

“STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS”

Daniel 10:1-11:1

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INTRODUCTION

[Note that chapters 10-12 are a unity.]

Do you ever get confused about events in your life? Do you ever get discouraged about events in your life?

Do you ever become weak—without strength to stand?

Then, shake hands with Daniel!

Remember Daniel’s prayer of chapter 9 and the revelation about Judah’s return from captivity? Yet, Daniel stays in Babylon. Is he unfaithful? Is this a moral failure on his part?

Daniel was now about 84 years old. This event occurred about two years after the return of the exiles—now the 3rd year of Cyrus. Cf. the name here “Belteshazzar”—this is the same Daniel!

Here is Daniel praying and fasting again! For, the lot of God’s people was poor: suffering, persecution, Samaritan influence in the Persian court, etc. See Ezra 4.

Why was all of this happening? Daniel was concerned!

Yet, God’s program was on schedule: Rom. 8:28.

In response to Daniel’s concern, God shows him what will happen to his people in **the latter days**—v. 14.

The purpose of this revelation then was:

- 1) To give Daniel understanding. [But first]
- 2) To give Daniel strength.

God wants us to understand too. This is His plan and program.

You must find strength in knowing what God’s plan is for the future and live in hope and confidence!

I. DANIEL’S PRAYER

When we don’t understand, go to the source (v. 12). Note: “set your heart on understanding”

Notice Daniel’s esteem in God’s eyes—vv. 11, 19.

So, you who are in Christ a person of “esteem” He wants to approach Him!

Fear not! (vv. 12, 19)

- A. Three Weeks’ Mourning (v. 2): Nisan 3-24: included the Passover (v. 4; these are “weeks” of days!)
- B. Three weeks Fasting (v. 3)
 - Avoided “desirable food”; cf. with “man of desirability.”
 - All this was a humbling of himself before God (v. 12)
 - Notice “your servant” and “my lord”—v. 17 and “how can I talk with such as you?”

- Daniel believed in the efficacy of prayer; he prayed as though everything depended upon it!
- He made his body feel like his soul felt.

II. DANIEL'S PROBLEM

See vv. 16-17: I am SO WEAK. How can I talk with you?

- Loss of strength (v. 8, 16d, 17b)
 - In this Daniel recognizes his dependency.
 - He acknowledges his unworthiness.
 - He shows his lack of self-sufficiency.
 - As Paul says later, "**When I am weak, then I am strong.**"
- Loss of Color and Vigor (v. 8)
 - A deathly paleness and physical calamity; a loss of vitality
 - Serious health problems could result—**especially to an 84 year old man!**
 - This is true even of a Spiritual giant like Daniel!
- Fainted—feel into a deep sleep on his face, with his face to the ground (v. 9) *Here we see man's frailty in the presence of God's great holiness.*
- Trembles (v. 11) as he stands up.
- Eyes turned downward (v. 15)
- Speechless (v. 15)
- Anguish and great pains—expression used for a woman in childbirth (16)
- Out of breath (v. 17)

Wow! What a situation Daniel finds himself in! What is to happen? God has a solution—as always!

III. GOD'S ANSWER

Notice the promptness of God's answer: as soon as Daniel's words were heard, the messenger was sent (v. 12). *God wants us to understand* (v. 11).

- He gives Understanding of the Truth (v. 1—two-fold emphasis)
 - "Understood" message and vision.
 - "The word" or "message" is the true message; cf. "the writing of truth"
 - This message concerns the lives of *men, nations, and kingdoms.*
 - By Vision (10:1, 5-9)
 - The appearance of this **divine person** shows what the later message (ch. 11-12) shows: Israel's troubles and deliverance.
 - Cf. the vision of Ezek. 1 and that of Revelation 1.
 - Here we see the righteous, holy, judge of the nations!
 - But, He is also the chastiser of Israel.
 - Compare his description (vv. 5-6) with Rev. 1.
 - Others did not see the vision (v. 7), yet a great dread came upon them and they ran away to hide themselves; cf. Acts 9.
 - By Message (chapters 11-12)

This message shows Israel's relation to the nations and her future spiritual conflicts.

B. He Gives Strength—Restored in stages, just as it was lost by Daniel.

Note that the “angel” who now deals with Daniel is different than the Person Daniel saw in the vision of vv. 5-9.

1. Rouses Daniel to his hands and knees (10—by the hand of the angel).
2. Orders Daniel to stand upright (11—by the power of his word; note that this being is inferior to God, for he “has been sent” to Daniel in order to help him).
3. Enables Daniel to speak—touches his lips (v. 16—note that the angel “resembles a human being” in form of appearance).
4. Strengthens him again by touching him (v. 18)
 - a. Mental
 - No fear (v. 19)
 - Peace
 - Be strong—two times “Take courage and be courageous”
 - b. Physical—Daniel received strength (twice again—v. 19)

Compare the Garden of Gethsemane and the angelic help for our Lord.

Once strengthened Daniel says: “Speak Lord [for thy servant hears] for you have strengthened me.”

CONCLUSION

God knows the future!

He has the “writing of truth” (v. 21) for our lives and for the world’s nations and empires!

It is true.

There is great conflict (v. 1) and suffering; also, tremendous spiritual conflict as we will see next message.

Yet, God has all in control!

Do we understand (v. 20)? He has a vision for the “days ahead” and “the latter days” (v. 14).

He rules the world’s empires (vv. 13b, 20—next message).

We need to see His whole plan, and how we fit into it!

FROM HIM WE CAN GET UNDERSTANDING AND STRENGTH.

We are so weak and cannot endure the pressures and suffering.

Daniel’s experience is that of his people—cast down, no strength, pained, near death.

But, in stages He strengthens us, and helps us stand on our feet and understand His purpose for us!

You must find strength in knowing what God’s plan is for the future and live in hope and confidence!