



Daniel 10:1-21

10/4/20 AM

DISTURBING DESTINY

Introduction:

I. THE SETTING OF THE VISION (vs. 1-9)

A. The Date and Developments (vs. 1-4)

“the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel/Belteshazzar”

“the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision”

“mourning for three entire weeks”

- > “not eat any tasty food”
- > “nor did meat or wine enter my mouth”
- > “nor did I use any ointment at all”

“on the twenty-fourth day of the first month”

“I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris”

B. The Deliverer Described (vs.5-6, c.f. 16, 18)

“a certain man dressed in linen”

- > “waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz”
- > “body also was like beryl”
- > “his face had the appearance of lightning”
- > “his eyes were like flaming torches”
- > “his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze”
- > “the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult”

vs. 16, 18 - “one who resembled a human being...was standing before me...with human appearance”

C. The Dread and Deep Sleep (vs. 7-9)

“I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves”

“I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. But I heard the sound of his words...”

“I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground”

II. THE STRUGGLE PRIOR TO THE VISION (vs. 10-17)

A. Daniel’s Internal Struggle (vs. 10-12)

“a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees”

“O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you”

“when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling”

B. The Angel’s Cosmic Battle (vs. 13-14)

“Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words”

“the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days”

“then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia”

“Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.”

C. Daniel’s Resulting Weakness (vs. 15-17)

“I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke”

“O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord?”

“there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me”

III. THE STRENGTHENING FOR THE VISION (vs. 18-21)

A. Renewal for Daniel (vs. 18-19)

“then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me”

“O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!”

“Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, ‘May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.’ ”

B. Resolution for the Angel (vs. 20-21)

“Do you understand why I came to you?”

“I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come.”

“I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth.”

“Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.”

Conclusion:

- 1) Voluntary fasting can often prepare you to understand His Word and His will.
 - 2) Fear may be a good thing when it guides your attitude toward supernatural power in the world.
 - 3) Believer’s prayers are immediately heard by God but demonic forces can delay answers to prayer.
- Supplement: Older retired people, no longer active in regular employment, should be no less active in service for the Lord.

Food for Thought:

- 1) How do God’s angels differ from Satan’s angels? What is their work in the world today?
- 2) What is the appropriate way to handle spiritual warfare?
- 3) Who is the shining man of Daniel 10:4-6? What difference does his identity make in the interpretation of this chapter?
- 4) In what ways might we recognize that God has highly esteemed some Christian leaders in church history?