

Daniel 10:1-9 – The Work of the Man With Eyes of Fire

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Some pictures tell a thousand words. Other pictures much more. Today you will see from God's Words the incredible story of the covenant people's hope in an antagonistic world -told with only a picture – a picture of the Savior. A picture that will enrapt狂喜的,出神的 your heart, make it bow in submission to him, and then motivate you to patiently live for Christ's glory and honor.

Our headings are: Daniel was Concerned when he saw the troubles ahead, Christ's Relieved Daniel's Concern by a Vision, and Daniel Prepared to Tell others of his Vision.

Our goals are: That your vision of Christ – who he is, and what he has done-will motivate you to serve him and endure the greatest hardships that may come your way.

Daniel was Concerned when he saw the troubles ahead

1 In the **third year** of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and **he understood the message**, and had understanding of the vision.² In those days I, Daniel, was **mourning three full weeks**.

1. Daniel learned of the advent来临 of the unstoppable kingdom 490 (70 weeks of years) years after the temple in Jerusalem would be rebuilt. Those 70 weeks were divided in 4 parts: 7 weeks, 62, weeks, ½ week, ½ week. Starting from 457 when Ezra returned to Jerusalem, there were 7 weeks (49 years-7X7) to rebuild the temple. **480BC**. From 408BC there were 434 years (62x7) for Jesus to begin his ministry. **27AD**. From 27AD, there were 7 years were divided into 2 parts. After the first 3 ½ years Jesus died. **AD30**. The final 3 ½ years would mark the full Gospel spread to the world after the 3 ½ year Roman siege and destruction of Jerusalem. Remember the years were not sequential, but marked period of time, hence 7, 62, ½, & ½.

2. If the kingdom was going to expand to the ends of the earth, why did Daniel mourn?

a. Daniel considered **the pain and suffering that Antiochus Epiphanes would cause to his fellow Jews**. The Greeks would stop worship, kill the priests, sell the Jews as slaves, and pollute the temple in unspeakable ways. And like a true man of God, when he saw the reality of the coming troubles to his people, he became overwhelmed.

b. Daniel surmised that all of these troubles **would come because of the sin of his people**. Sin made him sad.

c. In 538BC, Cyrus ordered, at the command of God, **some of the Jews** to go back and rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. **But the Jews were being hindered to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple** by neighbors who feared them. And because Cyrus was away at war, the Jews could not get any help from him to do the work.

3. Daniel did not have an “aw shucks”羞涩的 moment, a brief regret and moved on. He mourned deeply for 3 full weeks (the number 3 significant in itself). Good men will always be sad when they see that God's work is hindered限制

3 I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

4. Daniel's sadness was accompanied with other signs of mourning:

a. **Daniel did not eat any pleasant foods or meat or drank any wine**. He ate to survive. (Delicacies are disagreeable to a disgraceful situation.) Remember, fasting is a sacrificing of the body so the soul can concentrate on prayer. He had to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

b. **Daniel did not dress up himself**. There were no oils and fancy clothing. He prayed intensely. Simple things did not distract him. He was a man of prominent position, but he put prayer first. As an old man who could easily have argued for food and bodily care...but he was too busy in life with the things that mattered.

5. What a message this is to young **people who are obsessed** with a new piece of technology, or to grown-ups who can't wait for bar-b-que season! There are more important things that must rightly concern you and you need to inculcate this to your children at an early age: sin, salvation, service. Don't be dictated by the pleasures of this world. Hold them in their proper place. And on the other side, **be sad** that the church is being overrun by the world...where divorce rates are like the world, abortions are like the world, and adultery is becoming more and more common. Be sad when you hear the church talk like the world...and OMG...comes out of our mouths without any thought. Be sad that the Sabbath is treated as dirt. Be sad that these things will destroy the church God doesn't help us. Being sad will cause you to pray and not be obsessed with worldly things.

Christ Relieved Daniel's Concern by a Vision

4 Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 1. In his sadness, God took Daniel to the Tigris River (that partly runs through Iraq where Sadam Hussein used to swim), a great river. Why this river? This river was also known as Hiddekel (one that flowed from the Garden of Eden). This was the heart of the Medo-Persian Empire. Visions by the river were intended to show God's control over the affairs of men (Proverbs 21:1), even as he controlled the course of mighty rivers...and God wanted to draw Daniel's mind back to the safety and promises of the Garden of Eden.

25 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man **clothed in linen**, whose **waist was girded with gold** of Uphaz! 6 His **body was like beryl**, his **face like the appearance of lightning**, his **eyes like torches of fire**, his arms and **feet like burnished bronze in color**, and the sound of his words like the **voice of a multitude**.

2. Daniel looked up and saw a Theophany 神的显现— an appearance of the Lord Jesus before he took on human flesh. How do I know that this was Jesus Christ?

a. This man appeared in royal and priestly robes. He was clothed in linen as the priests. His loins were girded with gold, symbolizing royalty. But the fact that his clothes were tied up showed he was ready to work – work for man's redemption. This was how Jesus appeared in Revelation – a **priest of wisdom and dignity**.

