

- The last three chapters of Daniel (10, 11 and 12) can be seen as **one vision**. Chapter 10 acts as a sort of introduction to rest of the vision in 11 and 12. Chapter 10 is Daniel's "preparation" to receive the remainder of the vision.
- The visions contained in these chapters are some of the more unique of all Daniel's visions. It gives us a glimpse into the spirit world, and spiritual warfare. The passages here have been considered "eerie" by some, as they contain "behind the scenes" looks at a world that we cannot see, at the moment, but nonetheless exists. Some believe that the spiritual world is even more real than our physical world.
- These "unseen" things in the spiritual world are intended to help us understand not only the plan of God for Daniel's people, but also **the reality of opposition and the wealth of activity in this realm**. In our physical world we continue to make scientific discoveries that ultimately reveal we don't know much about our universe, especially this unseen but real world around us. We can't keep up with all the discoveries, yet we seem no closer to really understanding the spiritual world. Even though the book of Daniel was written some 2500 years ago, God is still revealing more and more about Himself and His plan, how He works, and the importance and place of His prophetic time clock that continues to tick away. In this chapter God reveals principles about the unseen world that are important for us to know.
- This chapter is about **strengthening Daniel to "see" these things and have understanding of them**. It is also about the very real and present opposition to God and His plans and ways.
- Many believe that these last three chapters contain the most precise and specific prophecies in scripture, and as such, are the most difficult to understand. However, if these are taken in order, and studied piece by piece, they are easy to decipher and overwhelming evidence of a Sovereign God who inhabits eternity.
- **This vision fills in a lot of detail** about the preceding visions (chapters 11 and 12). While all it was prophetic when it was given, at the present time much has been fulfilled and has already been verified by historical record. There is also a great deal that is still prophetic—to be fulfilled in the last days. In this last vision, the line between what has been fulfilled and what is yet to be fulfilled is not always clear. We have already seen the principle of double reference or double fulfillment, which refers to predictions that have a near and local fulfillment and also have a distant fulfillment. The fulfillment in the immediate future gives us the key to the far future fulfillment. For example, the historical fulfillment in Antiochus Epiphanes (in chapter 8) gives us a picture of the future fulfillment that will be in the Antichrist. The concept of "double fulfillment" will be important as we look at these last chapters. Keep this in mind.



¹*In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.*

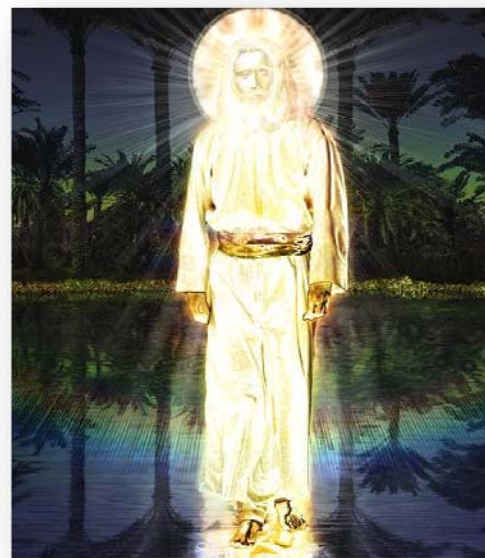
- *“...the third year of Cyrus king of Persia ...”* Darius the Mede first reigned over the Persian empire after the fall of the Babylonian empire. After Darius, Cyrus reigned. This final vision given to Daniel was **in the third year of Cyrus**. It takes up chapters 10–12. This would be about four-five years after the vision of the Seventy Weeks (chapter 9).
- *“...the appointed time was long...”* The timing of all these visions is what Daniel had difficulty with. He originally could not justify the visions of chapters 7 and 8 with his dream for Messiah to come to Jerusalem and God’s glory to be seen from there. Daniel needs to understand that these visions will play out over a very long extended period of time. All the empires he saw will come and go throughout the history of this planet. The angels are helping Daniel to understand this, and in turn, we are understanding also.
- *“...he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision ...”* Finally, Daniel understands. This verse indicates that the final fulfillment of what was shown to Daniel was in the distant future, at least for Daniel. Unlike the other visions, he was given complete understanding here. The visions presented in chapters 10-12 are adding detail to what has already been given in chapters 7, 8 and 9. And right up front, it is told that Daniel had understanding.
- Daniel is probably retired now from active service in the Persian empire, evidently having **served through the first year of Cyrus**. Remember the last verse of chapter 1: *“Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.”* Daniel **continued in service to the various kings**, first Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonians, then Darius of the Medes and Cyrus of the Persians until the first year of King Cyrus. This vision is occurring in the third year of Cyrus.

