

## Daniel 10:10-21 – Strength to Speak the Truth

TSK, Gaebelein, Henry, Geneva, GreekLexicon, Trapp, Poole, JFB, Clarke, Calvin

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: How many people have the courage to look at someone and say: “You are dying of cancer?” I don’t know how doctors do it...day after day, but I am thankful for them. It is a very difficult thing. It is understandable that Daniel found it difficult to speak to the Jews about their coming troubles. Daniel was deeply saddened by what he saw. He couldn’t eat properly and he couldn’t dress himself to reflect his high position. He simply cried out to his Almighty God...a God who was his Father through faith in Jesus Christ...he cried for the strength to speak God’s truth. You will see today how God strengthened him for service.

Our headings are: Daniel Received Strength in his legs, and Daniel Received Strength on his lips.

Our goals are: That you will rely upon the strength, boldness, and wisdom that God gives to speak the Gospel truth to those inside and outside the church.

### Daniel Received Strength in this Legs

10 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.

1. Judah’s future looked bleak. Most Jews were still in captivity and God spoke of more troubles ahead for them. After Daniel had mourned and prayed for 3 full weeks, the Lord sent a message to him through an angel. This was a most personal message. The angel touched Daniel, a touch that caused Daniel much consternation 惊愕. He started to shake. Daniel struggled to stand on his feet. He seemed reluctant to go to his fellow Jews with the bad news from before. Maybe he wondered if there were more bad news...as the other angels had brought before.

11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

2. However, the angel started to speak to Daniel in a most endearing way: The angel addressed Daniel literally as “man of preciousness” – translated as “man greatly beloved.” And look at the symbolism: Daniel was kneeling down with his head to the ground to pray...and now he was going to get God’s exaltation 赞扬. Whatever goes down will come up...God’s law of humility. But remember, when you rise, you rise to work for God and his people. This was what Daniel was raised up to do.

3. Why did God consider Daniel as a man of preciousness?

a. Daniel was precious because he was absorbed with the glory of God.

b. Daniel was precious because he sought the good of his people through his words, through his work, and through prayer. (Indeed the effective fervent 热烈地 prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much-James 5:16.) Daniel was the picture of Moses who would have gone to hell so the people of God would be saved...or like the Apostle Paul who cried for “his children” as a mother cried for her own. And what a lovely and persistent intercessor he was!

Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, But like a good doctor, Daniel had to carry the news to the people so they would make preparations for it: Glorious days were ahead when Christ would come, but there would be hard days before and after.

12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

4. Then the angel encouraged Daniel not to fear the future. His God was big. His God cared for his precious things. No one leaves a diamond ring on a bus seat for a thief! God would keep his people for the Savior coming to save them. It may have seemed that God didn’t hear...but he never misses a prayer! So Daniel could go and speak to the Jews.

13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

5. Daniel’s deliverer, this angel of God, explained why he took so long to come. At an earlier time, an angel was sent to Daniel even before he finished praying, but this angel was delayed. Why was there a delay? The angel said that the prince of the kingdom of Persia “withstood me for twenty-one days.” But who is the prince of the kingdom of Persia? The prince of Persia was most likely a demon. How can I say that...why could it not be Cyrus or Cambyses, or another Persian king?

a. No man – not even the great Cyrus or Cambyses– could have stood up against the power of an angel. So this must have been someone of extraordinary 非同寻常的 power. No ordinary man can stop an angel of God. This “prince” was powerful enough to cause a delay, but not to stop him from coming to Daniel.

b. Demons are called “princes.” Satan, the head demon, is the “prince of the power of the air.” Ephesians 2:2.

c. The one who helped this angel was another “prince” Michael – who was the Angel of the Lord – the Lord Jesus Christ. (“Michael” means “one who is like God.”) These demons, led by their leader Lucifer - Satan. If Lucifer waged war in heaven (Revelation 12:7), so why won’t he wage 发动 war on earth? The Bible also records a fight between the Lord (Michael) and Satan over the body of Moses.

Revelation 12:7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

d. Note that there were other “kings” of Persia... Since there was only 1 human king in Persia, then this was referring to some other types of being. So combining the 4 reasons, this was a demon who slowed down the angel of God.

6. Why does God mention these details about how this angel was slowed down? Obviously there are wicked forces who may try to thwart 阻扰 God’s Word from coming to the ears of his people. These are things that are unbeknownst 不知情 to you, but know that they are real, and they are well organized.

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

The reality of the unionized work of demons is one reason that you must not stop praying to your loving Father. Pray and be determined.