Revelation 1:13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and **girded 束縛 about the chest with a golden band**. 14 His head and hair **were white like wool**, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

This was the initial picture on the great Day of Atonement. Jesus was the true High Priest. Angels do not appear that way and it is not proper for them to appear that way. Angels are not priests. What a telling picture!

b. This man's body was strong and he had the face and nature of a warrior. He was emblematic 象征性的 of a conquering 胜利的 king. This is consistent with the picture you see of the Lord in other parts of the Scriptures.

Revelation 1:14 above... **his eyes were like fire**.

Revelation 1:15 **His feet were like fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

Look at how Jesus is described in John's Revelation! (Similar to the Mount of Transfiguration.)

Revelation 4:5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire **were** burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

He was angry at his enemies and intended to put fear in them. Psalm 2.

c. This man's words were strong and powerful and so pictured Christ's life as a prophet. People listened.

Ezekiel 1:24 When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, **like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult 吵闹, 喧哗 like the noise of an army**...

Ezekiel 43:2 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. **His voice was like the sound of many waters**; and the earth shone with His glory.

Revelations 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a **loud voice, as of a trumpet**,

Revelation 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, **like the voice of many waters**, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

The vox Dei—voice of God can overpower the vox populi—voice of the people.

And that same Christ sent his Spirit to give you the voice to speak – as at Pentecost 五旬节.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

And what did the disciples then do after Pentecost? Preach.

d. His body was blue – a light blue-like the sky –heavenward - showing his Divine nature. (See also Ezekiel 10:9)

Ezekiel 1:16 The appearance of the wheels and their workings **was like the color of beryl 绿柱石 的颜色**, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings **was**, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

This is distinctly put to contrast the 2nd Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, from the 1st one.

1Corinthians 15:47 The first man **was** of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man **is** the Lord from heaven.

3. This appearance showed that this was Messiah and that the Lord's controlled all circumstances. You can see this same man appearing again in Daniel 12:6-7, where the Lord revealed special times and his power of providence.

Daniel Prepared to Tell others of his Vision

7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

1. While the vision had a wonderful influence on Daniel, God did not honor some men with him to show them the great Christ: Prophet, Priest, and King. At times God keeps some things from doubters, as these men appeared to be. Remember! 2Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

This was similar to when the Apostle Paul was converted. But the doubters did not ask for explanations but ran. Acts 9:6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

8 Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength.

2. Being left alone, Daniel was overwhelmed. He saw the glory of God, and he saw the terror that was coming because of Judah's sin. Even a glimpse—瞥 of God's glory leaves a man helpless. And when it God's glory was put next to man's sin, it is even more overwhelming – put into a coma-like state. No wonder Daniel was left lifeless, without any vigor活力 to move.

Henry: *His comeliness was turned into corruption.*"

Another commentator said: "...the form of his countenance was marred; his forehead wrinkled; his eyes sunk; the sprightliness and vivacity活泼 of them gone; his cheeks turned pale; his lips quivering颤抖; his joints trembling; his vigor and health impaired; all nature convulsed抽搐 and he lifeless and spiritless, like a dead carcass尸骨

9 Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

3. Yet, the truth of this vision was a means of security for the people of God. It was a double confirmation of truth... a reaffirmation of the earlier vision. So Daniel persevered. He kept the message, that vital message that he had to pass on to the Jews in succeeding generations. He was overwhelmed but not so much that he took his ears off of God.

4. Beloved, when you stand in awe of the Lord... you will stand in truth. You will know how great God is- his splendor 华丽 and majesty. You will know how good he is...how he reached down from the glories of heaven to rescue sinners like you. When you do know these truths you will glorify Christ, you will give strength to other believers, and you will give life to those in darkness. No truth, no hope. No hope, no life.

Conclusion:

Daniel was spiritually grieved when he looked at the future – hurt in the depths of his soul, so God sent Daniel another help to instruct him in truth so his faith would be stronger. He would be assured that God's unstoppable kingdom was coming. God has send him an angel, then God sent him a great angel, Gabriel, and then God sent him his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, directly. The vision of Jesus spoke volumes – many volumes - and certainly strengthened Daniel's faith. He could see Christ's greatness and his goodness. This gave him the courage to save up the truth and pass it on to his fellow Jews that they might not lose hope, and look forward for Messiah's coming and the spread of the kingdom.

Brother and sisters in Jesus Christ: Look to Christ – who he is and what he has done – Almighty God and gracious Savior - who gave his life for you. Looking to the Savior is the only means for you to have faith and to move forward in the spread of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Paint an image of Christ for your children. Moral lessons are good, but not good enough. Morals must be grounded in new life – new life that only Jesus Christ can give. This is what your children need. This is what the world needs.

Finally: While the picture of Christ is a great comfort to the Christian, he is a reason for great consternation to those who are not. Why? He is the conquering king who will destroy the wicked in hell forever. But this great king offers mercy to you...though only for a time. Reject it at your own peril?