

Daniel 10:1-14 – A Taxing Vision

Chapter 9 occurred during the first year of king Darius, the Mede. Chapter 10 occurred during the third year of the reign of Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persian empire. Chapter 10 introduces Daniel's last recorded vision. Chapter 11 gives the details of the vision. Chapter 12 is the conclusion of the vision. By the time of this vision it is likely that a number of Jews had returned to Judea and Jerusalem.

Read Daniel 10:1-9.

Verse 1 is an introduction to chapters 10 through 12. When did the events of verse 1 occur? Some think that Daniel dated the reign of Cyrus from the time he became the king of Persia. Some think that the third year was based on when Cyrus conquered Babylon. The third year would then be about 536 BC. Would Daniel be more likely to mark the reign of Cyrus as a Persian historian or from the perspective of a resident of Babylon? What other information are we told about Daniel's final recorded vision? (10:1)

In verses 2 and 3, what was Daniel doing when this word came to him? We noted from chapter one that verse 10:3 appears to debunk the idea that Daniel was a life long vegetarian and abstainer from wine. It would be meaningless to say that he was mourning by eating and drinking what he normally ate and drank. (10:2-3)

From verses 3 and 4, we learn that Daniel was mourning and on a restricted diet for three weeks during the first month. What is the significant of the first month on the Jewish calendar? On which day of the month did Daniel have the vision? Where was Daniel? It is interesting to note that Babylon was along the Euphrates River. Babylon was about 50 to 60 miles from the Tigris River. (10:3-4)

In verses 5 and 6, what did Daniel see when he looked up? Who was this "man"? What is the significance of linen? Some think that this was a manifestation of God (a theophany). Others think this was the preincarnate Christ (a Christophany). See the similarities with Revelation 1:12-18. Others think this was a powerful angel. (10:5-6)

In verse 7, who was with Daniel? What happened to them when Daniel saw the vision? (10:7)

In verse 8, how did Daniel respond when he saw the vision? In verse 9, how did Daniel respond when he heard the sound of his words? (10:8-9)

Read Daniel 10:10-14.

In verse 10, what happened when a hand touched Daniel? Whose hand touched Daniel? There is no introduction of another person or angel, so some assume it is the hand of the one in verses 5-6. Others think this is the hand of an attendant of the one in verses 5-6. They believe another being is assumed but not explicitly mentioned. (10:10)

In verse 11, who was the “he” who was speaking? If the hand was from a second being who was not identified, then grammatically wouldn’t “he” refer to the hand? If “he” refers to the one in verses 5-6, then verse 11 makes perfect sense. What was said to Daniel in verse 11? How did Daniel respond? (10:11)

In verse 12, Daniel was told to “fear not”. “The first day” seems to be a reference to the first day of his three weeks of mourning. From this verse, the three weeks also included prayer and humbling himself. Daniel also sought to gain understanding. What was he seeking to understand? What was put in motion on the first day of Daniel’s mourning? (10:12)

It is important to understand who is speaking in verses 11-14. Is it the “man” of verses 5-6? Is it a second being simply introduced as “a hand” in verse 10? From verse 11, the one speaking said “I have been sent to you”. In verse 12, he says “I have come because of your words”. What information do we learn about the one speaking in verse 13? If the one speaking was God the Father or Christ, then it doesn’t sound right that he needed help from Michael. Who was the “prince of the kingdom of Persia”? Notice that Michael was also referred to as a prince. Who is Michael? All references to “Michael” in the Old Testament, apart from Daniel, are clearly a reference to a man. Jude 1:9 speaks of the archangel Michael who contended with the devil. Revelation 12:7 speaks of Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. The Michael in Daniel is consistent with the New Testament references. (10:13)

In verse 14, why did the one speaking come to Daniel? What information was given about the vision? (10:14)

What does this passage teach us about persisting in prayer?