

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

Daniel's Vision of a Heavenly Warrior

Daniel 10:1-21

I. The Man the King Delights to Honor

A. Surrounding Us: An Invisible World

B. The Modern Self-Esteem Movement

II. Chapter Overview

A. Questions of Context (vs. 1-3)

1. Historical context (vs. 1)

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

2. Daniel's Spiritual Preparation (vs. 2-3)

² At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. ³ I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

B. Daniel's Vision of a "Man" (vs. 4-9)

On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, ⁵ I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. ⁶ His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

⁷ I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. ⁸ So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I

was helpless. ⁹ Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

C. Daniel's Weakness and Strengthening (10-19)

1. Daniel is physically overwhelmed by this vision

vs. 10-11 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

vs. 15-18 While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless. ¹⁶ Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I am helpless. ¹⁷ How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe." Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. ¹⁹ "Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."

Isaiah 66:2 "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

2. His human frailty cannot handle the sight of this angelic warrior
3. How much less can we see God's face and live??

Exodus 33:20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

4. Human weakness and heavenly strengthening a powerful theme in Paul

2 Corinthians 12:10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

D. The Whole Purpose: Transmission of Truth During Warfare (10:20-11:1)

1. The opening statement: a vision concerning great warfare

vs. 2 "...the message was true and one of great conflict..."

2. The angel concludes the assessment the same way

10:20-11:1 *So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; ²¹ but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince. ¹ And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.)*

3. The POINT: Visions of Israel's future:

vs. 14 *Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."*

- The angel was sent in the midst of immense spiritual conflict to give Daniel insight into the BOOK of TRUTH... God's plans for the future of Israel
- Warfare in the heavens, warfare on the earth below
- All of Chapter 11 is about one battle after another, trampling over the Promised Land
- Chapter 12 concludes with the conflict of the final age... the warfare the saints will have to endure at the end of the world

III. A Glimpse Into the Spiritual World

A. The Surrounding Spiritual World

Illus. Atmospheric Pressure... the power of air

2 Kings 6:17 *And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

Constantly surrounded by the spiritual world

1. It was here first

Hebrews 11:3 *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

2. It will be here last

2 Corinthians 4:18 *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

3. It can be perceived only by faith

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

4. It is full of spiritual beings
 - a. angels: cherubim, seraphim, living creatures of almost indescribable nature
 - b. demons: Satan, rulers, authorities, demonic powers
5. It is the home of God Himself

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

This is the God who rules over the universe, and before whom each of us will give an account!!

B. Spiritual Warfare

1. Angelic being detained for 21 days

vs. 12-13 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

2. Angelic being soon to return to the fight

10:20-11:1 Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; ²¹ but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince. ¹ And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.)

3. Constant struggle in the heavenly realms

Revelation 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

4. Mighty warrior angels
 - a. not sissy angels like "Precious Moments"

b. powerful warriors... like this one depicted in Daniel 10

vs. 6 *His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.*

Revelation 11:1 *Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.*

c. ruler-angels... with varying levels of power

vs. 13 *Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me*

the term "arch-angel" means ruler angel; angel in a position of authority over other angels
Michael seems to have more power than the angel that got detained for 21 days

5. Mighty demonic powers

Ephesians 6:10-12 *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

Satan himself has a well-organized kingdom with varying levels of demonic powers arrayed against the angelic army

Colossians 1:13 *"dominion of darkness"*

Matthew 12:26 *If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?*

C. Territorial Spirits ?? (vs. 20)

vs. 13 *But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days.*

vs. 20 *Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come*

1. Prince of Persia... clearly a demonic adversary; but assigned to Persia!!

2. Prince of Greece... also a demonic adversary

3. Michael: called "Your prince"... perhaps referring to Israel

There has arisen a theory of "territorial spirits," the idea that demonic forces are assigned to certain geographical regions and stay there generation after generation

This is speculative, since this is the only passage I know of which supports the idea

D. Our Weapons: Defensive and Offensive

1. We are involved, since the entire point is to prevent souls from being rescued

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves

2. We are also called to be active participants, scaling the gates of Hades for lost souls

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

3. We are also involved in demonic attacks against us... temptations to sin

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Our weapons: defensive... the FULL ARMOR OF GOD

Offensive: the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God AND prayer in the Spirit

E. Question: What would one day be like

1. With no demonic attacks... OR

2. With no angelic protection??

IV. Who Does God Highly Esteem?

A. Daniel: A Man Highly Esteemed

1. Three times it is said!!!

Daniel 9:23 As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed.

Daniel 10:11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you."

Daniel 10:19 "Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed," he said

2. Gabriel gave the same message to Mary

Luke 1:28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

These are the only two in Scripture called by name as those highly esteemed by God...

It makes us hungry and thirsty to know why!!!

