DANIEL 10  
A Message for Daniel: His Final Vision

In this chapter Daniel is visited by a remarkable looking angel who brings him a ‘special delivery’ message regarding future events in the Middle East. The description of this angel is curiously similar to that given of the glorified LORD Jesus found in Revelation 1:10-19. This chapter introduces a vision that comprises the last quarter of the book of Daniel and forms the backdrop for the prophecy described in the last two chapters, 11 and 12. This prophecy includes the future of Israel and the fulfillment of the last seven [years] of the seventy-seven [years] of prophecy given in Daniel 9:24-27. This final prophecy in Daniel provides more historical description of the vision given to Daniel in chapter 8 which describes ram having two horns with one higher than the other [Medes & Persians], the goat with a prominent horn between its eyes [Greece-Alexander the Great] and the little horn that comes up afterward [Antiochus Epiphanes]. This vision takes us all the way to the anti-Christ and the Great Tribulation ['Jacob's Trouble'].

The key to understanding the last three chapters of Daniel is found in the statement of the angel to Daniel in verse 14 of this chapter:

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

Please note again that the Church of Jesus Christ is not in view in this section of scripture. This prophecy is describing what will happen to Daniel's people (the Jews) in the last days a long way into the future. This is consistent with the prophecy of the seventy-sevens (of years) in Daniel 9:24-27 given to Daniel's people, the Jews, and the Holy City, Jerusalem. So far, the two thousand five hundred and forty plus (2540+) years surely qualifies for “.....many days yet to come”.

vv. 1-3 ➢ THE TIMING OF THE VISION: DANIEL IS MOURNING FOR THREE WEEKS

[1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message [lit. ‘a word’ or ‘matter’] was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. 2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. 3 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.]

[In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia...] This vision (which continues into chapters 11 & 12) occurs in the third year of CYRUS. This is CYRUS II or CYRUS THE GREAT (~580 – 529 BC] also known as Kouros in Greek.

The LORD calls CYRUS II “My shepherd” and “His anointed” {Isaiah 44:28; 45:1} because he was mightily used to perform His will on behalf of the Jews. For example, he is the one who issued a decree allowing the Jews to return to their homeland to rebuild the Temple {see 2 Chronicles 36:22, 23; Ezra 1:1-4; 6:3-5}. He consistently showed great kindness to the Jews [as did most of the Persian rulers]

Although CYRUS II ruled the Medo-Persian Empire from 550 – 529 BC he conquered Babylon in 539 BC so in the context of Daniel it was in the year 537 BC. Figure 10-1 shows how the Mede and Persian kingdoms were united by marriage and that CYRUS II was the son in that union. He was about 41 years of age when he conquered Babylon with his uncle, DARIUS THE MEDE [who was 62 years old at the time, Daniel 5:31].
In this passage it is stated that “In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia” but in Daniel 1:21 it is stated that “Daniel continued even unto the first year of King Cyrus.” There are some skeptics who try to point out that this is an error.

However it is not necessarily implied in that passage that Daniel “died” then. It may mean only that he continued in authority and was employed, in various ways, as a public officer, until that time. Then, after Cyrus’ first year, Daniel’s political involvement may have been greatly reduced. This explanation is supported by the statement in Daniel 6:28: “So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian”. The word for ‘prospered’ here refers to having an on-going influence but not necessarily in an official capacity.

Another explanation between these two verses is based on the fact that Daniel chapter 1 gives a general overview and introduction to the whole book. The statement that “Daniel continued even unto the first year of King Cyrus” is then best understood in the sense that Daniel’s ministry lasted until the reign of the Persian King Cyrus but not to the reign of the king after that. The word continued here can also mean ‘to allow’ or ‘to let’. The statement does not rule out that Daniel continued to minister after Cyrus’ first year. Putting it another way, Daniel 1:21 is making a qualitative statement, not a quantitative one so there is no contradiction with the chronological {quantitative} statement made here\(^1\).

\(^1\) For anything that appears, he [Daniel] may have lived several years after, though, for causes now unknown, he may have retired from the court after the accession of Cyrus. This vision may have occurred when he was no longer a public officer, though the whole narrative leads us to suppose that he had not lost his interest in the affairs of the Jewish people. He may have retired on account of age, though his declining years would be naturally devoted to the welfare of his people, and he would embrace any opportunity, which he might have of doing them good. – Barnes’ Notes.
Some believe Daniel had retired from official public service by this time on account of age [he was probably in his mid-eighties] but never-the-less God continued to speak to him regarding those matters pertaining to his people, the Jews.

Since Daniel was transported to Babylon when he was probably in his teens (605 BC) and it is now 536 BC Daniel is in his mid-eighties at this time. These verses then demonstrate that old age may be a time of intense spiritual activity and accomplishment {e.g., Abraham: Genesis 17:21-24; 21:5; Moses: Exodus 7:7; Zacharias & Elizabeth: Luke 1:5-7; Anna: Luke 2:36-38].

Note that Daniel 10:21 and 11:1 really form one parenthetical thought:

10:21 “But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince……11:1 Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)

Here the phrase referring to the confirming and strengthening of ‘him’ would refer to either Darius the Mede or the archangel Michael himself. Either way in these verses {“…the first year of Darius the Mede…”} there is a reference to the fact that the spiritual battle involved in bringing the truth of this vision to Daniel was initiated in the 1st year of both Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Great (539 B.C.) – three years prior to this time!

The date explains why Daniel was mourning. By Cyrus’ third year (537 B.C.), the work begun on the restoration of the Temple during the first year of his reign {see e.g., 2 Chronicles 36:22, 23; Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-13} had been discouraged and perhaps even stopped {Ezra 4:1-5}. Note, those that seek first the kingdom of Heaven cannot but mourn when seemingly the work of God goes on slowly in the world and the opposition it meets with; how weak its friends are and how active its enemies.