²*In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.*

- *“In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks ...”* The cause of Daniel’s mourning is not **told**, but we can speculate. It was the 3rd year of Cyrus’ reign, and in his first year he had made the decree that permitted Israel to return to her land. **Two full years had passed and only a few had returned to the land of Israel** under Zerubbabel. (Less than a total of 50,000 returned of the millions of Jews in Persia at this time) This is before the group under Ezra and the group under Nehemiah had returned. This was a difficult time for Daniel. It **grieved Daniel**, now past 90, to see that his people did not want to return to their homeland. (Daniel himself was probably too old to make the trip).
- **Another reason he might be mourning** is that the people who did go back were **having a very difficult time**. I’m sure that this move back to Israel was not what Daniel had hoped or thought it would be. He was very disappointed that the people of God didn’t have more passion for being in the Promised Land, and did not seem to have the desire for God’s glory to return there as he did.
- *“I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth,...”* **This appears to be a partial fast**. Daniel denied himself the “pleasant” foods, meat and wine, but this was not a total food-free fast. Some people should not fast due to health reasons. At Daniel’s age, perhaps this was the case with him. Whatever the reasons, he was in sorrow before God, wanting to know what was happening and why. His attention was on God, rather than on food. He ate to survive, but not enjoy. There are many levels of fasting during prayer. He has now spent three weeks in this semi-fasting mode, mourning for his people, seeking God’s face, direction and wisdom.

⁴Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, ⁵I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! ⁶His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

- **“...the twenty-fourth day of the first month ...”** There is a clue here about the timing of Daniel’s fast and this vision. The first month is the month of Nisan, which God had ordained as the first month (previously it was the month of Tishri. Now the Jews have two calendars – one the civil year which begins in Tishri with Rosh HaShanah, which literally means “head of the year” and the spiritual calendar, beginning with Nisan). This month holds all three of the Spring feasts, beginning with Passover on the 14th, Feast of Unleavened Bread on the 15th, and Firstfruits on the first Sunday following Passover. Most likely Daniel’s revelation here occurred shortly after Firstfruits. That may also be a clue to the identity of the “certain man” seen by Daniel here – more on that in a minute.
- **Daniel is recording very specific dates.** He is recording the times through the reigns of the kings, and even specific dates. This is a problem for late daters, but they choose to ignore it! These specific dates give more credence to the fact that it is Daniel the captive in Babylon writing this, and not some scholar or story teller in the 2nd century BC as some would like us to believe. But even the late daters cannot overcome the fact that this book was in black and white in the Septuagint by about 270 BC, AND the prophecy in the previous chapter regarding the coming of Messiah is well AFTER the wishful thinking date of the 2nd century BC. When all the data is evaluated, there really is no getting around the fact that this incredible book was written over 500 years before Christ, several hundred years before the Greek and Roman empires which are so accurately predicted, and thousands of years before the end times, which we are perhaps beginning to see fulfilled now. Late daters do not want to acknowledge that God spoke in this manner to His prophets, and that the unfolding of the events foretold is miraculous. This kind of thinking is worldly and dangerous, as even many Christians today have adopted this thought (that we can only believe certain parts of the Bible and that it is not the infallible word of God). Why believe the Bible at all, if we don’t believe in a miracle working, supernatural God?
- **“I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen ...”** Daniel is not sleeping here. He records where he is, and the fact that there were others with him. But the vision for Daniel alone begins here. He sees an amazing spiritual being. He sees a “certain man.” The big question for this chapter is **“Who is that ‘certain man’?”**
- **This vision should sound very familiar.** It is remarkably similar to another in the book of Revelation – a vision that appeared to the only other apocalyptic writer in the Bible, the apostle John: *“I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”* (Revelation 1:12-18)



