

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 103

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

Daniel 10 – Part 1 STUDY GUIDE

DANIEL 10 - PART 1

Overview

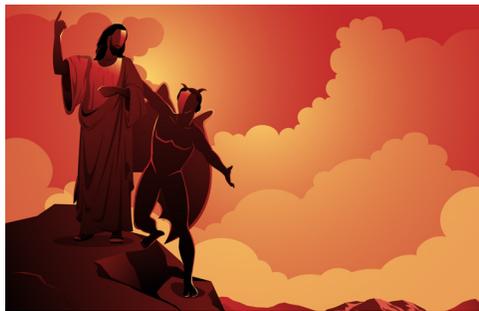
Daniel 10 is overlooked by many students of Bible prophecy, yet if the prophecies of Daniel are like food, then Daniel 10 would be like vegetables. There's a lot of spiritual nutrition in this chapter.

It begins with a vision of Daniel in prayer, just like Daniel 9. However, this time there are some different factors. There are two heavenly beings in Daniel 10, not just one. Gabriel, who communicates with Daniel throughout this vision, is joined by Michael who helps Gabriel to answer Daniel's prayer. We will be able to identify Gabriel and Michael as we compare the book of Daniel with Revelation chapters 1, 2, and 10. Central to Daniel 10 is a spiritual conflict between the powers of heaven and the powers of darkness. This conflict directs us to the spiritual reality taking place all around us as good and evil wrestle for the allegiance of human beings.

Daniel 10:1-3

When we compare Daniel 10 with Daniel 9, we find some similarities and one major difference. In both instances, Daniel is praying. In Daniel 9, his prayers were answered immediately. Before he finished praying, Gabriel showed up, being sent to fly swiftly to answer his prayer. Yet in chapter 10, Daniel has been praying for three full weeks with no apparent answer to his prayer. Daniel is greatly beloved, yet still has times when he has to wait on the Lord and be of good courage so that God will strengthen his heart. This chapter offers us the vegetables—the nutrients—and the experiences

that make us Christians. Sometimes when we have to wait on the Lord to see our prayers answered, we can become discouraged or think that God does not hear us. Daniel is helping us to recognize that answers to prayer, even for the so-called best of us like Daniel and Elijah, don't always happen immediately. When Elijah prayed for rain, no answer came. In fact, no answer came to his prayers again and again until the seventh time (1 Kings 18:43, 44).



“...It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” **MATTHEW 4:4**

Daniel 10:4-6

The description of this heavenly being found in these verses is a familiar one. It is also found in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 1:12-17

This description is almost identical to Daniel's. The “one like unto the Son of man” in Revelation 1 is the “certain man” in Daniel 10.

Revelation 2:18

In this verse, we have the continuation of the same basic description found in Revelation 1 and Daniel 10, but here the Son of man is identified as the “Son of God.” We also see that John and Daniel

have the same experience when they see Christ glorified: both fall prostrate or “as dead.” This also confirms that they see the Lord Jesus Christ and not just an angel.

Daniel 10:7-8

As believers, many times we can be overwhelmed with our failures and defects when we see Jesus. Even Daniel, a man who was faultless before his enemies, felt that there was nothing good in him when he saw Jesus. John the beloved of Christ, who laid upon His breast, fell down as dead when he saw Christ in vision. The best of believers will see nothing

KEY SCRIPTURES

Daniel 10:5 A CERTAIN MAN CLOTHED IN LINEN

Rev. 1:13 SON OF MAN, CLOTHED WITH A GARMENT

Daniel 10:11 O DANIEL, MAN GREATLY BELOVED

Matthew 4:4 IT IS WRITTEN

good in themselves in contrast to the goodness and the glory of Jesus Christ.

If Christians develop a self-righteous spirit, it's because they've taken their eyes off Christ and are looking at people "and comparing themselves among themselves" (2 Corinthians 10:12). According to the Bible, we are all sinners. None of us are seeking after God (Romans 3:11). In Romans 1, Paul groups the sin of gossip and disobedience to parents with homosexuality, unbelief, and all kinds of immorality. In Revelation, we see a grouping of murderers, whoremongers, idolaters, and liars, whom we are told will all be outside of the city (Revelation 21:8). Sometimes we like to put certain sins in a special character category, but before God sin is sin. And the sin that we estimate as small, like a little white lie, will keep us out of heaven just as much as the one we estimate as large, like sexual immorality or murder.