Note that Daniel was both mourning and fasting. His fasting included the abstaining from ‘pleasant’ food, meat and drink. The word translated ‘pleasant’ here literally means that which brought delight – that is, delicious, desirable food [probably things like fried, seasoned vegetables or perhaps even cakes and pastries]. Of course no one can live without water and that’s what Daniel drank. He also did not bathe for so the context of “…nor did I anoint myself at all” implies.

We have already seen the power of fasting when it is combined with prayer [see notes on Daniel 9:3-6]. Successful spiritual warfare oftentimes requires both fasting and prayer. This was indeed the case with Daniel!

The three full weeks is important to understand in light of vv. 12, 13:

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. 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.”

So then we see that the period that Daniel was praying, mourning and fasting overlaps the period that the angel was fighting a spiritual battle with the (presumably) demonic angel (‘prince’) of Persia. Especially note that as soon as Daniel began praying [“the first day”] he was heard and an answer was on its way. But sometimes those answers are delayed because of the unseen spiritual conflict we are not normally aware of.
Here the curtain separating this world from the spiritual one is pulled back slightly to reveal a battle going on. God and His angels are continuously at work behind the scenes to strengthen us, prepare a way for us and so to encourage us {See for example Hebrews 1:14}.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12 that “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.

Note that this vision and prophecy contains the true message of God but Daniel understands that its fulfillment [its appointed time] is a long way off. This is an understatement – so far it has been over 2540 years since the message was originally given!

This prophecy includes the coming of the anti-Christ and the Great Tribulation [also known as ‘Jacob’s Trouble’; Jeremiah 30:7]. From Daniel’s vantage point this was indeed ‘a long way off’.

This brings up the following interesting application. God is not limited or constrained by time like we are so His promises to us do not happen on our timetable but His! {e.g., 2 Peter 3:8, 9}. And we need to remember this especially in regards to salvation. We need to wait upon Him – God is never late and He is always on time. Here is what the apostle Peter says about this:

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. – 2 Peter 3:8, 9

This can also lead to a misunderstanding that has deadly consequences regarding God’s kindness, patience and grace when these things are mistaken for weakness or indifference or willfully forgotten! {2 Peter 3:1-7}.

“......knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation’. For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

Finally, note that Daniel’s fasting was ‘temporary abstinence’ not asceticism (ritualistic self-denial). See for example, Mark 7:14-23; Acts 10:9-18 and 1 Timothy 4:1-5.

Starting with chapter 2, after Daniel receives all of the other prophecies and visions concerning the Gentile nations of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greek, Roman and even the 10-nation confederacy of the anti-Christ, God saves the best for last. Daniel was probably wondering about God’s end time plans for His people, the Jews, and now at the last, in his old age (mid-eighties) he will get some of his questions answered.

Some Bible expositors consider this the greatest of all the visions in the Book of Daniel.
v. 4-6 ➤ **THE APPEARANCE OF A ‘CERTAIN MAN’**

[4 Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! 6 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.]

The ‘certain man’ described in this passage appears to be one different than the other two heavenly messengers described in the book of Daniel, Gabriel \{Daniel 8:16; 9:21\} and Michael in this chapter \{Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1\}. Also, if this archangel was either Gabriel or Michael his name would probably be given here.

The appearance of the person described in this passage is remarkably similar to that given of the glorified Christ found in Revelation 1:10-19. Refer to Table 10-1 for a comparison of the ‘Certain Man’ in Daniel and Jesus Christ in Revelation. The similarity is inescapable. What mere angel was ever described this way?

Note also the similarity in the reactions of Daniel and John to their respective visions – it is identical. They both fall down in an unconscious state as dead \{Dan. 10:9 & Rev. 1:17\}.

In his commentary on the book of Daniel J. Vernon McGee associates this heavenly being with Christ. On the other hand, J. Dwight Pentecost in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Vol. 1 Old Testament, argues against this because of “……the improbability of Christ being hindered by a price [demon] of Persia (10:13) and needing the help of the angel Michael, and the fact that the person is giving a message from heaven”.

So who is this ‘certain man’ – is it possible to ascertain his identity?

**Table 10-1. Descriptive Comparison of the ‘Certain Man’ and Jesus Christ.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daniel 10:5-6</th>
<th>Revelation 1:12-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clothed in linen.</td>
<td>Clothed with a garment down to the feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waist was girded with gold of Uphaz.</td>
<td>Girded about the chest with a golden band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body like beryl [color of ‘Tarshish stone’, chrysolite or topaz].</td>
<td>Head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes like torches of fire.</td>
<td>Eyes like a flame of fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arms and feet like burnished bronze in color.</td>
<td>Feet were like fine brass as if refined in a furnace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.</td>
<td>Voice as the sound of many waters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face like the appearance of lightning.</td>
<td>In His right hand seven stars.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More insight into the heavenly messenger that Daniel sees here comes from the parables that Jesus taught. Jesus spoke in many parables, stories that had a spiritual lesson, and in the Gospel of Luke some of them concerned the activity of a “certain man”!

In Jesus’ parables that ‘certain man’ usually referred to either God the Father or God the Son [see Luke 13:6-9; 14:16-24; 15:11-32; 20:9-19]. It seems that Daniel has vision not of the pre-incarnate Christ [such as Joshua in did in Joshua 5:13-15 (cp. Ex. 3:4-6)], but the post-incarnate, resurrected and glorified Christ similar to the experience that Peter, James & John had during the transfiguration of Jesus recorded in Matthew 17:1-8.

But we are still left with a valid objection against the ‘certain man’ being Christ because of verse 13. If this is a vision of Christ, why could He not overcome the prince (demon) of Persia and need to wait for the help of the archangel Michael? Since Jesus Christ is God and has all Power and did not need help, this is a strong argument against the person in Daniel’s vision being associated with Christ.

However, in his commentary, McGee makes an interesting point to avoid this inconsistency. He points out that the key in eliminating this contradiction is the transition between verses 9 and 10.

In verse 9 Daniel we see that the effect of the vision of Christ leaves him “out cold”, he is in a ‘deep sleep’ [completely unconscious] with his face towards the ground. No ‘mere angel’ would have had this kind of an effect on Daniel.