- **Because of the similarity to that vision in Revelation given to John**, many people believe that Daniel is also being blessed with a visit by the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ – or what we call a Theophany, or more precisely in this case, a Christophany (an appearance of Christ, the Messiah, incarnate). We have a very important and impressive visitor here, one whose appearance bears a strong resemblance to the risen Jesus in Revelation 1. ***But is he Jesus?*** There is a great deal of speculation and differing opinions about this.
- Some speculate that what Daniel saw was not a PRE-incarnate vision of Jesus, but a **POST-incarnate vision of Jesus in His glory** (the same one John saw). Remember, **God is not subject to our timeline**. He is above it all, able to enter history at any point He desires. (the helicopter over the parade perspective) Is this “certain man” Jesus? **Is this visitor the same one that strengthened Daniel** a bit later? There is a verse later which casts doubt on this. We will get to this a little more a bit later.
- An interesting **comparison of this vision, and John’s in Revelation 1:**

Daniel 10	Revelation 1
A “certain man”	One like the Son of Man (incarnate, human like)
Clothed in linen	Clothed with a garment down to the feet
Waist girded with gold of Uphaz	Girded about the chest with a golden band
Body like beryl (<i>possible chrysolite? Unknown stone, most likely very bright</i>)	Head and hair white like wool, as white as snow
Face like lightning	His countenance (face) was like the sun shining in its strength
Eyes like torches of fire	Eyes like a flame of fire
Arms and feet like burnished bronze	Feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace
Sound of his words like the voice of a multitude	His voice as the sound of many waters

Sounds like Jesus, doesn’t it?

⁷And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

- This episode **is similar to that which Paul experienced as Saul**, on the road to Damascus, when Jesus Himself, clearly identified, appeared to the completely and passionately Jewish Saul, converting him to the apostle Paul. This is from Acts 22:6-9: *“About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’ ‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked. ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied. My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.”* In that event, Paul heard the voice of Jesus, but his companions saw a bright light and didn’t understand the voice, which was directed at Paul.
- This vision is for Daniel only. The friends with Daniel didn’t see or hear anything, but they knew something was happening. Perhaps the hairs on their arms stood at attention! You cannot be exposed to the supernatural spiritual dimension without some reaction. And All of a sudden **they had a terrible urge to get out of there!** This is one of those similarities about an appearance by Jesus that has some thinking again that this amazing messenger is indeed Jesus. We’ll let you make up your own mind about that as we look closer at it in a moment.

⁸Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. ⁹Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

- Now Daniel is alone with the incredible almost unbearable vision. Daniel's response to this appearance is similar to John's in Revelation chapter 1. We have seen repeatedly in scripture that when someone is given a vision from God either as a Theophany or merely in a dream, the response is draining. And if this is a Theophany (a vision of God in the flesh) all of a sudden we are nothing, we are incredibly corrupt, in the presence of a pure God. It is a physically and spiritually humbling experience. Daniel is also apparently in such a state that he can hear words, but he is not completely conscious.

