

Book of Daniel (6): The Power of a Life Dedicated to God

I. Daniel Chapter 10-12 Outline

A. Daniel's Angelic Encounter (10:1-11:1)

1. Context of the fourth vision (10:1-3)
2. The description of the mighty angel (10:4-6)
3. Angel's impact on Daniel (10:7-9)
4. The angel's conflict related to Daniel's prayer (10:10-14)
5. Daniel was given divine strength (10:15-19)
6. The angel's continued conflict (10:20-11:1)

B. Daniel's fourth vision (11:2-12:13)

II. Introduction

A. Daniel 10 is the context for Daniel receiving his fourth vision in Daniel 11-12. It is the longest and most detailed prophecy in the Bible. It gives insight into the Antichrist's political decisions, religious attitudes, and military activities, as well as the Great Tribulation and Israel's deliverance.

B. Daniel 10 gives us insight into what happens in the spirit realm when we pray. It reveals the conflict in the spirit between high-ranking angels and demons that is manifest in earthly spheres. There are angelic and demonic authority structures over each city and nation. Political leaders and the governmental infrastructure in them are affected by the activity of angels and demons. The result of their conflict affects the events, decisions, and culture of the cities of the earth.

III. Context of the Fourth Vision

A. Daniel received this vision during the third year of the reign of King Cyrus- in 536 BC. This was just over two years after the Persians had conquered the Babylonian empire (539 BC). In 538 BC, Cyrus gave the decree for Israel to return to Jerusalem. They arrived in 536 BC.

The first and third years of Cyrus and Darius (9:1) were 538 BC and 536 BC. Most agree that Cyrus set Darius as the leader over Babylon. At this time, Daniel was delivered from the lion's den (Dan. 6) □ his life was threatened just before he received this vision. He was in his mid-80s.

B. Daniel mourning for Israel because of what was happening with the remnant back in Jerusalem.

IV. What is a Daniel Fast?

A. There are two primary scriptures related to the Daniel fast. In Daniel 10:3 we learn that Daniel ate *no meat or tasty foods and drank no wine*. In Daniel 1:12 we see that he *ate vegetables and drank water*. The word that is translated *vegetables* in the NKJV is translated as *pulse* in the KJV - it comes from the Hebrew *zeroa*, which means "that which grows from seed." Thus, *zeroa* includes vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes (peas or beans), nuts, seeds, tofu, and

herbs.

B. **Daniel fast:** A common approach includes eating in strict moderation *vegetables, fruits, whole grains* (breads or rice from whole grains), *legumes* (peas or beans), *nuts, seeds, tofu, and herbs*. Many agree that Daniel abstained from all meat, sugar, dairy products, fried foods, wine, and from all pleasant foods (all that enhances the flavor of food-seasonings, salad dressings, sweetener, etc...). It calls for abstaining from all pleasant foods, not only “meats and sweets.”

C. Biblical fasting is abstaining from food for spiritual reasons. The Daniel fast is a *real* fast from food. It is not merely a diet, or eating with moderation. It involves significantly reducing the types and amount of food that we normally eat and greatly increasing our time with the Lord. Going on a Daniel fast mostly for health reasons is good, but it is a *Daniel diet*, not a Daniel fast.

D. Fasting food is voluntary weakness, as we position ourselves before the Lord that our heart may be tenderized and become more sensitive and able to receive more from the Lord.

V. The Mighty Angel and its Impact on Daniel

A. Daniel saw a high-ranking mighty angel (10:4-6). John saw an angel like this one (Rev. 10:1).

B. Daniel was deeply impacted by this angel (10:7-9).

VI. The Angel's Conflict Related to Daniel's Prayer

A. A mighty angel came in response to Daniel's prayer to give him understanding (10:10-14). Angelic and demonic powers were both at work in the spirit realm to affect the king of Persia. Daniel's prayer with fasting had a significant impact in shifting things in the spirit realm.

B. **Greatly beloved:** The Lord revealed His love to Daniel in a fresh and deep way (10:11, 19). The angel revealed that Daniel was greatly beloved of the Lord. Jesus spoke of the Father loving all who obey Him. He loves the relationship and life choices of all who obey Him (Jn. 14:21).

VII. The Life of Daniel: The Power of a Life Dedicated to God

A. No study on the book of Daniel would be complete without mentioning Daniel's dedication, with emphasis on his prayer life. The effectiveness of his life was impacted by a lifetime of prayer (6:10) and setting his heart to walk in wholeheartedness (1:8) and gain understanding (10:12).

B. Daniel is the only man that was used by God as an example while he was still alive.

Discussion

1. From youth till old, Daniel dedicated his life to Fear God. How do you plan to dedicate your life to God in: prayer, reading the Word, time management, or sharing the truth in your life?
2. Do you believe that there will be an Antichrist? How would you describe his character? (Ex. Daniel 11:36-39)
3. By learning Antichrist's character, are you being alert by your own character? Are there any similar characteristics that you find?
4. John 14:21 mentioned that God loves those who keeps His commands and align their hearts and way of life with Him. Did this verse bring any revelation to you to align your life to God and to live out life that that is loved by God?