

Daniel Is Terrified by a Vision

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.² 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. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 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.

7 Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great fear fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my complexion turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. 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.

Daniel Comforted

10 Then behold, a hand touched me and shook me on my hands and knees. 11 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. 14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the latter days, because the vision pertains to the days still future."

15 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."

20 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.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's observations and insights

1. We get an introduction into the vision Daniel had while fasting and praying for insight into Israel's future.
2. The vision message was understood by Daniel even though there was conflict in him.
3. Daniel's twenty-one day fast has become fashionable amongst Christians.
4. Daniel was down by the river-side searching for guidance.
5. What does it mean to lift your eyes and to look?
6. What Daniel saw was a man in linen, gloriously clothed. Does this reveal anything to you?
7. His voice was impacting.
8. Why did Daniel only see the vision and not the men who were with him?
9. If the men didn't see the vision, why did a great dread fall on them? Why did they run and hide?
10. On seeing the vision Daniel was drained from strength, his blood drained from him.
11. Upon hearing the man's words Daniel fell into a sleep on the ground, he had a spiritual encounter.
12. Daniel is touched by the hand of a man and starts trembling. Why?
13. The man encourages Daniel, by saying to him, he is known in heaven as a man of high esteem.
14. The man instructs Daniel to stand up, but he is trembling!
15. The man does not want Daniel to be afraid.
16. The man says 'heaven heard Daniel on the first day of the twenty-one days, but a heavenly conflict had taken place in the heavens'.
17. Heaven saw Daniel's humility and his desire to know the future of Israel as a nation.
18. The vision took place because Daniel chose to pray.
19. The man's conflict was with the Prince of Persia, who is an enemy of heaven, his power retained the angel from coming to Daniel.

20. Only when a chief angel came, Michael, was he released to carry out his instructions to come to Daniel.
21. The angel's purpose was to bring him understanding and insight.
22. The first thing that he told Daniel was that the message is for the future, at the end of the age.
23. Even though Daniel is looking for Daniel's immediate future.
24. Daniel, at this time, was still overwhelmed by the visitation encounter of the angel, he still couldn't talk.
25. The man touched Daniel's lips, Daniel reveals what the vision is doing to him.
26. Daniel asks 'why come to me? Who am I to encounter such great things?'
27. Daniel is exhausted of strength. Remember, he is an old man!
28. The man strengthens Daniel with a touch and he is strong again.
29. He declares to Daniel 'man of high esteem, do not be afraid!' This is a revelation word with creative power.
30. 'Peace be with you' is God's word, bringing a solution to the problem, when you have no peace.
31. Daniel is told by the man 'to take courage'.
32. What does he have to do and what part of him has to do it?
33. The man's words gave Daniel strength.
34. He took the provision of the words and was strengthened by them.
35. The angel asked Daniel if he understood why God had sent him to him? Why did he do this?
36. The man in the vision revealed the return trip will be like the coming one, the angel would face conflict with the Prince of Persia.
37. The man reveals the Prince of Greece is coming. Who is he?
38. The man describes the future is inscribed in the writings of truth. What are the writings of truth?
39. Only Michael stands victorious against the Prince of Persia. Israel had assigned to her, Michael.
40. Why do we not get immediate answers from God when we pray?
41. Do we ever ask the question 'what is the future of the church'?
42. We need to realise, when we pray, we too go into spiritual warfare.
43. Satan has assigned principalities and powers over the nations.
44. But we need to remember, there are still two thirds of the angels on the side of God who are good, against one third who are bad.