7. At the same time, you must worry. You are in God’s hands. He is always more powerful than demons. He sets boundaries 界限 for demons. No one could stand in the way of God redeeming his people. This is the big story here.

Job 1:12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:6 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

1Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

The Psalmist pictures God’s providence is a most beautiful way.

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

8. So speak the truth without fear. It is God’s truth that will set people free and it is his truth that will guide them how to live. The Devil will bring half-truths and outright lies and deceive 欺骗 many, but you must speak with care, love, and force.

14 "Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

9. Then the angel explained to Daniel Israel’s future in detail, so Daniel realized that God never left his people without a witness. This encouraged him and strengthened him to speak. What an amazing gesture from God: to fill an ordinary man with truth – heaven’s truth. And this is the only way you will speak well – when you know well...when you study the Scriptures so you can answer the false charges...and give full guidance. Henry: “God’s treasures are put into earthen vessels.” What an encouragement to Daniel!

15 When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

10. The angel clarified 澄清 truth for Daniel. This reaffirmed 重申 his faith. But his sadness of the future still hurt him; he was in agony. He had to learn to work through the hurt before the healing in order that the truth would bring to the Jews.

### **Daniel Received Strength on his lips**

16 And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, "My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.

1. Then the angel touched Daniel’s lips and enabled him to speak. Daniel was overwhelmed but he had to speak. “My sorrows” literally means “my bowels.” So Daniel’s stomach was churning 搅动 but his lips could speak.

17 "For how can this servant of my lord talk with you (with this), my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me."

2. Isaiah said that his lips were sinful. Jeremiah said he was too young to speak. Moses said he stammered. Daniel said he

was too weak – and not fit to talk about what he had heard. (Not “with you” as our translation, but “with this.”)

Isaiah 6:5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

Jeremiah 1:9 Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

Exodus 4:10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

18 Then again, the one having the likeness of **a man touched me** and strengthened me. 19 And he said, "O man **greatly beloved**, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

### 3. So the angel

a. **Touched him**...maybe his lips again...Verse 10, 16, and now in 18...

2Corinthians 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **My strength is made perfect in weakness**." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities 弱点, 疾病, in reproaches 耻辱, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

b. **Reminded him that he was loved** by God. Literally: "Highly esteemed 很受尊敬的 man," or "Man of preciousness." When a man knows he is loved he will fight a lion...or a least talk to a lion.

c. **Commanded him not to fear**. Love casts out fear.

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "**Do not be afraid**; I am the First and the Last.

d. **Wished him peace**...so Daniel had no need to panic.

e. **Urged him to be strong**...after being on his knees and the palm of his hands, **then in prayer, probably with hands clasped**, then on his feet, then **his mouth opened to speak**.

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage**; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed 沮丧, 绝望 for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

These things all strengthened him. He was ready to fight a lion or a bear.

Isaiah 40:29 He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.

20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now **I must return to fight with the prince of Persia**; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.

4. The angel then went back to his duty...with the real warning that when he had destroyed Persia, the Greeks were going to come. What an amazing thing! What truth! What confidence you can have in your heavenly Father who is willing and able to control your enemies...Nothing could stop Christ from coming. Nothing could stop your salvation!

21 "But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, **except Michael your prince**.)

5. The angel announced to Daniel that angels were also kept by the Lord Jesus.

Hebrews 2:5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to 顺服于 angels.

Jesus is the Prince of the church...angels are never called prince of the church and are in subjection to Jesus. This is the crux of the message. What hope this would give the Jews! Those who don't subject themselves to him will be destroyed...but his people are safe in his arms.

## **Conclusion:**

Daniel received God's comforts and strength for his legs and his lips after he was saddened about the future troubles of the Jews. The comforts and strength equipped him to speak the truth-the good (Messiah was coming to save) and bad things (Greeks and Romans would cause great troubles, and Judah would sin) in the future.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. Praise God for his Words. Ps 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. 2. Sometimes the words might hurt men's feelings, but you must not be sensitive about that. Hurt is necessary for some to come to their senses. 3. Don't be ashamed to speak the truth. Men reject truth to their own hurt. Hell waits for those who don't look to the Savior. 4. A loving God waits for those who are sorry for their sins and look to his Son for forgiveness. 5. Speak the word with love. This word that you bring is the source of life.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, let me bring a word of love to you. You will die in your sins if you don't ask Jesus Christ to be Lord of your life and take away your sins on account of his suffering on the cross. I love you enough to hurt you...but I know your hurt feelings will subside when you will call on the Lord and are saved.