Then in verse 10, one comes touching Daniel, wakes him up lefts him to his hands and knees trembling. This heavenly messenger is must be new and therefore is different from the One described in verses 5 & 6. Note that the one in verses 10-14 [who claims he was delayed by the prince (demon) of Persia] should be associated with the heavenly messenger in verses 16 and 18.

Evidently this experience has overwhelmed Daniel who is advanced in years and left him trembling [vv. 10, 11], speechless and out of breath [vv. 15, 17] and weak [vv. 16, 17]. In verse 16 Daniel is again 'suddenly touched' by one he describes as having the likeness of the ‘sons of men’ [lit. ‘sons of Adam’], that is a heavenly being who looks like a person [‘….likeness of a man’ in v. 18].

The difference between the two heavenly messengers then, is that the first one (in vv. 5,6) was the Son of Man whereas the second is described as merely one of the ‘sons of men’. Note the similarity between the actions of this angel in verse 16 and that of the angels [seraphim] that appeared to Isaiah and one that touched his lips with the coal from the altar in heaven{see Isaiah 6:6, 7}.

Since it is a valid argument to claim that two different heavenly personages are being described in this passage, there is no contradiction in claiming that Daniel sees Christ prior to his unconsciousness and then another heavenly being comes to give him the actual message in verses 10 and following after he is revived.

We see here and throughout this section of Daniel, the description of heavenly beings, angels. Some angels are good ones and some are evil ones, some are godly and some are demonic. These heavenly beings have different orders, ranks and relative positions and they have various responsibilities and powers. Table 10-2 summarizes the basic hierarchy of created angelic beings as compiled from a study of the Bible.
Table 10-2. Summary of Hierarchy of Created Angelic Beings with Scripture References.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archangels</td>
<td>Top tier of angels which includes Gabriel, Michael, Satan [Daniel 8:16; 9:21; 10:13,21; 12:1; Rev. 13:2]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherubim &amp; seraphim</td>
<td>Special tier of angels that act as guardians as well as worship leaders [Gen. 3:24; Exod. 25:18-20; Ezek. 1:5-10; 10:1-21; Isa. 6:2-6; Rev. 4:6-8]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Watcher”, “holy one”</td>
<td>Given authority to judge &amp; act on God’s behalf. [Dan. 4:13, 17, 23]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angels</td>
<td>General term used of heavenly beings used by God to bring a message, accomplish a mission/task, minister to the Saints &amp; fight on His behalf [Gen. 19:1,15; Matt. 4:11; 24:31; 25:31; 26:53; Luke 15:10; Heb. 1:7; Rev. 8:2; 9:14; 12:7,8; 16:1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demons</td>
<td>Angels who are confederate with &amp; accomplices of Satan in false worship, deceit &amp; destruction. Made of the 1/3 of angels swept from Heaven [Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:37; Matt. 17:15-18; Mark 5:2-5; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:4; Rev. 12:3, 4; 16:14]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furthermore, Daniel 12:4-6 indicates that the man clothed in linen was above the waters of the river calling to mind Jesus walking on the water. The person is probably not Gabriel because in Daniel 8:16 the voice heard over the waters of the Ulai River [refer to chapter 8 notes] addresses Gabriel although at that time Daniel does not see the person speaking.

The apostle Paul describes the organizational structure that was created by the LORD, Jesus Christ \(\{\text{Colossians 1:15-17}\}\) in the supernatural realm. Table 10-3 attempts to define the various levels of supernatural authority created and delegated by the LORD.

Table 10-3. Organization of Authority in the Supernatural Realm as Given in Colossians 1:16.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Created Levels</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thrones</td>
<td>Centralized locations of authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominions</td>
<td>Extent, scope, range of coverage of authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principalities</td>
<td>Level, degree or rank of authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powers</td>
<td>Ability to control &amp; influence, scale, quantity, magnitude of authority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Christian’s struggle is not so much in the earthly realm as it is in the heavenly, unseen realm where a host of heavenly beings are either helping us or attempting to defeat us \(\{\text{Ephesians 6:10-12}\}\).
Daniel Chapter 10

v. 7-9 ➤ The Vision’s Effect Upon Daniel

[7 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. 8 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. 9 Yet I 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.]

[“…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…”] Daniel had been fasting and in mourning for three full weeks. He was at the River Hiddekel [the Tigris] with some men. Now, because those men fled in terror Daniel is all alone to see a marvelous vision.

The circumstances here are remarkably similar to Paul’s testimony of his encounter with the resurrected LORD Jesus Christ in Acts 9:1-8; 22:6-9; 26:12-18. There, the men with Paul did not see the vision either but only heard an awesome noise.

Daniel sees the vision while the men with him on the bank of the river do not because the thing is revealed to him by God’s Spirit. “Flesh and blood” cannot reveal it.

The men with Daniel were ‘quaking in their boots’ and they fled in great fear and anxiety to hide themselves [like the people during the GREAT TRIBULATION; Revelation 6:15] which left Daniel to hear the message all alone.

With us too, there are people around us who flee from us because we have a ‘vision’, a life, in the risen Savior Jesus Christ. Its amazing to me that one can talk about ‘God’ in mixed company but if you talk about Jesus Christ those same people will become anxious or distance themselves from us. Jesus will have that effect. Matter of fact they will count those things as worthless.

Daniel was left all alone. Or at least he appeared to be. Oftentimes receiving special understanding from God requires isolation along with prayer and fasting. Examples of this include JOSEPH [pit, prison], ELIJAH [wilderness], JESUS CHRIST [wilderness], the apostles PAUL [wilderness, prison] and JOHN [Island of Patmos].

The men with Daniel felt only fear and terror but Daniel saw the vision. So likewise are all who have been reborn spiritually, ‘born from above’, as Jesus tells Nicodemus:

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." – John 3:3.