B. Who Does God Esteem Highly?

Ephesians 5:10 "...find out what pleases the Lord."

God esteems those who:

1. Honor God, exalting Him above all else

1 Samuel 2:30 Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.

2. Tremble at His word

Isaiah 66:2 "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

3. Are broken-hearted over sin, leading to humility

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

4. Love God, trust in Him and call on Him in a day of trouble

Psalm 91:14-16 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. ¹⁵ He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. ¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

5. Know God

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the

LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

6. Obey God's word

1 Samuel 15:22 "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

7. Have compassion on the poor

8. Are holy and pure

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

9. Do good works persistently by faith

Romans 2:7, 10 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life....There will be ... glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good

10. Serve Christ

John 12:26 My Father will honor the one who serves me.

C. Daniel's Spiritual Life

Daniel followed each of these

1. Honor God, exalting Him above all else

Daniel lived only to please God moment by moment; his prayer in Daniel 9 shows that all he cared about was the glory of God's name; in chapter 5, he attacked Belshazzar because he did not honor God, who gave him life

2. Tremble at His word

Daniel trembles at God's word physically here in this chapter; in honoring Jeremiah's scroll in Daniel 9, and by his holy obedience to God's commands

3. Are broken-hearted over sin, leading to humility

Daniel grieved deeply over his sin in his prayer in chapter 9, and his mourning and fasting in chapter 10

4. Love God, trust in Him and call on Him in a day of trouble

Daniel loved God deeply, and called on Him for salvation when He was in need: in chapter 2 (when Nebuchadnezzar had decreed the death of all the wise men); in chapter 6, when Darius threw him in the lion's den

5. Know God

Daniel knew God intimately through his daily devotional life and his study of God's word... he walked with God day after day

6. Obey God's word

Daniel showed his passion for God's word in his prayer in chapter 9, when he grieved over his own people's disobedience to the prophets; he also showed it in his unwillingness to be defiled by sinful foods in chapter 1

7. Have compassion on the poor

Daniel showed his compassion for the poor by the way he courageously urged King Nebuchadnezzar to show justice to the poor in chapter 4

8. Are holy and pure

Daniel demonstrated his personal holiness by the fact the he refused to be defiled in chapter 1, had no interest in Belshazzar's rewards in chapter 5, and survived the intense scrutiny of his enemies over his private life in chapter 6

9. Do good works persistently by faith

Daniel was a hard working, diligent servant of the king, was compassionate to the other wise men in sparing their lives, faithful and not negligent in any commandment; he also was absolutely constant in his personal devotional life: prayer and the study of the word... good works flowed through Daniel

10. Serve Christ

Daniel served Christ by faithfully recording the Son of Man vision; Darius called him "Servant of the living God," and said twice that Daniel served God continually; so he also served the Son of God in prophetic ministry

V. Application

1. Becoming a spiritual warrior

- Understand to reality of the spiritual war around you...
- Don't be naïve, but be prepared

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

- Read Ephesians 6, PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD!!!

2. Living for God's praise: Be like Daniel

- Stop caring what man thinks about you
- Stop living for "Man's empty praise"
- Realize that God is your judge, and someday He will test your life works
- It is GOD you must please
- Live to be a man or woman that God highly esteems
- God will reward you with far ore lavish rewards than anything earth can afford!!

The story is told of a Persian king who lived long ago, who wished to honor a man who'd saved his life. He clothed him in one of his royal robes, had him sit on one of the best royal steeds adorned with the royal crest on his head. And he was led through the streets of the city proclaiming before him, "This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!"

The purpose of the exercise was two-fold... to honor the man who'd saved his life, and to put into the hearts of each person in the city the yearning to please the king so much that he would be the next man to be so honored.

In a kingdom, the esteem of the King is more precious than gold or rubies...

In a kingdom, the esteem of the King is more valuable than the praise of any other person in the city...

In a kingdom, the esteem of the King promises good things—rewards, honors, privileges

Brothers and sister, may I say to you that we live in a Kingdom... the Kingdom of God!!

Are you living for the esteem of the King?? Have you discovered from His word what kinds of things God esteems highly?

Our world has many ways to show its esteem:

- A Nobel prizewinner makes the cover of Times magazine
- A skilled athlete holds high the champions trophy while photographers gather around to snap photos
- A famous actor is interviewed on the Today show about his upcoming movie
- A politician is chosen by millions of people to be the head state for his nation
- An author is listed for twenty weeks on the New York Times best seller list
- A mother is chosen to be "Parent of the Year" by the local PTA
- A high-school student is voted "most likely to succeed" by her classmates

All of these seem more precious than gold, more valuable than silver

Christians should NOT be living for these forms of esteem... but rather for the esteem of the King

BUT in order to do this, we must believe in the reality of an invisible spiritual world around us!!