¹⁰Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. ¹¹And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. ¹²Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴"Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

- *"...which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands..."* Daniel seems to be trying to get up here. He's on his hands and knees when all of a sudden a hand touches him. This caused him to tremble further. He is told to understand what he will hear, and to stand up for an important message has been sent to him.
- *"O Daniel, man greatly beloved..."* Once again Daniel is called "beloved." He and John, the New Testament revelator, are in good company.
- *"Suddenly, a hand touched me ..."* Now **we need to look carefully at this hand that touched Daniel.** In all the discussions about whether or not the startling appearance of the impressive visitor we see in the first verses is Jesus or an angel, **the conclusion seems to hinge on our interpretation of verse 10.** Daniel senses a hand touching him, but he does not identify the hand as from the amazing person he has just seen. He doesn't say "HIS" hand touched me. This may be unimportant, or it may be the clue to identifying this amazing individual in the first verses. Some read this as the hand of the spectacular visitor, while others say that the first vision has left (or is not the same as the one now), and Daniel is now visited by another angel.
- *"Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words."* The individual speaking here tells Daniel not to be afraid (he was trembling with fear!), and to humble himself before God (perhaps in contrast to humbling himself before this speaker). The speaker says he has come in response to Daniel's prayer. It's time to listen, and not tremble.
- *"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days..."* If we determine that this voice now is indeed the first one Daniel saw, then this **verse 13 would belie the fact that this is Jesus.** Jesus would not have been delayed by any spiritual power – He is omniscient, all powerful – the creator Himself. Nothing on earth or in heaven could detain Him if He did not wish it so. That is why many do not think the first visitor to Daniel is Jesus. However, if it is now an angel and the first has disappeared from Daniel's sight at the moment, then we can assume and actually know by the description, that the first visitor was Jesus Himself.

- It would make sense that the other Biblical revelator or apocalyptic writer would also receive such a Christophany as did John in Revelation chapter 1. It seems more appropriate, however, that the voice speaking now belongs to a heavenly messenger, an angel, sent to answer Daniel's prayers.
- Remember Daniel began **praying and semi-fasting three weeks earlier**. This visitor says he was delayed for 3 weeks by evil forces.
- So, regarding the identity of the first unearthly impressive visitor to Daniel, the **description given and the events surrounding His visit seem to indicate that it is Jesus**. However, verse 13 would indicate otherwise UNLESS Jesus has gone, and now sent another angel to deliver the message and strengthen Daniel. The construction of the verses in Hebrew gives us such an indication and opening for this interpretation. Just understand that Jesus would never be detained, unless He Himself willed it. He was detained on the cross, only because He loved us and willed His own death for our salvation. That is a very important fact for us to understand.
- **Another clue to the first visitor's identity is the phrase in verse 4 "A certain man..."** In the New Testament when Jesus spoke in parables, He often used the phrase "a certain man." For example, in Luke 14:16-17, Jesus tells the story about a "certain man:" *"Jesus replied: A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'"* In those instances where the phrase a "certain man" is used, such as this one or the one about a certain man who owned a vineyard, the identity of the certain man is God. This "certain man" who appeared to Daniel may be the same one. Just an interestingly little tidbit - something to think about!
- ***"...the prince of the kingdom of Persia..."*** So, **who is this prince of Persia?** No earthly or human prince could do such a thing. We are not to understand this "prince" as Cyrus or any other earthly ruler. The conflict here is a spiritual one. The world of the demonic is very active in world governments – we know that just from today's headlines. This evidently was a member of the enemy's minions, one of the demons. We know that God has His angels organized, and apparently the enemy also has his demons organized like an army. The "prince of the kingdom of Persia" refers to an evil spirit whose assigned purpose was to frustrate the purposes of God in the lives of the rulers in this region. This chapter gives us an insight into the "spiritual warfare" of the world unseen to us.
- ***"...and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia."*** The angelic messenger to Daniel was assisted in this struggle by Michael, a prince among the angels of God. He is called a "chief prince." Michael always seems to be involved in battle, warfare of some sort. We also see him in Revelation chapter 12. These verses may also inform us that God has His heavenly hosts doing battle all over the world, apparently under specific assignment in various areas. Michael, among other duties, is apparently assigned to guard over the people of Israel. Later in this chapter he is called "your" Michael. In chapter 12 we hear *"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people;..."* (12:1)
- **There is spiritual warfare going on here**, about which we on earth know very little (but have been told in God's Word of its existence), and a small glimpse is given us in this chapter. This should remind us of verses by Paul in Ephesians 6:12-13: *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."*