2 Note that the apparent discrepancy/contradiction between the testimony of Acts 9:7 and Acts 22:9 can be explained as follows. The Greek word translated ‘voice’ [5456 phone (fo-nay’)] in these passages can also refer to the sound that a musical instrument makes or it may also be used to describe a ‘sound’ or ‘noise’ in general (e.g., John 3:8; 1 Corinthians 14:7,8; Revelation 9:9; 14:2; 18:22 & 19:6). In Acts 9:7 the men with Paul did hear a ‘sound’ but they did not hear intelligible words – the actual words that Jesus spoke to Paul. In Acts 22:7, 8, 10-12 (and also Acts 26:14-18) Paul heard an intelligible voice and therefore the words of Jesus, but the men with him only heard a noise not actual words (Acts 22:9). In both accounts the men only see a light (and heard the noise) but did not see the visible presence of Jesus or hear his words and so were ‘speechless’ and ‘afraid’.
The point is that believers understand things/matters that non-believers cannot because they are revealed by God’s Spirit. Jesus has promised the believer a special privilege when it comes to knowing the things of God.

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. – John 16:13-15

To a non-believer, the Gospel message does not make sense, but to a believer it is life and strength. [See also 1 Corinthians 2:9-16].

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God......For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness.” – 1 Corinthians 1:18-19, 22-23

The ‘natural’ man, that is a non-believer, cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God nor does he want any part of them. Note:

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. – 1 Corinthians 2:13-14

"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him”. – Matthew 11:27 & Luke 10:20-24

Example of the disciples: Some stopped following after Jesus because they were never truly believers. Jesus asked the original disciples, “

And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” – John 6:65-69.

At one point in His earthly ministry {Matthew 16:13-17} Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?” The disciples answered with various persons answers [John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the other prophets].

Jesus then asked a more personal question, “But who do you say that I am?” When Peter confessed that Jesus was “…..the Christ [the Anointed One, Messiah], the son of the living God”, Jesus’ response was to tell Peter that he was blessed and knew this because “…..flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven”.

So too, the Spirit of God takes the things of God and makes them real to us. Others who do not know God in the Spirit are confused and frightened by those very same things.
In the wonderful passage of 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 we are told in verse 9 that as Christians we are “…persecuted, but not forsaken…”. That word can also be translated as ‘abandoned’ but in the Greek [1459 egkataleipo (eng-kat-al-i’-po)] it literally means ‘to leave behind’. Men may forsake the Saint of God, even those we have trusted for many years – but God will never leave or forsake us {see Hebrews 13:5, 6}.

Although the men fled because of the commotion and left Daniel all alone, he was shortly visited by heavenlymessengers. So he would not be entirely left alone. Sometimes a believer is left alone but he/she is never, ever left behind!

Sometimes God causes people to ‘flee from us’ so that He may more fully reveal His glory and grace to us without distractions. We have already seen that He sometimes delays an answer to prayer because He either wants to spend more quality time with us and/or He is teaching us patience & faithfulness.

Men may desert us but God never leaves us behind or alone! God through His Holy Spirit is always with us to give us wisdom, encourage us and strengthen our faith.

There is something marvelous about a believer being alone with God – being stripped of those things that bring comfort in this world but are also distractions to the pursuit of spiritual maturity. When one is all alone one cannot help but cling only to the Savior, Jesus Christ. Sometimes God allows a trial of illness or disease to accomplish this.

[“…and no strength remained in me, for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength.”] Compare this also with the Apostle John’s experience with the risen and glorified Savior, Jesus Christ: (1) with his face to the ground [as dead], (2) being told to stand and not be afraid and then (3) given and admonition to go and preach a message. Revelation 1:17-19 tells us:

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this”.

[“…while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.”] Note that although Daniel was in his mid-eighties he was yet still vigorous but that turned into weakness and frailty as he could not retain his strength at the overwhelming sight of this vision. It caused him to fall face down on the ground and knocked him unconscious [‘deep sleep’ as though dead] with his face on the ground. Such was the effect of this awesome vision upon Daniel.

Daniel lapses into unconsciousness. At this point J. Vernon McGee believes that the glorified Christ leaves him. A different person, an angel, now is sent and comes to minister to him.
Daniel Chapter 10

Daniel is encouraged: He has help & God’s plan for the Jews is going to be revealed.

[10] Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. 11 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. 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.”

Finally, a hand touches Daniel waking him up and setting him on his hands and knees. This touch is from a different person than appeared to him in verses 5 and 6. Just previous to this Daniel lapsed into deep sleep, as though dead, with his face to the ground. We are not told how long he was unconscious.

Now, a different heavenly being comes to revive him and Daniel rises up onto his hands and knees trembling. This is not a bad position to be – it is one of humility. Contrast this with the reason Nebuchadnezzar was living on his hands and knees and eating grass like an ox in Daniel 4:28-37. The object of this was to teach the king humility and bring him to salvation.

From this position Daniel was told to stand upright but even then he was still shaking uncontrollably. We will come to see that this angel was specially sent to help Daniel understand the vision and the yearnings of his heart.

But Daniel did not stop praying. One of the first things the angel does is reassure Daniel that his heart’s desire to understand and humble himself was known from the first day he begin praying. And it was on account of Daniel’s words, his prayer, that the angelic messenger had now come to bring him the understanding he was seeking.

There are three things we need to remember about God answering our prayers:

- God can answer our prayers directly and immediately
- God can deny our prayer in His sovereignty
- God can delay the answer to our prayer

Why are our prayers delayed? There are several reasons:

1. Sometimes the LORD wants some extra time with you and is teaching you to be more patient.
2. Sometimes the LORD wants to give you time to think through what it is you are asking and reveal to us our most inner thoughts.
3. Sometimes there are demonic and spiritual forces at work.

The lesson for us is not to become discouraged to the point we give up and stop praying – perseverance/endurance is a hallmark of the Christian faith and characterizes one who is mature in that faith (e.g., Romans 5:1-5; 8:22-39 (v25); 1 Corinthians 16:13,14; 2 Corinthians 12:12; 2 Timothy 3:1-17 (v10); James 5:7-11 (v11) and 2 Peter 1:5-9 (v6)).

Note: Perseverance describes how a Christian should pray when engaging in spiritual warfare using the spiritual armor that God provides (Ephesians 6:18).
v. 13 > **Spiritual Warfare in High Places Affects the Course of Nations**

[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.”]

