

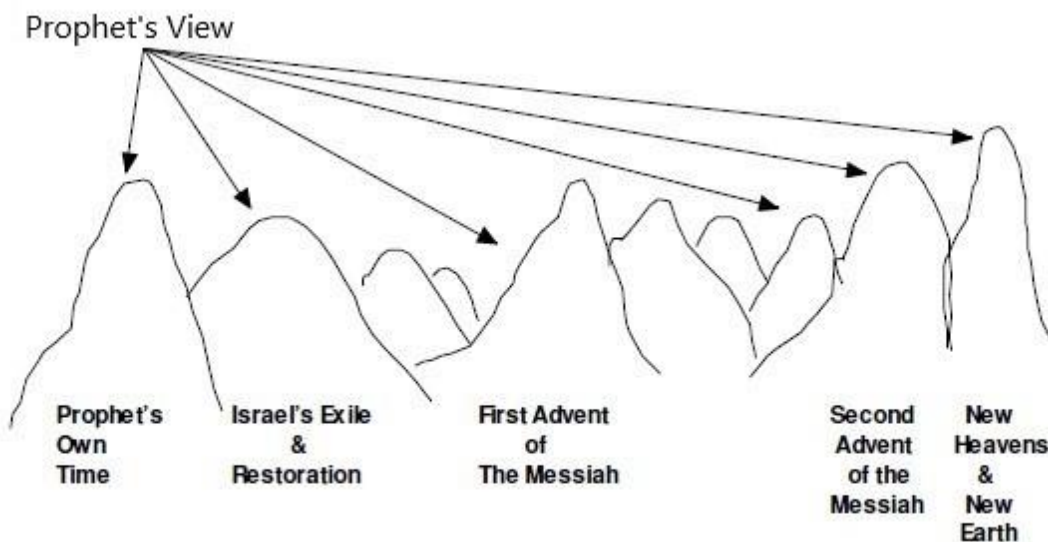
1. Coming Conflict

v. 1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision

Great CONFLICT > Cryptic Expression about DIFFICULTY in Understanding
Meaning of the Conflict – What do these things Mean?

a. Distance

v. 14 “...to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”



Daniel Sees down CORRIDORS of CENTURIES > Peaks but NOT Valleys

PREDICTIVE Prophecy > Future Spoken as FACT > God of the Bible is TRUE

v. 20 “...behold, the prince of Greece will come.”

Daniel TOLD of EMPIRES Centuries BEFORE they even EXISTED

Vision FORESHORTENS History > typical of APOCALYPTIC Writings

Daniel is SEEING more than 200 years into the FUTURE and BEYOND...

b. Destruction

PATTERN of 2nd Half of Book of Daniel > DREAMS and VISIONS

Some UNDERSTOOD – at Least PARTIALLY! – Much Still UNKNOWN

vs. 1,4 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision... On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)

PAGAN Name not been Used Since Chapter 5 – Only Occurrence in 2nd half

Belteshazzar – *“a goddess protect the king”* – SLAVE to IDOL Worshipers

How MUCH MORE he preferred to be Called Daniel – *“God is my Judge”*

He'd SPENT Most of his LIFE There – But he knew DID NOT Belong There!

Even at END of Long & Faithful Life – Still EXILE in IDOLATROUS Empire

>> A couple years after Vision (Ch 9) // The third year of Cyrus, around 535 BC

EZRA: 40 k Hebrews RETURNED to Jerusalem in 1st year of Reign of CYRUS

Quickly REBUILT God's Altar in Temple – Resumed Some Sacrifices

Life Got TOUGH – Neighbors Attacking – Prices Rising – Spiritual Indifference

STOPPED building TEMPLE > Jews in Jerusalem & Babylon DISCOURAGED

Daniel must have had Many HIGHS / LOWS in 70 yrs of EXILE

FIRST Month (v. 4) Remember PASSOVER > Deliverance from EGYPT

LIVED Nearly ENTIRE Life in Babylon – Still called Foreigner by Babylonians

NOT Appreciated by Foreigners he SERVED / or by KINSMEN for Serving

Felt PAIN of God's People Everywhere – In BABYLON & Now BACK HOME

If one member suffers, all suffer together...

1 Corinthians 12.26

We have no trouble believing that incompetence and bungling are endemic to governments...but we don't as easily think of suave and sinister spirits of evil lurking in the corridors of our congresses or shaping the policies of our parliaments...Our brothers and sisters who are daily savaged and ravaged for Christ's sake...are wading through what is far more normal for Christ's servants.

Dale Ralph Davis

c. Demons

vs. 13,20 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia...But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come.”

Like Chapter 8 > Focus on TWO Empires of Persia and Greece

Not ONLY are they LED by BEASTS – They are ANIMATED by DEMONS

Institutions are not abstract entities that exist independently of human involvement, they are made up of people. We are talking about a spiritual battle with real people.

Tremper Longman III

IF Messenger meant to ENCOURAGE Daniel – What took Him SO LONG?

