

The Angel and Daniel

In the ensuing dialogue the angel speaks three times; Daniel speaks just twice.

- Daniel is being encouraged. Twice he is told that God loves him greatly (Dan 10:11, 19). Who would not like to hear that from fellow humans—and all the more from God? Twice Daniel is also told not to fear (Dan 10:12, 19). Peace will be with him.

- While being strengthened, he is also affirmed that his intercessory prayer for his people is heard and that it has made and will make a difference (Dan 10:12). It was heard right away and was not put on a waiting list. Therefore, he now can be strong and of good courage (Dan 10:19).

- His understanding will be enlarged (Dan 10:13, 20). He has not only seen the pre-incarnate Jesus but will also know that behind the scenes a great battle is going on that will be won by the supreme Lord. It is not only the Samaritans who cause problems to the Jews returning from exile; there are evil angels engaged in warfare against God and His people.

- So the present issues behind the scenes as well as the future of God's people are revealed to Daniel. Verse 14 is crucial. The kingdoms described in chapter 11 do not reflect all major powers in the history of this earth or even the major political players that still may appear. The focus is not so much on these kingdoms, but rather on the people of God, especially "in the latter days."

Daniel seems to contribute little to the conversation with Gabriel. Why is it important anyway?

- He acknowledges his weakness and his respect for the heavenly being. But this makes all the difference.
- Daniel knows that he is not in charge; God is.
- What is really important is that Daniel wants to listen to the message from God.

Who is Michael?

Twice the angel informs Daniel about Michael. What do we know about Michael?

- Michael came to the help of Gabriel, who was involved in a spiritual battle against the prince of Persia—obviously a fallen angel, if not Satan himself. Michael is involved in a spiritual battle against evil powers in favour of his people. The battle extends also to the heart of the pagan king. Michael is one of the chief princes (Dan 10:13).
- Michael is "your prince" (Dan 10:21), the prince of God's people, who intervenes with the Persian and Greek overlords and by implication with all hostile overlords.
- Daniel 12:1 again calls Michael the great prince of "your people." He will rescue all those "written in the book." There will be a future resurrection (Dan 12:2).
- Michael has fought the dragon, Satan, and gained the victory (Rev 12:7–8; Jude 1:9)
- He is the only one to be called archangel in Scripture (Jude 1:9).
- His name means "Who is like God?"
- Jesus will return with the voice of the archangel (1 Thess 4:16).
- Obviously Jesus is the archangel Michael, as He is the Chief Shepherd (literally "arch shepherd," 1 Pet 5:4).

If this conclusion is correct, then Daniel encounters the pre-incarnate Christ as the Man

Clothed in Linen, but he also hears about His involvement as Michael in the spiritual battle against evil powers.

Result

As other chapters in Daniel have a strong emphasis on the (at this time) still future Messiah, and as Daniel 9 even indicates the time of His public appearance as a human being on earth, so Daniel 10 is all about Jesus.

Application

There are a few lessons for us to learn from Daniel 10:

- Our spiritual life is important. It is dangerous to neglect one's spiritual life. A day without prayer can easily become a lost day. We also need to recover fasting, even if it is a partial fasting. Fasting may go beyond abstaining from food. We may need to abstain, for instance, from excessive work, the preoccupation with material things, the Internet and the constant occupation with mobile phones and other devices, or from the obsession to be reachable at any time and to reach others at any time. We should live our lives in the presence of God instead of being chained to our devices.
- Our dedication to God and the welfare of His people are important. Life is not only about ourselves; it is also about others, including the community of faith. When things go wrong in the church, people today tend to withdraw. Daniel, while suffering, held on and interceded for his people. He did not cut himself off from the fellowship of believers. God heard his prayer, encouraged him, and granted him inner peace.
- While God considers us His beloved children, we also need to love him. A formal religion, a mere adherence to biblical beliefs, and even a strict observance of God's commandments are insufficient if we do not love God and each other.
- Battles behind the scenes continue today. We do not recognize and understand all of them, and full understanding may not even be necessary. But there is someone who knows all things. He cannot be deceived, and His plan cannot be thwarted. Daniel was not able to fight all the battles; he had to leave them to the Lord. It is best for us to leave the battle in Jesus' hand, while we follow Him faithfully with all our heart, soul, and mind. He has already gained the victory, and this victory will fully be realized at His second coming and after the Millennium.
- Therefore, we are not alone when evil powers assault us (Eph 6:10–18). In all temptations, suffering, and persecutions Jesus will be with us as He has promised (Matt 28:20)—even to the end of the world. Those who belong to Michael will also be victorious.

Conclusion

Daniel 10—and we have to repeat this—is all about Jesus, the Man Clothed in Linen and Michael, our Prince. It is all about Him, who has saved us and will save us completely.