In these two verses we learn that the heavenly messenger would have gotten there sooner but was prevented for 21 days by a formidable demonic prince of the Kingdom of Persia. This caused a delay in answering Daniel’s prayer until Michael, a chief prince [i.e., an archangel], came to help him.

Note that this delay coincided with the three full weeks of Daniel’s fasting and prayer we learned from verse 2. What would have happened if Daniel had stopped praying? Perhaps a much longer delay or no visit at all!

Here the curtain separating this physical realm from the spiritual one is pulled back slightly to reveal a mighty battle going on. God and His angels are continuously engaging in warfare with Satan and the demons (fallen angels). One is reminded here that Satan is referred to in the Bible as “……the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience” *(Ephesians 2:2)*.

We see here that angels are involved in spiritual warfare in the unseen spiritual world to promote God’s purposes and behalf of His people. This translates to the real world where the actions of people, both wicked and righteous, are influenced by heavenly messengers, by demons or angels.

It is instructive to know that there are both good and evil angels overseeing and influencing nations. Angelic [spiritual] beings are either undermining or sustaining countries depending on the controlling angelic prince, God’s or Satan’s.

Persia was basically modern Iran. It is very interesting to note that there is still much darkness and evil in that land today. You can see it in the eyes of the ayatollahs and the other militants who worship death and destruction. Perhaps the ‘prince of Persia’ is still very powerful and active in that land today.

The prince of Persia was preventing the angelic messenger from coming to Daniel, a righteous man, with the information that is revealed in chapters 11 and 12. I think it was because that information was ‘classified’ and the demonic angel wanted it kept secret. Evidently, Satan did not want the prophecy to be revealed.

What was that information? I think it had to do with the fate of the kingdom of the Medes & Persians under Darius the Great and the kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great. For that is what is revealed in chapter 11. Historically it is what spared Jerusalem from becoming just another statistic in the long line of Alexander the Great’s conquests as the following discussion will demonstrate.
The Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus\(^3\), writes in his *Antiquities of the Jews* in Book 11.8.5 the following:

[God worked through two dreams; one He gave to Jaddua, the high priest in Jerusalem, and the other He gave to Alexander to facilitate the accomplishing of his purpose in sparing Jerusalem and the Temple from destruction.]

“……the priests ran along by him [Alexander], and he came into the city; and when he went up into the Temple, he offered sacrifice to God, according to the high priest’s direction and magnificently treated the high priest and the priests. And when the book of Daniel was showed him, wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians, he supposed that he himself was the person intended; and as he was then glad, he dismissed the multitude for the present, but the next day he called them to him and bade them ask what favors they please of him; ….”

It is probably an understatement to say that if the book of Daniel had not contained chapter 11 containing the explicit prophecy of the Greek conquest and victory over the Persians, Alexander would have had a different reaction to the Jews since they had just prior to this been in a state of rebellion against the Greeks! The message of this very prophecy is what the prince of Persia was trying stop from reaching Daniel.

The famous Chinese war tactician, *Sun Tzu*, wrote the *Art of War* in the 6th century and it is still used by some military commanders today. He makes the following profound statements about warfare in general that are very applicable to spiritual warfare:

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

**Knowing the Enemy:**

*Isaiah 14:12-15* tells us how one of God’s greatest angels [Lucifer] became ‘Satan’ and *Revelation 12:3,4* describes how 1/3 the host of the angels followed him to become evil spirits referred to as ‘demons’.

Both Satan and the demons have one basic thing in common. They are rebellious and defiant towards God, the One who created them. They are diametrically opposed to the purposes and work of God. Satan is also called the ‘Devil’ and referred to as a ‘dragon’ or ‘old serpent’ as in for example *Revelation 12:9*.

---

\(^3\) Flavius Josephus [37—100 AD] was born a Jewish priest, found favor with the Roman emperor, Vespasian, and served him in the royal palace in Rome. Later, he ended up in the service of the Roman army where he served the commander, Titus [Vespasian’s son], as interpreter and mediator. He is the author of what has become for Christianity perhaps the most significant extra-biblical writings of the first century [1—100 AD]. He was present at the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD. His historical writings are the principle sources for the history of the Jews from the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes [175—163 BC], the evil Syrian king, to the fall of the Jewish stronghold, Masada, in 73 AD. Therefore, his works are of incomparable value for determining the setting and historical conditions between the Old and New Testament times.
See for example Satan tempting Jesus Christ \{\textit{Matthew 4:1-11}\} and the demons challenging Jesus \{\textit{Luke 4:33, 34}; \textit{8:28}\}. But as indicated in scripture these all are subservient to Christ and they will eventually be destroyed in the \textit{Lake of Fire}, burning with sulphur [i.e., ‘brimstone’] \{\textit{Revelation 20:10, 15}; \textit{21:8}\}.

We are in a spiritual warfare and it is wise advantageous in this battle to know the \textit{methods} and \textit{devices} Satan uses to defeat the purposes of God. We are admonished to “….stand against the schemes [Gk. \textit{methoedia}] of the devil” \{\textit{Eph. 6:11}\}. The meaning of the Greek here means to be proactive in standing up to the \textit{methodology} that Satan uses to accomplish his evil agenda.

The word Devil comes from the Greek word [diabolos (dee-ab'-ol-os)] and literally means “to throw around”, that is like in ‘slinging mud’ against someone. Thus Satan in this role is a \textit{false accuser} and one who \textit{slanders} the Saints of God and uses words to injure them. This is referred to as \textit{blaspheming}; literally speaking injuriously about someone or undermining them with words. See for example the case with \textit{Job 2:1-5}.

The word Satan comes from the Hebrew word [satan (saw-tawn')] and it refers to an opponent or adversary, one who opposes another person in purpose or action. The name is given to the prince of evil spirits, the chronic adversary of God and His Christ. In this role Satan is the prince of the demons, the author of evil \{\textit{Genesis 3:1-6}\}, persecuting good men, alienating mankind from God and enticing them to sin, sometimes afflicting them physically by means of demons at his disposal.