- **We should also consider something else in our understanding of this chapter.** This angel was delayed for three weeks because of a battle being waged in the spiritual realm. How often are our prayers delayed for the same reason? Perhaps we should be more specific in how and what we pray – to “agonize” as scripture says – in prayer. If there are delays, pray even more, with greater authority and in greater number. We are equipped for this battle as well with the Name of Jesus, and with partners in prayer. We need to be more conscious of the fact that we are engaged in spiritual warfare, and our prayers need to come from that perspective and with great intensity. Daniel knew this. Flowery off-handed prayers won’t cut it. This is war!
- **This brings up a question: Why would the way be blocked for this messenger?** Daniel is going to be given information about the kingdom of Persia and about the kingdom of Greece—we will see that when we get to the next chapter. Satan didn’t want that kind of information to get out. It was secret information that he didn’t want released to the human family. But God wanted the information to be given to Daniel, and to all who would read these verses in the coming centuries and millennia. They authenticate God and His Word, something the enemy tries to prevent.
- ***“Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.”*** This is the key that opens the door to the understanding of the remainder of the Book of Daniel. There are three basic thoughts that characterize this closing vision, according to this verse.
 - 1) The vision concerns ***“your people.”*** It is very clear this prophecy is about Israel. Daniel’s people are the Jewish people. This is not the church, or anyone else. This cannot be accurately interpreted in any other way.
 - 2) It will be accomplished ***“in the latter days.”*** This places the final fulfillment in the period of the Seventieth Week, which is the time of the Great Tribulation period. The “latter days” places it at the end of that period. The message he brought concerned **what will happen to your people in the latter days.** The content of this prophecy is found in Daniel 11. The message to be transmitted would enlighten Daniel concerning the future of his own people (the Jews) in the last days, and answer many questions he still had regarding those visions we saw in chapters 7 and 8. This information would also serve to show the Jews of coming generations what they could expect. Those who knew the Word would be expecting the opposition. This revelation also serves us today as warnings of what is yet to come.
 - 3) ***“...the vision refers to many days yet to come.”*** This emphasizes the fact that a long period of time is involved—not only in fulfillment—but before the vision will be finalized.
- We can consider that chapters 11 and 12 (*the real meat of prophecy of this vision, this chapter is preparation only*) contain two parts of one vision: the **historical** (it was prophetic when it was given, but now has been fulfilled) and the **prophecy yet to be fulfilled** – remember the concept of double reference, or double fulfillment. When given to Daniel, it was all in the future. We are looking at this prophecy with an amazing vantage point. Over 2500 years of history is behind us, and the Holy Spirit has come to guide our understanding. Much of what Daniel will be told has already been precisely fulfilled. And some is yet in the future.

¹⁵*When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.*
¹⁶*And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, “My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.”*¹⁷*“For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.”*

