

Daniel's Angelic Encounter & Conflicts To Come.

I. Daniel 10 Context & Setting

(Daniel 10:1 NASB) “In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and it concerned great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision.”

- a. It was in the first year of king Cyrus that he decreed, supported, and financed the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem in order to fulfil the promise of God to end the exile (***Jeremiah 29:10-11, Ezra 1:1-4***). A remnant of builders was sent back to Jerusalem to begin rebuilding the temple. As the rebuilding process began, the Samaritans (descendants of Jews that lived in the land of Israel and intermarried with gentiles during the Assyrian exile) begin to discourage the rebuilding of the temple (***Ezra 4:4-7***).
- b. ***In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia*** – This is a few years after Cyrus’ decree to rebuild the temple. This is also just a few years after Daniel was thrown into the lion’s den. Daniel was an old man at the time he had this encounter.
 - i. ***Who was named Belteshazzar*** – Belteshazzar was Daniel’s given Babylonian name (***Daniel 1:7***) and the fact that he uses his Babylonian further explains why he didn’t go back to Jerusalem. Not only was he likely too old, but still carried an important governmental role in Babylon.
- c. Despite the conflict and challenges of the vision he received, God gave him clear understanding, which is a direct result of His prayer life (***Daniel 2:20-23***). Here again, Daniel is found fasting and mourning (***likely because he’s heard about the opposition against the temple rebuilding***) and has an angelic encounter leading to a dream/vision.

(Daniel 10:2-9 NASB) “In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 3 I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed...5 I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a man dressed in linen, whose waist had a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. 6 His body also was like topaz, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude... 9 But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.”

II. The Gravity of This Encounter

- a. The Angel came to give Daniel understanding of future events, and in the midst of delivering that message, Daniel was physically overwhelmed by the weight of the glory of it’s implications. Daniel was supernaturally strengthened in order to withstand the rest of the encounter.

(Daniel 15-19 NASB) “When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. 16 And behold, one who resembled a human was touching my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, “My lord, due to the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. 17 For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me.” 18 Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. 19 And he said, “You who are treasured, do not be afraid. Peace be to you; take courage and be courageous!” Now as soon as he spoke to me, I felt strengthened and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

III. The Impact of Prayer on Angelic & Demonic Activity

- a. Daniel’s prayer life and this fasting initiative resulted in not only an angelic experience meant to strengthen/comfort him, but also commissioned angels to battle against demonic principalities. From the moment he began praying, the angel was sent yet to him, yet got caught up in a battle against the demonic principalities over Persia until Michael, “*one of the chief princes*” (The angel who stands guard over Israel), came to help.

(Daniel 10:11-13 NASB) “And he said to me, “Daniel, you who are treasured, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand at your place, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was standing in my way for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.”

(Daniel 12:1 NASB) “...At that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people...”

- i. Daniel...understand the words I’m about to tell you – The Angel came to give Daniel understanding
- ii. I’ve come in response to your words – Had Daniel not prayed, the angel wouldn’t have come to give understanding and comfort.
- b. The angel encountered Daniel and had to go back and fight against the “*prince of Persia*”, and prepare to battle the “*prince of Greece*” (Hebrew ‘*yavan*’ – western Turkey into Greece). This is significant because it actually brings definition to two of the empires spoken about earlier in Daniel.

(Daniel 10:20-21 NASB) “Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am leaving, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. 21 However, I will tell you what is recorded in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.”

- i. There is no one who stands firmly with me... - Daniel’s intercession initiated an angel being put on assignment to battle against the principalities over Persia and Western Turkey/Greece.
- c. Perhaps the most important take away point for us related to Daniel 10 is understanding that prayer and intercession are vital to the Angelic/Demonic battle. God will raise up millions at the end of the age to fast and pray for Israel, during the time of Jacob’s trouble (The Great Tribulation) which will result in a Great War in heaven that results in Satan being cast out of heaven (*Revelation 12*).

IV. Historical Conflicts – Outlining *Daniel 11 & 12*

- a. In Daniel 11, the angel continues speaking to Daniel and explains significant military conflicts to come. These conflicts set the stage for the final military conflict at the end of the age which will be led by the Antichrist.
- b. Daniel 11 & 12 Outline:
 - i. *Daniel 11:2* - Future Events related to the Persian Empire
 - ii. *Daniel 11:3-4* – Future Events related to the Greek Empire
 - iii. *Daniel 11:5-20* - Future Events related to conflict between Egypt and Syria (*See Mike Bickle Handout*)

iv. *Daniel 11:21 – 12:13* – The Final Tribulation

1. *Daniel 11:21-30* – The Emergence of the Antichrist before the Great Tribulation
2. *Daniel 11:31-45* – The Antichrist’s Conquests during the Great Tribulation
3. *Daniel 12:1-3* – Israel’s deliverance and the resurrection after the tribulation
4. *Daniel 12:4-13* – Details about the tribulation

V. The Emergence of the Antichrist, **Before** the Great Tribulation – *Daniel 11:21-30*

- a. These verses have a “*dual application*”, meaning, that they are fulfilled in two parts. They were partially fulfilled through Antiochus Epiphanes (*a Syrian leader [175-164 BC] and foreshadow of the Antichrist*), and find their complete fulfillment in the Antichrist at the end of the age.