Satan, that old serpent, is still up to his old tricks and uses the same original \textit{modus operandi} to tempt us to sin and in same three basic parts of the nature of man: \textit{BODY}, \textit{SOUL} and \textit{SPIRIT}. \textit{Genesis 3:6} says

\begin{quote}
So when the woman saw that the tree was \textit{good for food}, that it was \textit{pleasant to the eyes}, and a tree \textit{desirable to make one wise}, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.
\end{quote}

John puts it this way

"For all that is in the world-- the \textit{desire of the flesh}, the \textit{desire of the eyes}, and the \textit{pride of life}—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever". – \textit{1 John 2:16-17}

So we start with asking two questions & can immediately give both answers:

1. \textit{As an adversary, does and can Satan hinder and just generally attempt to thwart the work of God? Yes!}

2. \textit{As an accuser and slander, does the Devil speak evil against that which is righteous and godly? Yes!}
Here are some examples:

- He is shown in the Old Testament to oppose the Angel of the LORD [Jehovah]. See Zechariah 3:1-8.
- He is a deceiver and a murderer from the beginning. See John 8:44 and Rev. 12:9.
- He accuses us before the LORD ‘day and night’. See Job 2:1-5 and Rev. 12:10.
- He was behind Herod killing the male toddlers in an attempt to kill the incarnate Son of God, Jesus. See Revelation 12:1-5 where the woman about to deliver a child is Israel and the Satan, the dragon, is ready to devour the child who is Jesus.
- He is behind the severe persecution of believers. See Revelation 2:8-10 where the devil is shown to throw some into prison and even death.
- He is behind spiritual warfare against archangels [e.g., Michael] even in Heaven. See Revelation 12:7.
- Paul, writing from Athens talks about this in chapter 2 of his first letter to the church at Thessalonica. The context is that he wanted to come to see them but was delayed and had to send Timothy ahead. When keep him occupied? In 1 Thessalonians 2:18 he writes,

> Therefore we wanted to come to you – even I, Paul, time and again – but Satan hindered us.”

**Knowing the Ourselves:**

As Jesus told His disciples, “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents but harmless as doves” {Matthew 10:16}.

The Bible puts it this way

> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. – 1 Peter 5:6-9.

So what is the answer to successfully fighting this spiritual battle and gaining victory? The Bible gives us basically three areas we need to master:

- God’s Word ……………. Hebrews 4:12
- Faith …………………….. 1 John 5:4, 5
- Prayer ………………….. Ephesians 6:18

All three of these make up our testimony, our experience with Jesus Christ. By putting our faith in what was accomplished by Jesus Christ dying on the cross, the shed blood of Christ, we over come not only the world but the great dragon, that ‘old’ serpent called Satan and the Devil. Note:

> And they overcame [nikao: conquered, prevailed over] him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. – Revelation 12:11.
Never underestimate the “blood of the Lamb”. For by it the way is secured for Satan's defeat. The “word of their testimony” is based on faith. As already noted, it is our faith that overcomes the world – and Satan is the “ruler of the present age” so we overcome him as well.

John also speaks of the testimony EACH believer has in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:9-13). This testimony is based on the gospel of the Jesus’ shed blood for the forgiveness of sins: Revelation 1:2, 9.

Note especially that the Bible teaches that “…the testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophecy”! (Revelation 19:10). Thus, the purpose for a Christian to study prophecy is in reality a quest and desire to learn more about our Savior—Jesus Christ! His testimony includes coming back to get us and take us to where He is. It includes judging the world for its pride, arrogance and sin. It includes all the promises we have in God’s Word from Him. It is also about becoming more like Him for see 1 John

Refer to Ephesians 6:10-17 for a description of the spiritual warfare Christians are engaged in and a description of the spiritual armor that God has provided to aid us in successfully fighting this war.

Daniel was mourning over the state of his people and Jerusalem and had fasted for three full weeks. The angelic messenger was delayed for 21 days over the same time period. Note that Daniel’s prayer would have been answered on the first day it was uttered but the conflict in the spiritual realm prevented it. In this passage too we are reminded where the real struggle is taking place. Note:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. – 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. – 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand……praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. – Ephesians 6:11-13, 18

Never ever underestimate the power of prayer for it sets in motion events in the spiritual realm that bring down spiritual strongholds and advances the cause of Jesus Christ.
The words of my most favorite hymn[^4], *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* ['Ein Feste Burg ist Unser Gott'], says this:

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

[^4]: This wonderful hymn, called the ‘Battle Hymn of the Reformation’, was written in 1529 by Martin Luther who wrote almost 40 others. The hymn was translated from German to English by Frederic H. Hedge in 1853. Luther wrote it in response to the persecution of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1720 a remarkable revival began in a town in Moravia but the Jesuits opposed it and the meetings were prohibited. Those who still assembled were seized and imprisoned in stables and cellars. At David Nitschmann’s house, where a hundred and fifty persons gathered, the police broke in and seized the books. Not dismayed, the congregation struck up the stanzas of the third verse of Luther’s hymn. For this, twenty heads of families were sent to jail, including Nitschmann who was treated with special severity. He finally escaped, fled to the Moravians at Herrnhut, became a bishop, and afterwards joined the Wesleys in 1735 in their expedition to Savannah, Georgia. This hymn was sung at the funeral of American president Dwight Eisenhower at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, March 1969.

[“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.”] After all the visions and prophecies concerning the Gentile nations, Daniel is finally going to get some answers to the nagging question of what will happen to his people, the JEWS, in the last days.

Daniel got a glimpse of the returning, glorified Jesus Christ at the end of the 7 year Tribulation period. That event, from his perspective, was “….many days yet to come”. Those many days have so far been more than 927100 days [> 2540 years]. The appointed time indeed has been long but it will come. This means there a lot of trusting God and obeying His commandments and this calls for the “…..patience of the Saints”. [*Revelation 14:12*].

