

This is a very challenging portion of prophecy and insight in the book of Daniel. Chapters 10-12 are actually a unit. So, what we start in this chapter will continue through the rest of the book.

The book of Daniel adds much to our understanding of angelology and eschatology. More will be revealed each chapter.

ANGELS WATCHING OVER ME

Have you heard someone say, 'I think an angel was watching over me that day.' There are many times in life when we sense that we were protected by a force that outside of ourselves. Have you had such an experience?

Could be some good stories.

LISTENING TO GOD IN THE BIBLE

Only the Bible gives us insight into the spiritual realm of God at work in our lives. It is God's story to help us know Him, transform our lives, and be the authoritative truth. While God is usually invisible to us, He has revealed Himself through Jesus, through the work of the Spirit, and through His servants. Those servants include angels.

In the book of "Daniel," angels (servants of God) repeatedly protect, give insight, understanding, and comfort to Daniel and others. Chapters 10-12 open a window into the usually invisible realm of God's servants that we call angels.

In addition, chapter ten reveals more of the kindness and love of our God who sees our needs and hears our prayers. Let's begin by reading 10:1-11:1 and consider these questions.

Daniel was still needing hope for his people and Jerusalem. What were his actions? (1-3) Why so extreme?

The vision that Daniel heard in chapter nine was both encouraging and challenging. The 70-7s vision included troubles throughout the existence of Jerusalem, wars, persecution, the killing of the coming Messiah, and the total destruction of Jerusalem and the rebuilt temple.

Three weeks of mourning at age 85 must have been very taxing.

What did God do as a result of Daniel's prayers?

God sent angels with encouragement, insight, strength, and understanding.

How would you describe Daniel's responses when he encountered angels? Why might he have responded so extremely? (See also Isaiah 6:5-6)

Throughout the chapter, we see Daniel fainting, falling down on his face, etc. Whenever someone encounters an angel, they are overwhelmed. In addition, Daniel has been fasting and mourning for days.

Compare God's words to Daniel in 10:11-12 and 9:23. What do you think and feel as you read this? Do you think that this extends to you?

While the Scriptures repeatedly tell us that God loves us and wants us to live with Him forever, it is very significant that God sent an angel with this specific message that He "treasures" (values, esteems, loves) Daniel.

Read back through this chapter and record what we learn about angels.

- About their existence? **They exist and perhaps present but unseen**
- About their work? **They are serving God by serving us with protection, persuasion, assistance, etc.**
- About their role in our lives? **There is evidence that some are guardian angels, some seem to be protecting or serving a nation.**

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What are some of the 'ahah's you felt in this chapter? What does this tell us about God and His Master Plan?

Hopefully, some will share.

Why do you think that God revealed information about angels to Daniel? And what does this mean for us today?

There are many times in our lives that we need more than words. In this case, God visited Daniel through angels. While it would be a shock, it would also bring confidence that God cares, has a Master Plan, and will protect when needed.

Intense prayer and humility have been central in the book of Daniel. What do we learn about humble prayer in our lives and relationship with God and His work in the world?

Humility is the starting place of a relationship with God, of living in God's grace and will, and of being in God's family.

Prayer is about aligning ourselves with God and His will, of living in a real relationship with God, and living godly life (living before God in devotion to Him).

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Twice God has given a personal message to Daniel, saying, "you are treasured" (loved, esteemed). Can you imagine God sending an angel to give you this message? Even better than an angel, God sent His Son to give you this message. He said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now, remain in my love" (John 15:9). Do you believe Jesus' words? Do you understand that you are "treasured" by God? Have you thanked God for His love? Walk through your week with humble thanksgiving and praise. Let God be your treasure.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for our two short-term teams in Europe that will be serving for the next three weeks. Pray for their effectiveness to encourage and equip people.
- Pray for our "Trinity Family Work Days" as we work together in fun and friendship.
- Pray for our local partners in ministry: Micah House, Inherit the Earth, Life Choice.
- Pray for our ministries: Griefshare, Endless Hope, marriage teams, and Promised Hope.

**Love and grace to you,
Steve**