The Fourth Vision of Daniel



The final vision of Daniel spans the last three chapters. This vision will give prophecies in regards to the Persian Empire; and in greater detail, that of the **Greek Empire.**



The vision begins with a very **lengthy introduction (10:1 –** 11:1). Daniel has a vision of a heavenly man who is engaged in a cosmic battle against forces of evil.



The heavenly man, who is the Messiah, Jesus, the Son of God, then reveals to Daniel in **11:2 – 12:4, events that are to** take place concerning future **Persian and Greek kings.**



At the end of the Messiah's prophecy, He gives Daniel an eschatological revelation that is the clearest OT reference to the bodily resurrection of the dead; both the believer and the unbeliever.





Lastly, 12:5-13, is the epilogue.

This section also anticipates the end of Daniel's prophetic ministry and physical life.



Three Major Themes

- God's foreknowledge of history as given via visions, dreams, and His inspired prophets;
- 2. God governs world events in order to protect and save His people;
- **3.** Spiritual Warfare, which is exclusive to Chapters 10-12.



The Historical Context

Daniel clearly reveals that he received this final vision in the third year of Cyrus the Great (a.k.a. Darius the Mede). As a matter of fact, in v.4, Daniel give us the exact date: "...the twenty-fourth day of the first month..." that is, 24 Nisan or April 23, 536 **BC!** Let's read Ezra 3:8!



<u>The Outline</u>

- I. Introduction: The Divine Man (10:1-11:1)
- **Events from the "Book of Truth" (11:2-12:4)**
 - A. 11:2 Three kings for Persia/the fourth stirs up Greece.
 - B. 11:3-4: A warrior king from Greece will have his kingdom divided.
 - C. 11:5-35 The history of the kings of the north and of the south.
 - D. 11:36-12:4 Time of the end/St. Michael.
- **III.** Epilogue: Final explanation of the "time of the end."



(V.1) The historical context has already been discussed. Daniel clearly identifies himself, even using his Babylonian name.

Daniel also refers to the content that is being revealed to him as a "divine message." We will soon discover Who is speaking this message!



(Vv. 2-3) Daniel's fasting and mourning was clearly due to his concern for Jerusalem and the returning exiles.

He hasn't eaten any expensive food or has he "anointed" himself, i.e., he has not washed or groomed himself for three weeks!



(Vv. 4-6) Daniel tells us the location of the vision. It's by the banks of the Tigris River. He doesn't tell why he is there; though it may have been due to official business or the king's business.



(Vv. 4-6) Da TURKEY It's by the ba Erbil Mosul Kirkuk SYRIA tell why he is Sulavmaniyah IRAC IRAN Samarra to official bu BAGHDAD Ar Rutba Ramadi Karbala Kut Naja Nasiriyah Basra SAUDI Umm Qasr ARABIA RUWAI

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The Divine Man: A Comparison

Daniel 10:5-6	Ezekiel 1:4–28	Revelation 1:13-16
Like a man, Son of Man	Like a man	Like a Son of Man
Clothed in linen	No ref. to clothing	Clothed: long robe
A gold belt (waist)	Gleaming medal (waist)	A gold belt (chest)
Body like jasper	Appearance: fire/medal	No ref. to body
Face like lightning	Flashes of lightning	Face: like the sun
Eyes: burning torches	Presence like fire	Eyes: flames of fire
Arms/Feet: bronze	Glowing medal	Feet: polished bronze
Voice like an army	Wings of the Cherubim like an army	Voice like many waters



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The Divine Man Appears

(Vv. 7-11) Daniel's reaction is similar to his reaction in Daniel 8. The appearance of the Divine Man is more splendorous and overwhelming that the appearance of Gabriel in Ch. 8.

Daniel is "highly prized" due to his piety and faith and because of this the Messiah was sent to him (cf. v.11).



(Vv. 12-14) Daniel is lifted up on his hands and knees. He is told to "mark the words" and to stand in this place for a further message and he trembles. The dazzling One refers to Daniel as "Beloved" – Daniel is special to God. As Daniel rises, we hear the beginning of the message; it begins with a note of reassurance. Daniel is told that because of his faithfulness, God was going to answer his prayer.



(Vv. 12-14) The Messiah tells Daniel that *"the prince of the kingdom of Persia"* had delayed Him for 2l days. This prince is a fallen angel, a demon of Satan, who was sent to contend with our Lord!

Clearly, this demon is the force of evil behind the Persian Empire--the struggle between the forces of good and of evil.



(Vv. 12-14) The Messiah then tells Daniel that He was assisted by the angel Michael during this time of spiritual warfare! The presence and work of the Messiah and Michael was to prevent the Persians from destroying the remnant of God's people.



(Vv. 12-14) The Divine Man is the Lord God Sabaoth, the Lord of Host. Scripture is replete with the Lord of Host going into battle for His people (Ex. 32, 34; Jos. 5; Rev. 12:7-11).



The Divine Man Strengthens Daniel Again

(Vv. 15-19) The Messiah's Word was so overwhelming that Daniel fell to the ground, so the Lord touched him, again, to strengthen him.

Daniel now realizes that the Man standing before him is the Son of Man (cf. 7:13-14).

The Messiah speaks word of comfort and peace to Daniel.



The Messiah tells Daniel that He will return to fight against the "prince of Persia" and then the "prince of Greece" will come!

He is engaged in a cosmic battle that raged all through the OT era, then intensified against The Christ during His ministry.



The spiritual warfare continues even today, since in the Church Age, Satan will continue to destroy the followers of Jesus (e.g., 1 Thess. 2:18; 1 Pet. 5:8; and Rev. 12:13 – 13:18).

Even so, we know that our Lord's conquest on the cross has secured eventual and eternal victory for all believers (Rom. 16:20).



Before He departs, He will tell Daniel what is contained in the "Book of Truth!" This is the only mention of this book in Holy Scripture. As we will study, the Book of Truth contains the true course of history as record by God!

This truth is also found in and by our Lord Jesus as recorded in Jn 1:14, 17; 8:32, 40; 14:6; 18:37.



Finally, in 11:1, the Messiah reveals that His support is from Michael (and the heavenly hosts), and it's sufficient (10:21). Michael is called "your prince," which signifies that he is the angel who is assigned the defense of God's people, which will be confirmed in 12:1. And that He stood up to strengthen and protect Michael in battle in 539 BC (first year of Darius/Cyrus). Therefore, the spiritual battle has been raging for three years!





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