The patience of God should not be mistaken for indifference or confused with forgetfulness as some do to their own detriment. The Bible says:

> Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. – *Ecclesiastes 8:11*

Daniel Chapter 10

Klaus G. Schiessel © March 2006
Peter reminds us.

“…..that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” – 2 Peter 3:2-4

The problem is that it is people who forget.

“For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”. – 2 Peter 3:5-9

vv. 14 ➤ THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE VISION

[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.”]

J. Vernon McGee calls this verse “the key which opens the door to the understanding of the remainder of the book of Daniel”. The angel describes three critical features that reveal to us the overall nature of the vision. These features correspond to getting answers to the following questions:

1) **What will happen?**

So far, Daniel had been given amazing visions and prophecies regarding the Gentile world kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Roman and even the 10-nation confederacy of the last, end-time empire of the anti-Christ. He has been anxiously waiting to find out what will happen in history in regards to his fellow Jews. He is now finally, at the very end of his life, going to get some answers to this gnawing question.

2) **Who will it happen to?**

The vision is for Daniel’s people – that is the Jews. We have seen this phrase before in Daniel 9:24: “Seventy sevens are determined for your people…” where refer to the notes. This vision and prophecy is unmistakably and distinctly for the Jews.

3) **When will it happen?**

The prophecy would be fulfilled in the last days for the vision is yet for many days in the future [from Daniel’s time; 536 BC]. This repeats what Daniel recaps in verse 1 where see notes. So far it has been over 2540 years or more than 927,100 days!

From our vantage point much of this prophecy has been fulfilled and is history. However, much of what is revealed in this vision is also still yet future.
Daniel Chapter 10

Klaus G. Schiessel © March 2006

vv. 15-17 ➢ THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE VISION OVERWHELM DANIEL

[15 When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. 16 And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, “My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength. 17 For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.”]

These verses describe the physical affect this experience is having on Daniel who is a man in his mid-eighties! Having seen the glorified Christ and these angels has exhausted Daniel and left him without any strength.

[“….I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless”.] Just previously, Daniel had been told something pretty amazing about the spiritual realm. He was given information regarding the conflicts taking place in the unseen world of angels. These conflicts affect the course of history! This knowledge caused Daniel to turn his face downward and become speechless – his breath was taken away.

[“….touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke…”] Note that it wasn’t until one of the angels, who looked like a man, touched Daniel’s mouth to allow him to speak. The spiritual application here is that it is not until we are touched by the Holy Spirit that we have the power to speak meaningfully for Christ.

[“…my sorrows have overwhelmed me…”] The word ‘overwhelmed’ literally means “turned over” and it is oftentimes translated ‘overthrown’. We would say “thrown for a loop” or sent “head-over-heels”. The word ‘sorrows’ is oftentimes translated ‘messenger’, ‘pangs’ or ‘ambassador’. It is even translated ‘hinges’ in Proverbs 26:14 in this context of a lazy man turning on his bed!

It is interesting to remember that a hinge allows a door to swing back-and-forth. The idea here may be uncertainties in Daniel’s understanding of the vision of the ‘certain man’ were causing him anguish and frustration. After all, Daniel did not have the benefit of additional revelation that the apostle John had more than 600 years later. Yes he could have known about Isaiah’s prophecies regarding Immanuel, God with us, and that a virgin would miraculously be with a special child {Isaiah 7:14} who would receive the Kingdom and be called “…..Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” {Isaiah 9:6, 7}. He could also have known about Micah’s intriguing prophecy related to a coming Ruler who would be born in Bethlehem and yet be one who has no beginning or end; One “….whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting” {Micah 5:2}.

IT IS QUITE A BIT OVERWHELMING WHEN YOU STOP AND CONSIDER THIS.

Perhaps Daniel was thinking about all the previous messages and the anticipation of what this vision was going to reveal was simply overwhelming. There was uncertainty in his understanding of things for he had never seen a vision of something as glorious as this before. Remember also, he is in his mid-eighties at this time!
In Ephesians 4:11-16 Christians are told to aspire to maturity in their faith and that God has provided the apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastors and teachers to instruct and mentor the saints for the work of the ministry so that the church, the Body of Christ, will be built up. The stated purpose is that this process is to prevent uncertainty in the faith and keep believers from being deceived by worldly and Satanic schemes. So that we

......all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.

Here are just three of the wonderful certainties that Christians have:

- Certainty of their eternal life  
  1 John 5:12, 13
- Certainty of their salvation  
  Romans 10:9-11
- Certainty of their future:  
  1 Peter 1:3-5

vv. 18, 19 ➤ DANIEL IS ENCOURAGED TO BE STRONG: HE IS READY FOR THE ANSWER

[18 Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19 And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”]

Finally, Daniel is strengthened. Why? He was touched by a heavenly messenger and encouraged by being told not to fear but to be strong because he was greatly loved and the blessing of peace was upon him.

[“O man greatly beloved......”] This is a special greeting of highest endearment.

This phrase occurs in the New Testament only two times. It is found once in Luke 1:28 when the archangel Gabriel [the same one as in Daniel] comes to announce to Mary that she will conceive and give birth to the Messiah. She is addressed as the “highly favored one”: ke-charitoo-menee. It literally means ‘to grace’ that is, endue with special honor.

The second time this phrase occurs it describes the relationship every child of God enjoys with Christ. Ephesians 1:6 [“He has made accepted”: e-charitoo-sen]. This has the same root word that means ‘grace’. We have been saved by grace and we are kept by grace, not of our own works so that none of us can boast. {Ephesians 2:8, 9}.

[“Peace be to you, be strong, yes, be strong!”] The blessing of ‘peace’ was meant to encourage Daniel to be strong. He is actually exhorted to be strong. That is anchored to God who is like a Mighty Fortress and Rock and able to stand firm against the schemes of Satan. Note:

I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. – Psalms 18:1, 2
It is interesting to note that every one of Paul’s letters begins with a greeting of “grace and peace from God…” {Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:1; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; Col. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2,12; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4 and Philemon 1:3}. Peter also used this greeting {1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Pet. 1:2} as well as John {Rev. 1:4}.