When we think about Daniel's experience in chapter 10 and its connection with the 2,300-day prophecy, we want to remember the judgment. The latter part of the 2,300-prophetic-day prophecy points to the cleansing of the sanctuary and the judgment. The experience that Daniel is having in chapter 10, where he sees no goodness in himself, is the type of experience of God's people at the end of time when the investigative judgment takes place. God's people will feel like there is no goodness in them to stand in the judgment. And this is why it is so important for us to recognize that our salvation is in the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. We have salvation in His perfect, sanctified life, His penalty-satisfying substitutionary death, and His grave-robbing resurrection. As we will see in this chapter, the only way we can stand in the judgment is the fact that we are greatly beloved of God, touched, strengthened, and empowered by God's gift of salvation. There's nothing good in ourselves.

Daniel 12 touches on this same truth when we read about those who were "purified, and made white, and tried" (Daniel 12:10). The 2,300-prophetic-day prophecy points to a time when God's people will go through a purifying process that we understand to be the judgment. If Daniel himself could not stand before Christ, we can only imagine how God's end-time people are going to feel when they face the investigative judgment. Thankfully we have a Mediator whose righteousness covers us in this judgment. What does heaven do, what does God do when we feel unworthy to stand before him in judgment?

Daniel 10:9-11

"Yet I heard the voice of His words..." How beautiful is that? In the midst of his unworthiness, Daniel hears words of affirmation. God speaks to us when we are troubled and feel unworthy. He offers us words of peace and hope. Daniel hears the words and then falls into a deep sleep. A deep sleep is what comes as a result of being at peace with God. His deep

sleep suggests a lack of stress, worry, and anxiety. This comes from God. God alone can take away our anxiety, our fears, our worries, and give us true rest of spirit and heart. Verse 10 is where we transition from Michael to Gabriel. Gabriel touches Daniel and sets him on his hands and knees. This indicates that God works to restore us from our sense of unworthiness in stages. God doesn't overwhelm us; He recovers us, step-by-step as we can bear it.

1. God speaks to us.
2. God touches us.
3. God lifts us up to our hands and feet.
4. Then God lifts us to our feet.

This also indicates that God is seeking to restore us, not condemn us. When people hear of judgment, they think of condemnation. They think that God is out to find fault with us. But Daniel 10 illustrates that when we feel unworthy, God seeks to restore us step-by-step through the words of peace, gently touching our hearts and lifting us up so that we can stand on our feet again.

In the judgment, God is on our side. We see this in Daniel 10. Daniel feels overwhelmed by the same God who seeks to comfort him. Daniel feels unworthy before the God who is telling him that he is greatly beloved. This is the same Daniel who is given an understanding of a vision in Daniel 2 that saves the lives of the wise men of Babylon, as well as himself and his friends. This is the same Daniel who is given:

- an interpretation of the king's dream in Daniel 4.
- an interpretation of heaven's message in Daniel 5.
- salvation from the lions in Daniel 6.
- another vision from God in Daniel 7.
- yet another vision from God in Daniel 8.
- the interpretation of that vision in Daniel 9 by a personal visit from the angel Gabriel himself.

And yet this Daniel feels unworthy before God? Really? Yes, really! This is important because sometimes we feel like our worthiness is based upon the things that God has done in us and through us. We can falsely believe that our biblical understanding of the truth and spiritual experience are what qualify us to stand before God. To the contrary! Intellectual ascent to the truth and past spiritual faithfulness is not what makes us able to stand before the Lord. What makes us able to stand before God is that we are greatly beloved by Him. It's the love of God for us, not our works or spiritual attainments for Him, that enables us to stand in His presence (Philippians 3:1-9).

Matthew 4:3, 4

The devil did the same thing with Christ in the wilderness. He tempted Christ to turn stones into bread to prove His standing by His works, to prove that He was the Son of God by what He could do. How did Jesus respond? "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). We stand before God not

by what we do for God but by what God says of us. We are greatly beloved because that's what God says we are. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" were the words of God to Christ (Matthew 3:17). "O Daniel, man greatly beloved" (Daniel 10:11) are the words of God to Daniel. And those are the words of God to us. That is His Word to us through Daniel, through Christ, and throughout the Bible. Those words lift us up, not our achievements, visions, or miracles. Those words—not our works or our righteousness—enable us to stand in God's presence.

Appeal

In your unworthiness, rest upon God's Words and not upon your works. Let God speak peace into your heart through Jesus Christ. Let God lift you up step-by-step and restore you to the image in which you were created. Say yes to God, to Jesus, to the work of the Holy Spirit to convict you, comfort you, fill you, and seal you. In Jesus' name, amen. ★

