

Daniel 10:1-11:1

March 9, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

In today's passage, Daniel meets a man dressed in linen who has come in response to Daniel's prayer and fasting to help him understand what will happen to his people in the end times. Our text today will set up the story of how this man entered Daniel's life, and next week, we'll begin our study of the prophecy he brought.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What type of prophecies have we encountered in Daniel so far and what, generally, happened (how did he see them, how did he know what they meant, etc.)?

How would you explain spiritual warfare?

So far in our study of Daniel, we've walked through stories of Daniel's life and prophecies he received during his lifetime. In Daniel 10, Daniel set up another prophecy as explained to him by a mysterious divine being who appeared to him on the bank of the Tigris River.



UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 10:1-3.

What do you know about the purpose of fasting?

What value does fasting have in our lives today?

The first three verses of chapter 10 set up the rest of the book of Daniel. Chapters 11 and 12 deal with one prophecy that will be introduced to Daniel in the coming verses.

The timing noted in verse one dates this prophecy as the latest Daniel recorded. These events happened in the third year of King Cyrus's reign (536 BC). Daniel would have been in his mid-80's at this time.

Verse 2 says Daniel had been in a period of mourning and fasting. We can only guess at why but one reason he may have been in mourning is the state of the Israelite people at this time.

What was happening with the Israelite people that made fasting an appropriate response?

What does it tell us about Daniel that he fasted on behalf of the people, even over events that did not directly involve him?

The vision that Daniel setup in chapter 10 took place in the third year of Cyrus's reign. In the first year of his reign, Cyrus issued a proclamation to allow the Israelites to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1). This was an event Daniel had prayed for faithfully. But Daniel did not return with the remnant, possibly due to his advanced age.

When the remnant of Israel returned to Jerusalem and began rebuilding, they faced opposition, and the rebuilding project was halted for a time (Ezra 4). Daniel, with such an empathetic heart for his people, could have been mourning over this event or fasting with a goal of deeper understanding of the visions the Lord had shown him.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 10:4-9.

How did Daniel describe the man that he saw at the Tigris?

What was the response to this man's appearance?

In response to Daniel's fasting and prayer, a man appeared to Daniel when he was standing on the bank of the Tigris River.



The description Daniel gave of the man that appeared on the bank of the Tigris is like a description the apostle John gave of Christ in the book of Revelation (Revelation 1:12-16). Some believe this to be a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ, but the mention of receiving help from Michael in verse 13 seems to contradict this idea. It may be that this was another angelic being. Whatever the identity of the messenger, it is clear this was a heavenly being sent from God.

As is often the case with divine beings in the pages of Scripture, his appearance was terrifying. The men who were with Daniel didn't see him but ran away and hid in terror because of the gravity of his presence (v.7). At the sight of the man, Daniel himself lost his strength, grew pale and powerless, and fell into a deep sleep with his face to the ground after he heard him speak (vv.8-9).

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DANIEL 10:10–11:1.

What was the message to Daniel in these verses?

What trouble did the angel say he had?

What does this teach or remind you about spiritual warfare?

Based on the troubles the man who touched Daniel described in verse 13, it is likely that Daniel was revived by an angel. (The angel Gabriel, who had previously appeared to Daniel in the events described in chapters 8 and 9, possibly revived him, but we don't know for sure). The angel revived a shaky Daniel and told him that he was "treasured by God" (v.11), his prayers had been heard (v.12), and that the angel had come to help Daniel understand what would happen to his people in the last days (v.14).

Verse 13 brings to light the reality of demonic forces at work in our world. The angel told Daniel that he had been sent in response to Daniel's prayer and fasting, but he had been held up for twenty-one days by "the prince of the kingdom of Persia" (v.13), who he eventually prevailed over thanks to the angel Michael's help. This victory wasn't permanent though. In verse 20, the messenger said he needed to return as soon as possible to rejoin the fight against this force of evil. (Ultimately, Jesus would achieve victory over sin and death on the cross and that victory would be fully realized at His second coming.) One of the enemy's great hopes is to fly under the radar and under our notice, but the idea of spiritual warfare is very real on the pages of Scripture.

The angel then told Daniel he had come to explain what would happen in the last days (or the end times). Daniel responded in doubt, but the angel encouraged him: "Don't be afraid, you who are treasured by God. Peace to you; be very strong!" (v.19). Thus strengthened, Daniel was ready to hear what the angel had to tell him: "what is recorded in the book of truth" (v.21). The truth this angel revealed to Daniel begins in chapter 11 and continues in chapter 12.



APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What does today's text teach us about the work of the enemy? Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Based on this, what are some practical ways we can guard ourselves from the schemes of the enemy?

How can we support one another in remaining steadfast in faithfulness and guarded against the schemes of the enemy?

Who are you praying for to come to know Jesus? How can you seek to share with them this week?

PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for the truth and goodness in His Word. Thank Him for giving us the tools to fight the schemes of the enemy and ask Him for help implementing these in your life. Ask for continued understanding in your study of the book of Daniel.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we continue our study of Daniel.

March 16, 2025 --- Daniel 11:2-20

COMMENTARY

Daniel 10:1-11:1

In 536 B.C. Daniel received his final vision. While standing by the Tigris River, he saw a radiant angelic being whose voice thundered. Totally overwhelmed by the vision, Daniel fell into a deep trance. The angel told Daniel to stand up and encouraged him not to fear. He then explained that he had been delayed in coming by the "prince of Persia," apparently a reference to an angel who exercised jurisdiction over the nation Persia. After a three-week struggle, Michael intervened, allowing this angel to come to Daniel. He would soon be off again to fight against the prince of Persia, but before leaving he revealed to Daniel certain future events

