not know what we imagine is occurring between the fallen angels and the angles of God, but we should imagine it involves men and women on earth and it involves Satan’s minion resisting and attempting to thwart the works of God!

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***14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come." 15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. 16 And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. 17 How can my lord’s servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me." 18 Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19 And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." 20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.”***

**Vs - 14** The angle is dispatched, to answer Daniels’s prayer of understanding. He is going to explain what will happen to **Daniel’s people in the latter days. The vision, is yet to come (in the future).**

**Vs 15 –** Daniel it appears to put his face down and he becomes speechless.

**Vs 16** - Daniel explains that the vision has brought him great pains as well as no strength remained in him.

**Vs 17 -** Daniel is physically and probably emotionally drained and exhausted. Daniel asks; how can you speak with me, I am exhausted, I am out of breath, I am waylaid?

**Vs 18** - Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. Again, this is a picture of our strength coming from God. God being the source and fountain of our strength.

**Vs 19 -** This angelic being, gives Daniel new strength. We see are reminded that angles are ministering spirit sent forth to minister to those who are heirs of salvation (Heb 1:14)

The angel reminds him again that he is “greatly loved.” Is it interesting to note that the angel has such a profound understanding of God’s love for Daniel.

Daniel says… **I am ready to hear the message for you have strengthened me!**

**Vs 20 –** **Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you?**

Now I must return and fight against the prince of Persia (this evil spirit) and there is a coming prince of Greece.

**Should we believe that things happen in the spiritual realm because of our prayers? Absolutely!**

John Piper wrote:*Take the supernatural seriously and realize that we are in a warfare that cannot and should not be domesticated by reinterpreting everything in the biblical worldview so that it fits nicely with secular, naturalist ways of thinking about the world. Be ready for the extraordinary as well as the ordinary ways that evil spirits work. Don’t be presumptuous, as though demons were weak; and don’t be anxious, as though they were stronger than Jesus.*

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***11:1 "And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him. 2 "And now I will show you the truth. Behold, three more kings shall arise in Persia, and a fourth shall be far richer than all of them. And when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the kingdom of Greece. 3 Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do as he wills. 4 And as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not to his posterity, nor according to the authority with which he ruled, for his kingdom shall be plucked up and go to others besides these.”***

**Vs 1 -** Again, notice what the angel had done. In this case he had strengthened Darius.

Spiritual activity that has an impact on earth. Confirm (to make strong, to cause to prevail). Strengthen (a place or means of safety protection, refuse, a stronghold).

The Holman: *“In the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to strengthen and protect him.”*

**Vs 2 -** This is telling Daniel what is to immediately follow. Three kings will arise in Persia after Cyrus:

* Cambyses (530-522 BC)
* Smerdis - (522 BC)
* Darius I – (522-486 BC)
* Xerses – (486 – 464 BC) He would invade Greece and ultimately be defeated in the Battle of Salamis (480 BC)

**Vs 3-4 -** We know who this is! Alexander the Great, who came to power in 336BC conquered the known world, and died in Babylon in 323 BC.

The angel is picking up where Daniel is in time and retelling with greater clarity and greater detail the future for God’s people. I wanted to set the stage for where we are going in the next two weeks. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Pictures of Jesus:**

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**Faith lessons from Daniel chapter 10:**

1. Angels and Demons, including Satan are real.
2. Satan has demonic forces at his disposal that do his bidding.
3. The angles are God’s spiritual forces to do his bidding.
4. Spiritual warfare is real and what is happening on earth is impacting events in the heavenlies and what is happening in the heavenlies is impacting events in our physical world.
5. Although angels and demons are stronger than men, they are not stronger than God.
6. God is omnipresent and omnipotent. This is not the case with angels, (good or bad), they are all created beings
7. It appears (best guess) that these demonic forces are organized (like an army) and at least to some degree arranged in some type of geopolitical arrangement.
8. What is Satan trying to accomplish through these demons?
	1. Delaying answers to prayers (Dan 10:13)
	2. Hindering the work of God (Dan 10:13)

But the Bible provides other objectives as well:

1. Blinding the eyes of them that believe not (II Cor 4:3)
2. Deceiving (Rev 20:10)
3. Destroying (Joh 8:44)
4. Accusing the brethren (Rev 12:10)
5. Tempting (Mat 4:1)
6. Causing division (I Cor 1:10)
7. Steeling away the seed of the word from people’s hearts so that people do not believe (Luk 8:12)
8. Spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience (Eph 2:2)
9. Destroying men’s souls (Joh 10:10)
10. Destroying families (Joh 10:10)
11. Destroying churches (Joh 10:10)
12. Advancing murmuring (Jud 1:16)
13. Advancing complaining (Jud 1:16)
14. Advancing lying (Joh 8:44)
15. Advancing the lust of the flesh (Jud 1:16)
16. Advancing the lust of the eyes (Joh 8:44)
17. Advancing pride (I Joh 2:16)
18. Causing earthly trouble for believers (Rev 2:10)
19. Perverting the right way (Acts 13:10)
20. Think about the demon possessed people we see during Jesus’s time. They manifested both physical and cognitive maladies, including insanity (madness) (One example Mat 9:32)

This is just a sample of the work that Satan desires to advance.

**Four thoughts:**

* *“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1Pe 5:8 ESV) (devour = swallow whole)*
* *“10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6:10-12 ESV)*
* *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (Jas 4:7 ESV)*
* *“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1Jo 4:4 ESV)*