Daniel been AGONIZING for 21 days > NOT Travel Time from Heaven / Earth

How could KING of PERSIA – Hinder or Hold Back PLAN of Living GOD?

There are innumerable satanic assistants who are far more cunning than even the most clever human diplomats; each is assigned to be an evil influence on the people of a country through lies, propaganda, and other means, with the overall goal of stirring up hatred of the church of the Lord.

H. Veldkamp

Evil SPIRIT given Power over Part of God's World to attack God's People

UNSEEN Arena in Air – Harm and Havoc on God's Church

Powers influencing the kingdoms and governments of world for EVIL

HISTORY is not only LONG but also DEEP – HIDDEN War beneath Surface

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down... his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 12.7-9

NOT Told HOW MANY Angels God has Created > Revel. – 10,000 X 10,000

MYRIAD of FALLEN Angels NOW under Sway of SATAN

EVIL ANGEL – Agent of SATAN – Animates Rulers & Powers of Governments

Around the world, church buildings have been set on fire and Christians killed for no known crime except faith in Jesus. Such behavior defies logic. It is satanic, demonic...believers leave revenge to God, he will send reinforcements if the situation demands it, as he did in the case of Daniel. Tokunboh Adeyemo

d. Despair

vs. 2,3 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.

FINAL VISION – LAST WORD about what will Happen in the FUTURE

MAN in his 80's – Fasting for 3 Weeks – Physically & Psychologically Flattened

v. 8 saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength

v. 9 I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground

Some People describe being very CHUMMY when they Meet with CHRIST

One Man told a Pastor “Jesus comes and talks with me when I am shaving”

Pastor asked “Do you Stop Shaving?”

v. 10 a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees

v. 11 I stood up trembling.

v. 15 I turned my face toward the ground and was mute

v. 16 by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength

v. 17 “no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me.”

People describe Meeting Angels or Jesus as FUN, NEAT, or COOL

I CANNOT Judge anyone Else's EXPERIENCE > Quite DIFFERENT in BIBLE

People that Meet God – or even Angel – FALL DOWN LIKE DEAD MEN!

2018 WINDS Down – Maybe NOT been Year you EXPECTED or HOPED For
 PLANS Not Succeed: HEALTH or FINANCE Challenges – Academic Problems
 Christian Life is HARDER Now – More Discouraged, Tempted, Challenged
 JOY and HOPE of the Gospel is NOT BURNING in your Heart any Longer

If that's True for YOU, NEED to SEE What Daniel saw...

2. Conquering Christ

vs. 5,6 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.

Narrator STRESSES the HUMANITY of this SUDDEN VISITOR

GLORIOUS MAN: More RADIANT than Gabriel, GREATER than MICHAEL

GLOBAL Power looks DIFFERENT from God's Perspective

ISRAEL was Little CAPTIVE Nation – God of UNIVERSE was their Defender

Very Close RESEMBLANCE to 2 Pictures of GOD – Ezekiel and Revelation

vs. 5,6 a **man** clothed in linen, with a **belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist**. His body was like beryl, his **face like the appearance of lightning**, his **eyes like flaming torches**, his arms and **legs like the gleam of burnished bronze**, and the **sound of his words like the sound of a multitude**.

Revelation 1.13-16 **one like a son of man**, clothed with a long robe and with a **golden sash around his chest**. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His **eyes were like a flame of fire**, his **feet were like burnished bronze**, refined in a furnace, and his **voice was like the roar of many waters**. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his **face was like the sun shining in full strength**.

NOT like Hollywood movie trying to DAZZLE Reader w/ Special EFFECTS

REVELATION of God > Given to KNOW Him Better, More of His Character

HOLINESS & GLORY – God NOT like Us, Separate, Unique, Wondrous

Even Daniel who has KNOWN God & His Visions – OVERWHELMED by This

EZEKIEL fell to the Ground when OVERWHELMED by the GLORY of God

Throughout the Bible it is the presence of God alone which produces such humbling and shattering experience, and it is God alone who can comfort and strengthen in such a way....Christ came in the flesh in the New Testament, he was there also in the Old Testament times, working amongst the people of God, guiding them, bringing them forgiveness, granting them faith and repentance, appealing to them and chastising them just as he did in the Gospel story, and just as he does in the church today.

Ronald S. Wallace

OmniPOTENT – Devil CREATED NOTHING – Not even HELL

OmniPRESENT – Devil CONFINED to One Place at a Time

Bible names just 6 People Directly TEMPTED by the Devil

Our OWN Fallen Nature does Good Enough Job to Drag Us Away from GOD!

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. Psalm 139.7-10

OmniSCIENT – Devil does Not Know your Thoughts or Plans

Good GUESSER – Humans been doing Same Dumb things for Millenia

The Bible affirms demonic activity...but the Bible nowhere narrates, or instructs us on how, or even whether, we are to engage these high ranking territorial spirits.

