

Daniel Chapter 10 — Bible Study (CSB)

Title / Passage

Book: Daniel

Chapter: 10

Theme: Vision of a Glorious Being, Prayer, and Heavenly Conflict

1) Introduction

Context:

- Daniel 10 begins a new vision in the **third year of King Cyrus of Persia** — historically after the first return from exile and during the early struggle over the temple's rebuilding.
- Daniel mourns and fasts for **three weeks**, seeking understanding.
- This chapter serves as a **prelude to Daniel's final prophetic revelation** (chapters 11–12), emphasizing that spiritual realities undergird earthly events.

Why Questions:

- Why does Daniel mourn and fast for three full weeks before this revelation?
- Why might God prepare Daniel with this dramatic encounter before explaining future events?

How Questions:

- How should we interpret prayer that seems unanswered for a long time?
 - How does understanding unseen spiritual conflict shape our worldview?
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2) Verse-by-Verse Exegesis

Daniel 10:1 — A Word Revealed

Scripture (CSB):

1 In the third year of King Cyrus of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. The message was true and was about a great conflict. He understood the message and had understanding of the vision.

Word Study / Grammar:

- *Message revealed:* A divine communication (Hebrew: דָּבָר, *davar*) typically denotes authoritative word from God.

- *Great conflict*: The Hebrew term suggests warfare or intense struggle — setting the tone for spiritual battles.

Historical / Cultural Context:

- The reference to “Belteshazzar” reflects Daniel’s Babylonian name given in exile.

Theological Insight:

- God’s revelation is both *true* and linked with spiritual conflict, not merely future events.

Cross References (CSB full text):

- **Daniel 1:7**: “The chief official gave them new names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar...”

Why Questions:

- Why does the text emphasize the word was *true* and about *conflict*?
- Why does Daniel *understand* immediately when sometimes in visions he needed explanation?

How Questions:

- How does God’s revealing of spiritual conflict affect the way we pray and interpret Scripture?

Daniel 10:2-3 — Mourning and Fasting

Scripture (CSB):

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three full weeks.

3 I didn’t eat any rich food, no meat or wine entered my mouth, and I didn’t put any oil on my body until the three weeks were over.

Word Study / Grammar:

- *Mourning... fasting*: Indicates deep sorrow and humble seeking of God, similar to expressions in Ezra and Nehemiah.

Cross References (CSB full text):

- **Ezra 9:4**: “I have not been eating flavorful food, and wine has not been going to my mouth, and I have not been praying to the Lord my God for life and success for the army of the king of Persia.”
- **Nehemiah 1:4**: “When I heard these things, I sat down, wept, mourned for days, fasted...”

Theological Insight:

- Daniel’s fast anticipates his deep need for revelation and God’s strength to understand it.

Why Questions:

- Why did Daniel combine mourning with a 21-day fast before receiving the vision?
- Why does fasting often precede moments of divine revelation in Scripture?

How Questions:

- How can prolonged humbling before God prepare us for significant spiritual insights?
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Daniel 10:4-6 — The Glorious Vision

Scripture (CSB):

4 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 was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of gold from Uphaz around his waist.

6 His body was like beryl, his face like the brilliance of lightning, his eyes 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.

Word Study / Imagery:

- *Linen and gold belt*: Linen often symbolizes purity; gold signifies royalty/holiness.
- *Appearance*: Analogous to the vivid description of Christ in Revelation (e.g., Rev 1:13-15).

Cross References (CSB full text):

- **Revelation 1:13-15**: “And in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man... eyes like a flame of fire... his feet like burnished bronze...”

Theological Insight:

- The figure’s brilliance and power indicate a heavenly being — possibly an angelic messenger, or in some traditions, a theophany pointing to the pre-incarnate Christ.

Why Questions:

- Why is the appearance so overwhelming and fear-inducing?
- Why does God reveal Himself in such striking imagery?

How Questions:

- How does this visionary description deepen your awe of God’s glory and holiness?
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Daniel 10:7-9 — Fear and Weakness

Scripture (CSB):

7 Only I, Daniel, saw the vision. The men who were with me did not see it, but a great terror fell on them, and they ran and hid.

8 I was left alone, looking at this great vision. No strength was left in me; my face grew deathly pale, and I was powerless.

9 I heard the words he said, and when I heard them I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground.

Theological Insight:

- God's glory is overwhelming to sinful humanity; even the faithful must be strengthened.

Cross References (CSB full text):

- **Genesis 32:24:** "Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him..." (similar struggle imagery).