- *“When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless....”* Daniel is stunned by what he has heard, and the real message hasn’t even begun yet. None of us would have fared better. He is staring at the ground and cannot speak. Just being in the presence of such beings would flatten most of us.
 - *“And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me,...”* Now this visitor touches his lips and Daniel is able to talk again. Notice the words *“having the likeness of the sons of men...”* This would either indicate that the original visitor, perhaps the Messiah Himself, has touched him (instead of the angel speaking), or that Daniel is merely describing what this current visitor looked like. In other words, he appeared human to Daniel, like a man. The way the word “suddenly” is interjected here might indicate the previous being touched him. The only real evidence we have is in verse 10, which would indicate that the angel speaking to Daniel was not Jesus, but an angel subject to heavenly delays and battles. It is possible that the first amazing visitor has stepped back into the picture to touch Daniel at this point.
 - This incident is **very similar to one that Isaiah experienced in Isaiah 6**. He was literally undone by his vision of the throne room of God, realizing that he was a sinner before an awesome holy God. One of the angels there, identified as a “seraph,” touched Isaiah’s lips: *“Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”* (Isaiah 6:6-7) It wasn’t the “live coal” that cleansed Isaiah’s sin, but the blood of the sacrifice from the altar, by the grace of God.
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- *“...saying to him who stood before me, “My lord ...”* His address of **“my lord”** is not to be interpreted as certain acknowledgement that this one standing before him now is THE LORD. The Hebrew is clear that this is a form of polite address, like calling him SIR, not an acknowledgement of the divinity of the visitor. This angel that speaks with Daniel at this time is most likely NOT the risen Savior he apparently saw earlier.
 - *“...because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength...”* The earlier encounter of what may be the glorified Savior has left **Daniel totally sapped of everything**. Little by little the angel restores and strengthens Daniel so he will be able to receive the message God has for him. From Daniel’s description and his actions, he has run full force into the spiritual dimension and it has knocked him down and taken his breath away. If it has had this effect on Daniel, a man completely and utterly devoted to God and totally aware of spiritual things, **imagine what would happen to us in this place!**
 - Part of the **reason for his weakened state** and mourning are the visions he received earlier – the ones in chapters 7 and 8 and the visitation by Gabriel in chapter 9. These were disturbing to Daniel. And this may also be a reason he was in mourning. He didn’t fully understand them, and their content was **not good news for Israel**. Daniel was hoping that God’s glory would be re-established in Jerusalem, the Messiah would come, and God’s reputation among the nations would be restored. The visions indicated this would not happen, at least not in the timing Daniel hoped. He was praying to understand, and with a 21-day fast was already somewhat weakened. But it was that breathless encounter with our glorified Lord that totally did him in! The same thing happened to John in Revelation 1. **When we see him face to face**, we will be restored, incorruptible and with new resurrection bodies. That will make all the difference!

- *“For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.”* Daniel is saying that he has no strength left to talk with this messenger. He has nothing left in him to sustain him. In other words, he can’t have another such vision, angelic conversation, or more revelations right now. Without intervention here, Daniel will crumble. He will get that intervention and strengthening in a moment.

¹⁸Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

- It would seem that this angel has appeared in human form. This is another clue that the one speaking to him now is not the vision of the glorious risen Christ he saw earlier.
- Once again, Daniel is reassured of his status in the heavenlies. He is called **“greatly beloved”** once again. What a testimony to the greatness of Daniel, and why he should be studied as a role model for serious believers. Now Daniel receives the strength he needs to experience yet another very important message from God.
- **It is interesting that Daniel is touched three times by this angelic visitor.** The first touch strengthened him, but left him trembling. The second touch allowed him to speak, and the third touch strengthened him even more so he could now hear and understand the important message.
- One of the universal aspects of encountering heavenly beings is **the overwhelming awe of it**. In all cases, the people who experience such encounters are left in a weakened and stunned state. When we are face to face with the divine, we are also overwhelmed with the certainty of our own fallibility, our own sinful nature as opposed to a completely holy God. Whatever strength we thought we had disappears and it is only by the grace and touch of the divine visitor that any of these mortals has been able to withstand their presence. So much more so when they have been in the presence of the glorified Savior. Whatever wisdom, knowledge, power, strength or position a person thought he had vaporizes instantly in the moment of encounter with God’s forces, or God Himself in incarnate form. The only source of strength at those moments comes from Him, not from within. Something to remember! We cannot stand in the presence of an awesome, terrible and dreadful as some versions say, completely holy God. Only one thing gives us that privilege – the atoning blood of Jesus.
- **There is been a lot of interest in angels**, and lot of books written by people with great imaginations and false doctrines. We know that angels are real, and here Daniel meets up with one and is told about spiritual warfare in the heavenlies, and here on earth. God has told us about angels in His word, but not to any great detail. We are to be aware of them and understand their purpose, but not worship or dwell on them. As the world seeks to glamorize or change the truth about angels or any other spiritual subject, it is critical for us to not be deceived, and remember that scripture is our standard for all knowledge and truth.
- *“Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”* Before this moment, Daniel was not ready to receive the message that was sent to him. He couldn’t because he had no more strength to endure such an encounter and remember such a message. But now, he is ready. He has been strengthened. He gives the angel the “go-ahead” to continue. Interesting it has taken 19 verses in this chapter to get to this point. Perhaps there is a message here for us, as well. Perhaps it is that we must be strengthened by God to receive His truth and understand it. We should be seeking that strength, which is only found in serious prayer, perhaps fasting as in Daniel’s case, and a heart to seek God.