Clinton Arnold

Daniel never SPEAKS TO or AGAINST these Princes of Persia or Greece

He never BINDS them in Jesus' Name! > He Lets God take CONTROL

Pastor in Hawaii – Group came seeking TRAVEL Funds to Far Corners Earth
 SPIRITUAL Mapping of DEMONS they could BIND from Different Locations
 Some People were going to be in HELICOPTERS to get in EXACT Position
 Let's get Down on our KNEES right here in My Office – All Power in JESUS

Martin Luther at home one Night – Satan knocks on Door – “Jesus, it's for You!”

Forth today the Conqu'ror goeth,
 who the foe,
 sin and woe,
 death and hell, o'erthroweth.
 God is man, man to deliver;
 His dear Son
 now is one
 with our blood forever.

"All My Heart This Night Rejoices" by Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676

3. Commitment to the Cross

a. Lonely

vs. 7,8 I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. So I was left alone...

Like PAUL on Damascus Road – ONLY Daniel SAW the Vision of the LORD

OTHERS ran and HID – LEAVING Daniel to Face the Lord ALONE

WALKED Alone with God for much of his 70 years of FAITHFUL SERVICE

DOES what ALWAYS Did > Draws NEAR to God, even when seems Far Away

Daniel's prayers succeeded in drawing angels from heaven to earth. These angels formed an invincible heavenly guard around the people of the Lord, with the result that the plans of the enemy failed. In the mighty battle then being fought

between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world, Daniel succeeded in mobilizing the angels as a spiritual air force against the satanic powers of the air.

H. Veldkamp

We RECEIVE these Word of the PROPHETS so COMFORTABLY
 HAPPY COMPANY of FRIENDS here in this WARM ATMOSPHERE
 Sitting at our COMPUTERS with a GREAT Cup of JUST COFFEE

DANIEL gave his LIFE to Get this Word to You – Like all PROPHETS
 DON'T Forget their ORDEAL, ANGUISH, EXHAUSTION for this Word
 TREASURE these Words written just FOR YOU in BLOOD and SPIRIT

Daniel is DRAINED of Speech, Strength, and even Consciousness

THREE X's he NEEDS the Touch of this Heavenly Visitor to Receive Message

When we get DISCOURAGED – Think World is Winning – Remember THIS!

Such a reaction is seen several times in Scripture and is a valuable reminder of the majesty of our God and the amazing condescension of the incarnation.

Joyce Baldwin

b. Loved

v. 11 And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you...

GOD Himself models How to SPEAK the Truth in Love to Daniel in his Distress

vs. 18-21 Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.” Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

GLORIOUS Messenger extends HAND of COMFORT, Hope, Love, Confidence

Encouraged & Comforted > Daniel able to RISE SHAKILY to his Feet

Power of EVIL is LIMITED and CONTROLLED by God

If you are IN Him – you will KNOW his POWER >> PEACE, BE STRONG!

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints

Ephesians 6.10-13,18

Satan & his Forces > Great & Dangerous > but they are Not ALL-POWERFUL

When we PRAY – Weak & Sinful People > Clothed w/ God's ARMOR

We can Pray BIG Prayers > Save 1 Sinner & save WHOLE Nation of Sinners

Ask GOD for our DAILY Bread > All the BREAD they Need in YEMEN

Pray for GOD to Meet us HERE in ZGC > MEET with Every church in CHINA

"While a person doesn't have to believe the Bible is true to be saved, the Bible has to be true for them to be saved."

Michael Kruger

God's TRUTH – Ultimate Determiner of Future Realities – Eternal Decree

7-Sealed SCROLL that the SLAIN & RISEN Lamb is WORTHY to OPEN

...a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name.

Malachi 3.16

c. Look

v. 11 ...and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

WORD of God EMPOWERS Feeble DANIEL to STAND Up in the LORD

Acts 7 – Stephen Dying GLIMPSE – Son of Man STANDING – Calling HOME

Revelation 4 John gets GLIMPSE Beyond Sufferings on Isle of PATMOS

Sees OPEN DOOR of Heaven – THRONE – Someone sitting ON it

The irony of the gospel is that the battle is won, not through killing, but rather by dying. Jesus, the warrior, accomplished his great victory by dying on the cross.

Tremper Longman III

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Colossians 2.15

VICTORY Not based on Our Prayers – Stand in Victory of Jesus - Died & Rose

“He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate” Luke 1.51,52

Shall we still dread God's displeasure,
 who, to save, freely gave
 His most cherished Treasure?
 To redeem us, He hath given
 His own Son from the throne
 of His might in heaven.

He becomes the Lamb that taketh
 sin away and for aye
 full atonement maketh.
 For our life His own He tenders;
 and our race, by His grace,
 fit for glory renders.

"All My Heart This Night Rejoices" by Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676

Daniel 10.¹In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision. ²In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. ³I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. ⁴On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) ⁵I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. ⁶His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. ⁷And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. ⁸So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. ⁹Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground. ¹⁰And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. ¹²Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. ¹³The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, ¹⁴and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.” ¹⁵When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. ¹⁶And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, “O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. ¹⁷How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me.” ¹⁸Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. ¹⁹And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.” ²⁰Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. ²¹But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.