Thus, the very same two blessings of God are upon Christians: grace and peace. This should cause us not to fear or worry but be encouraged and strong instead.

Daniel is now able to speak and he is ready for the vision to be revealed to him. When he was a teenager it is testified of him that “…Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams” {Daniel 1:17} and now, even in his advanced age, he will yet have one more vision to understand and record!

vv. 20, 21 ➢ **Spiritual Warfare Will Continue**

[20 Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth (no one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince)”.

The angel asks Daniel a rhetorical question because the Daniel knows the answer. It was given to him in verse 14 and is simply stated in verse 21: It was to reveal to Daniel the Word of God as related to his people, the Jews, in the last days.

But the angel is also ready to get back and reengage in the spiritual battle that was raging with the prince of Persia and lets Daniel know that.

But when that struggle is over, the spiritual battle will shift to fight the demonic forces of Greece – the prince of Greece. The spiritual warfare is never really over – there are only lulls in this battle. As it will turn out, a major portion of this last vision is concerned with Persia and Greece. The prince of Persia did not want that information to be made public.

[“….tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth”] That is, the Word of God reserved in Heaven and now revealed to man. Daniel will see and hear only that which does not contradict God’s Word. [The word ‘noted’ here means ‘recorded’ or ‘inscribed’.]

The testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophecy the scripture tells us {Rev. 19:10}. But Jesus is also the living Word of God {John 1:1-3}, the Word made flesh {John 1:14}. Jesus is also the Way, the Truth and the Life {John 14:6}.

Thus, the Scripture of Truth is the Scripture of God’s Word. Note:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

---

5 The actual Hebrew word used here is [3120 Yavan] Javan = "Ionia", a geographical area later associated with Greece. Javan was a son of Japheth and grandson of Noah and his descendents migrated north and east into Turkey and Europe.
Note: Faith and God’s Word are intimately linked. We are told that, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” {Romans 10:17}.

The Word of God is called the ‘sword of the Spirit’ and it is the only true offensive weapon a Christian has in his/her arsenal. [Refer to the discussion about spiritual armor at verse 13 notes]. All the other pieces of armor we are just to put on and wear!

A final note on the sword of the Spirit: It is a sharp, two-edged sword cutting two ways {Hebrews 4:12}. Many Christians need to learn to use this weapon more skillfully so as not to cut their “foot” [testimony of the Gospel] off with it. A large Roman sword was heavy and strength and balance was needed to use it well.

Note: It is PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT that allows us to use the full armor of God most skillfully and successfully. {Ephesians 6:18}. Real prayer is transparent to God and man, in other words it is real, honest, humble and pleases God because it is based on faith and the His Word. It is not repetitious, nor flowery, nor showy, nor long-winded. Real prayer comes straight from the heart with and attitude of humility and thanksgiving and indicates ones true personal relationship with the One being prayed to.

[“…..no one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince….”] The ‘these’ are the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece. This angel is saying that only he and Michael will be fighting these two demonic beings.

Chapters 11 and 12 will now provide details about the vision, prophecy and its implication for the Jews.

Bibliography

(3) Adam Clarke Commentary.
(4) Bible Knowledge Commentary/Old Testament, J. Dwight Pentecost, pp. 1323-1375; Cook Communications Ministries; Copyright © 1983, 2000.
(6) Barnes Notes.
(7) Wycliffe Commentary.
(8) Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament

6 The ‘shield of faith’ could be used offensively, but it is primarily a defensive weapon that a Christian uses to stop the flaming arrows [projectiles] of Satan, the evil one.
APPENDIX
CYRUS II (THE GREAT)

Cyrus the Great (~580-529 BC), king of Persia (550-529 BC). He was born into a noble Persian family, the son of Cambyses I, a descendant of Achaemenes (Hakhamanish) (flourished 7th century BC), and a member of the Achaemenid dynasty.

When Cyrus became ruler of the Persian district of Anshan (558 BC), the district was subject to the Medes; five years later he led a rebellion against the Medes captured King Astyages (reigned about 584 – 550 BC) that resulted in the and the overthrow of the Median Empire and founding of the Persian Empire (550 BC).

Thereafter Cyrus ruled a territory extending over most of southwestern Asia from the Halys River in Asia Minor (now western Turkey), eastern border of Lydia [after defeating King Croesus of Lydia about 545 BC], to the Babylonian Empire on the south and east.

Babylon, Egypt, Lydia, and the city-state of Sparta in Greece combined to curb the power of Cyrus, but in 546 BC the Persians added Lydia to their realm, and in 539 BC the kingdom of Babylon fell to Cyrus II.

Cyrus respected local customs and religions in his empire. He freed the Jews from captivity in Babylonia and let them rebuild their temple at Jerusalem. He died in a battle in central Asia.

The Persian Empire was the most powerful state in the world until its conquest two centuries later by Alexander the Great. Cyrus was an able and merciful ruler. Significant among his deeds was his granting of permission to the Jews to return from their exile in Babylon to their native Israel to rebuild the Temple of Solomon. Cyrus died while leading an expedition against the eastern tribe, the Massagetae, and was succeeded by his son, who became Cambyses II.

Partial inscription on the Cyrus Cylinder:
I am Cyrus, King of the globe, great king, mighty king, King of Babylon, king of the land of Sumer and Akad, King of ......, king of the four quarters of Earth, son of Cambyses (Kambujye), great king, king of Anshan, grandson of Cyrus (Kurosh), great king, king of Anshan, descendant of Teispes (Chaish Pish), great king, king of Anshan, progeny of an unending royal line, whose rule, The Gods, Bel and Nabu cherish, whose kingship they desire for their hearts’ and pleasures.
Tomb of Cyrus the Great. Cyrus was buried near ancient Pasargadae, in a small building containing a gold sarcophagus, his arms, his jewelry and a cloak. This cloak played an important role in the Persian inauguration rituals (see Plutarch of Chaeronea, Life of Artaxerxes 3.1; the custom itself is Babylonian).

References

(1) "Cyrus the Great," Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 99. © 1993-1998 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.