

11 – THE HEAVENLY MESSENGER (DANIEL 10:1-11:1)

I. The Occasion (10:1-3)

A. The Timing (10:1)

- In the third year of Cyrus' reign, 536 B.C., a message was revealed to Daniel.
- The message was true but its fulfillment is in the distant future.
- Daniel understands this.

B. Daniel mourns (10:2)

- Because of the vision, Daniel mourned for three full weeks.

C. Daniel's fast (10:3)

- Daniel fasted from desirable food, meat and wine.
- Daniel did not care for his outward appearance during the fast.

II. The Messenger (10:4-11)

A. The location (10:4)

- Daniel was standing beside the river Tigris.

B. The appearance of the man (10:5-6)

- Daniel sees a man clothed in white with a belt of gold.
- The man had a dazzling bright appearance.
- The sound of his voice was like the voice of a multitude.

C. The impact of the vision (10:7-9)

- Daniel alone saw the messenger, but those with him fled in terror.
- Daniel felt his strength leave him and became weak and frail.
- Daniel prostrated himself on his face and fell into a deep sleep.

D. The messenger speaks to Daniel (10:10-11)

- The messenger touched Daniel while he was prostrated.

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- The messenger told Daniel that he was greatly loved.
- He calls Daniel to stand and that he was sent to him.

III. The Messenger's Explanation (10:12-14)

A. The response to Daniel's prayer (10:12)

- From the first day that Daniel set himself to understand, the messenger was sent.

B. Satanic hindrance (10:13)

- The messenger was hindered by the Prince of Persia for 21 days.
- The angel Michael came to help the messenger.

C. His purpose (10:14)

- The messenger has come to help him understand what will happen to Israel in the latter days.
- The vision concerns that which will take place in the far future.

IV. The Prophet Strengthened (10:15-11:1)

A. Daniel's reaction (10:15)

- Daniel reacts to the messenger's words by becoming speechless and looking to the ground.

B. Daniel response (10:16-17)

- Daniel was strengthened by an angel who touched his lips.
- Daniel explains that the vision caused him to be overwhelmed with sorrows.
- Daniel explains that he cannot talk with the messenger because he has no strength left.

C. Daniel strengthened (10:18-19)

- An angel touches and strengthens Daniel again.
- Daniel is told to be strong.
- Being strengthened, Daniel requests the messenger to speak to him.

D. The messenger's purpose (10:20-11:1)

- The messenger asks Daniel if he knows why he has come.

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- The angel states that he must return to battle against the Prince of Persia.
- At some point, the Prince of Greece will join the battle.
- The messenger states that he will tell him what is noted in the scripture of Truth.
- The angel has been fighting since the first year of Darius.
- He strengthened Darius, who issued a decree for the exiles to return to Israel.

Scripture Ezra 1:1, 2 Chronicles 36:22

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,