²⁰Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.”²¹“But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.

- **“Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you?”** This heavenly being **asked Daniel a question, but he didn’t wait for an answer.** He had already given the answer: he had come to explain what will happen to the Jews in the future.
- **“And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia;...”** He told Daniel that he must soon return to fight against the prince of Persia. He had to get back to the battle that was going on. Apparently the messenger was fighting this battle with Michael, the archangel who was assigned to protect Israel.
- He had appeared to Daniel for the express purpose of delivering a message, but he needed to return to the spiritual realm soon because there was a spiritual war going on that required his presence, specifically, a battle over the current world empire, Persia.
- **“...and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come....”** The prince of Persia needed to be opposed, but then another being that represents Greece will come—another demonic principality. We are moving down again from the head of gold to the arms and chest of silver, and then to the belly and thighs of brass – the statue that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his vision in chapter 2, which equates to the lion, the bear and panther of chapter 7. This little verse gives us a very helpful clue to the contents of the actual vision. Once again we are speaking of the history of world powers, those which will rule over Daniel’s people.
- **“But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth...”** Noted means “recorded or registered.” In other words, Daniel will be given insight as to what God has recorded as His Truth – what His almighty plan for our reunion with Him is. The plan was laid out from the beginning of time, and it must and will be fulfilled. Everything Daniel hears will be aligned with God’s Word. Some have said that this phrase “scripture [or book] of Truth” actually applies to God’s truth, His plan in general, and not necessary merely the Bible, one expression of that Truth. Jesus was also “the Word.” What Daniel will hear are God’s plans, the Truth, for his people the Jews.



▪ **COMMENTARY: God’s Word will never fail nor be destroyed. All hell cannot discredit or derail the Word of God, regardless of what the modernists, liberals, atheists, free-thinkers, or anyone else may say about the Word of God, regardless of what they write about it, regardless of what they do to it. God has the Scripture of Truth reserved and protected in heaven, and it cannot be destroyed, discredited or prevented from its perfect completion.**

- **The structure and content of this last verse needs some explanation.** The original Bible manuscripts were not written with chapter and verse demarcations. Those were added later. Quite often little mistakes were made by the person adding the verse indicators. Here is one of those. The first verse of chapter 11 actually belongs to the end of chapter 10. The angel is continuing to speak, and there should be no separator like a chapter or verse marking here. Here is how it should read: **“But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince. Also in the first year of Darius, the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)”**

- This is all considered a continuation of the message given by the angelic visitor. The part in parentheses is the angel giving a little “**aside**” **about his part in this spiritual battle**. Not only is he strengthening Daniel, he indicates that he is the one who strengthened Darius when he first took the throne of Babylon, making it the Persian Empire instead of the Babylonian Empire. This chapter should impress on us the fact that although unseen by our human eyes, a very real and very active spiritual realm exists, in which is raging the war for the very salvation of all mankind. Reality is found in that dimension. Our dimension is but a shadow of what is to come.
- This entire chapter has been to show Daniel an amazing unique vision of the glorified Messiah, and then **to strengthen him to receive even more information about God’s plan** for Daniel’s people. It is also to reveal a spiritual realm mostly unknown to us. Chapter 11 provides the most detailed prophecies about both the Persian and Greek Empires, which in our time, have already been completely fulfilled – down to every specific detail (of which there are many!). Some of these leap forward for double fulfillment, to the very end of time and the final world ruler.