(Daniel 11:21-30 NASB) “And in his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the majesty of kingship has not been conferred; but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue. 22 And the overflowing forces will be flooded away from him and smashed, and also the prince of the covenant. 23 After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small force of people. 24 In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest parts of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers did not, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, spoils, and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but only for a time. 25 And he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, because schemes will be devised against him. 26 Those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain. 27 As for both kings, their hearts will be intent on evil, and they will speak lies to each other at the same table; but it will not succeed, because the end is still to come at the appointed time. 28 Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be set against the holy covenant, and he will take action and then return to his own land. 29 “At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before. 30 For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will withdraw in fear and will return and curse the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and pay attention to those who abandon the holy covenant.”

- b. *21a A despicable [contemptable] person, on whom the majesty of kingship has not been conferred* – There’s no “royal majesty” about him as he arises.
- c. *21b He will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue* – He will arise in a season of “quietness” with speed and ease and seize the kingdom through “smooth words” or flattering promises
- d. *22 Overflowing forces will be flooded away from him and smashed, and also the prince of the covenant* – He will have swift and violent military conquests, “smashing” them to the point where the nations will say “who can make war with the beast (Revelation 13:4).
- e. *23 After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and go up and gain power with a small force of people* – As he’s breaking other nations, an alliance will be made between the Antichrist and other nations. Through deception, he will gain influence and power yet will maintain a “small force of people”.
- f. *24 In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest parts of the realm, and will accomplish what his fathers did not, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, spoils, and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but only for a time* – He will plunder the most prosperous areas (in the middle east) and accomplish more than his ancestors (Islamic Caliphate), while devising plans to overcome the other military “strongholds” against him.

- g. **25 He will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king. Of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, because schemes will be devised against him.** – The king of the South is Egypt (context makes it simple as well as other scriptures, i.e. *Isaiah 19*). Egypt will oppose the Antichrist and stand against him (and stand with Israel) yet the Antichrist will devise schemes to overcome Egypt and it's ruler.
- i. ***26 Those who eat his choice food will destroy him (Egyptian ruler), and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain.*** – There will be betrayal among the Egyptian inner circle (those that side with the Antichrist) which will result in many in Egypt dying despite their overflowing military.
- h. ***27 As for both kings, their hearts will be intent on evil, and they will speak lies to each other at the same table; but it will not succeed, because the end is still to come at the appointed time. 28 Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be set against the holy covenant, and he will take action and then return to his own land.*** – At this point, we're still not in the Great Tribulation (final 3 ½ years of this age). Along with the military conflict, there will be significant political conflict between Egypt and the Antichrist but it's culmination will be yet to come. The Antichrist will withdraw from Egypt back to his "own land" to "regroup/refocus", and it's at this point his heart will be set against the holy covenant (The Abrahamic Covenant).
- i. ***29 At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before. 30 For ships of Kittim (Mediterranean powers) will come against him; therefore he will withdraw in fear and will return and curse the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and pay attention to those who abandon the holy covenant.*** – The Antichrist will again come back to Egypt for battle but, some "Mediterranean powers" will stand against him and cause him to withdraw in fear. At this point he begins to curse and rage against the "holy Covenant" or "people of Israel" and starts to take action. He "pay attention" to those who abandon the holy covenant or "stand against God's purposes for Israel".

VI. The Beginning of the Great Tribulation (*Final 3 ½ Years of this age*) – **Daniel 11:31**

(Daniel 11:31 NASB) "Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation."

- a. This verse speaks of the abomination of desolation when the Antichrist desolates and desecrates the temple in Jerusalem. He will also do away with the sacrifices taking place. The abomination of desolation will be a collaborative effort (they will set up the abomination of desolation). For 3 ½ year the Antichrist will reign and persecute the people of Israel and the saints, however after that short period of tribulation, Jesus will return, split the sky and catch up the church to receive glorified bodies and make his way to Jerusalem to overthrow and kill the Antichrist.

(Matthew 24:15-21, 29-31 NASB) "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place—let the reader understand 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again... 29 But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet blast, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."