Why Questions:

- Why does Daniel become physically overwhelmed by the vision?
- Why do others not see the vision but still experience terror?

How Questions:

- How do we respond when God confronts us with His glory and holiness?
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Daniel 10:10-11 — Angelic Comfort and Commission

Scripture (CSB):

10 Suddenly, a hand touched me and set me shaking on my hands and knees.

11 He said to me, "Daniel, you are a man treasured by God. Understand the words that I'm saying to you. Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you." After he said this to me, I stood trembling.

Word Study / Grammar:

- *Treasured by God:* Indicates Daniel's unique place of favor and purpose.

Theological Insight:

- Divine strength precedes divine revelation; God sustains His servants before He reveals His plans.

Cross References (CSB full text):

- **Daniel 9:23:** "At the moment you began praying... a word went out... for you are highly esteemed."

Why Questions:

- Why does the angel emphasize that Daniel is “treasured by God”?
- Why must Daniel be strengthened before hearing the message?

How Questions:

- How does it encourage you to know God treasures those who seek Him?
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Daniel 10:12-14 — God Hears Prayer, Spiritual Conflict

Scripture (CSB):

12 “Don’t be afraid, Daniel,” he said to me, “for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers.

13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me after I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

14 Now I have come to help you understand what will happen to your people in the last days, for the vision refers to those days.”

Theological Insight:

- Prayer has *real spiritual impact*, initiating angelic activity and divine response even when unseen.
- There is *spiritual opposition* (“prince of Persia”), indicating real spiritual warfare.
- Michael the archangel aids in accomplishing God’s will.

Cross References (CSB full text):

- **Ephesians 6:12:** “For we do not wrestle... against the spiritual forces of wickedness...”

Why Questions:

- Why does God reveal that spiritual conflict affects the timing of answers to prayer?
- Why involve Michael and angelic forces in this revelation?

How Questions:

- How does this shape your understanding of prayer and spiritual struggle?
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Daniel 10:15-19 — Strengthening Daniel

Scripture (CSB, portion):

18 Then the one with a human appearance touched me again and strengthened me.

19 He said, “Don’t be afraid... Peace to you; be very strong!” As he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

Theological Insight:

- God strengthens His people before clarity is given; fear is replaced with peace and readiness to hear God’s word.

Cross References (CSB full text):

- **Isaiah 35:3-4:** “Encourage the exhausted... fear not...”

Why Questions:

- Why does the angel reinforce Daniel with peace before further revelation?

How Questions:

- How can we receive God’s strength before facing daunting truths?
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Daniel 10:20-21 — Unfinished Conflict

Scripture (CSB):

20 He said, “Do you know why I’ve come to you? I must return at once to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I leave, the prince of Greece will come.

21 However, I will tell you what is recorded in the book of truth. No one has the courage to support me against those princes except Michael, your prince.”

Theological Insight:

- This *unfinished conflict* points to ongoing spiritual battles that correspond with earthly empires (Persia → Greece).
- Michael’s role highlights God’s protective care for His people.

Cross References (CSB full text):

- **Daniel 11:2:** “Now I will tell you the truth...”

Why Questions:

- Why does the angel need to return to conflict with spiritual “princes”?
- Why is Michael the one who supports God’s messenger?

How Questions:

- How does this affect how you think about unseen spiritual realities?
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3) Imagery / Literary Features

- **River Tigris** — setting for divine encounter (symbolic of flowing presence of God).
- **Heavenly Being's Description** — reminiscent of Revelation imagery (holiness and majesty).
- **Spiritual Warfare** — narrative tension highlights conflict beyond the material realm.

Why Questions:

- Why does the text emphasize vivid imagery and conflict?

How Questions:

- How does this imagery help you grasp the glory and power of God's heavenly realm?
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4) Application / Modern-Day Lessons

Why?

- Why should believers take spiritual warfare seriously?
- Why does God sometimes delay answers to prayer?

How?

- How can we persist in prayer even when we don't see immediate results?
 - How does awareness of spiritual realities shape our worship, obedience, and evangelism?
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5) Summary / Key Takeaways

1. **God Reveals Truth Through Persistent Prayer:** Daniel's fasting and humility opened the way for divine revelation.
2. **Heavenly Realities Undergird Earthly Events:** Spiritual conflict and angelic intervention illustrate the complexity of God's governance.
3. **God Strengthens Before He Reveals:** Daniel is physically and emotionally strengthened before receiving interpretation.
4. **Spiritual Warfare Is Real:** The narrative underscores the existence of opposing spiritual forces and God's ultimate sovereignty.