

## Daniel's Three Week Fast (April 2–22, 536 BC)

Daniel 10:1–3

- 1 In the third year of King Cyrus of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel (who was also called Belteshazzar). This message was true and concerned a great war. He understood the message and gained insight by the vision.
- 2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three whole weeks.
- 3 I ate no choice food; no meat or wine came to my lips, nor did I anoint myself with oil until the end of those three weeks.

## Introduction to Daniel's Final Vision (April 23, 536 BC)

Daniel 10:4–11:1

### Vision of the Heavenly Being

- 10:4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month I was beside the great river, the Tigris.
- 5 I looked up and saw a man clothed in linen; around his waist was a belt made of gold from Upaz.
- 6 His body resembled yellow jasper, and his face had an appearance like lightning. His eyes were like blazing torches; his arms and feet had the gleam of polished bronze. His voice thundered forth like the sound of a large crowd.
- 7 Only I, Daniel, saw the vision; the men who were with me did not see it. On the contrary, they were overcome with fright and ran away to hide.
- 8 I alone was left to see this great vision. My strength drained from me, and my vigor disappeared; I was without energy.
- 9 I listened to his voice, and as I did so I fell into a trance-like sleep with my face to the ground.

### The Interpreting Angel's Explanation

- 10 Then a hand touched me and set me on my hands and knees.
- 11 He said to me, "Daniel, you are of great value. Understand the words that I am about to speak to you. So stand up, for I have now been sent to you." When he said this to me, I stood up shaking.
- 12 Then he said to me, "Don't be afraid, Daniel, for from the very first day you applied your mind to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard. I have come in response to your words.
- 13 However, the prince of the kingdom of Persia was opposing me for twenty-one days. But Michael, one of the leading princes, came to help me, because I was left there with the kings of Persia.
- 14 Now I have come to help you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to future days."

### Daniel Strengthened to Understand the Vision

- 15 While he was saying this to me, I was flat on the ground and unable to speak.
- 16 Then one who appeared to be a human being was touching my lips. I opened my mouth and started to speak, saying to the one who was standing before me, "Sir, due to the vision, anxiety has gripped me and I have no strength.
- 17 How, sir, am I able to speak with you? My strength is gone, and I am breathless."
- 18 Then the one who appeared to be a human being touched me again and strengthened me.
- 19 He said to me, "Don't be afraid, you who are valued. Peace be to you! Be strong! Be really strong!" When he spoke to me, I was strengthened. I said, "Sir, you may speak now, for you have given me strength."
- 20 He said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Now I am about to return to engage in battle with the prince of Persia. When I go, the prince of Greece is coming.
- 21 However, I will first tell you what is written in a dependable book. (There is no one who strengthens me against these princes, except Michael your prince.
- 11:1 And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood to strengthen him and to provide protection for him.)

## Daniel's Final Vision of the Future (April 23, 536 BC)

Daniel 11:2–12:3

### Concerning Persia (Xerxes I)

- 11:2 Now I will tell you the truth. "Three more kings will arise for Persia. Then a fourth king will be unusually rich, more so than all who preceded him. When he has amassed power through his riches, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.

### Concerning Greece (Alexander the Great)

- 3 Then a powerful king will arise, exercising great authority and doing as he pleases.
- 4 Shortly after his rise to power, his kingdom will be broken up and distributed toward the four winds of the sky—but not to his posterity or with the authority he exercised, for his kingdom will be uprooted and distributed to others besides these.

**Concerning Egypt and Syria (The Ptolemies and the Seleucids)**

5 “Then the king of the south and one of his subordinates will grow strong. His subordinate will resist him and will rule a kingdom greater than his.

6 After some years have passed, they will form an alliance. Then the daughter of the king of the south will come to the king of the north to make an agreement, but she will not retain her power, nor will he continue in his strength. She, together with the one who brought her, her child, and her benefactor will all be delivered over at that time.

7 “There will arise in his place one from her family line who will come against their army and will enter the stronghold of the king of the north and will move against them successfully.

8 He will also take their gods into captivity to Egypt, along with their cast images and prized utensils of silver and gold. Then he will withdraw for some years from the king of the north.

9 Then the king of the north will advance against the empire of the king of the south, but will withdraw to his own land.

10 His sons will wage war, mustering a large army which will advance like an overflowing river and carrying the battle all the way to the enemy’s fortress.

11 “Then the king of the south will be enraged and will march out to fight against the king of the north, who will also muster a large army, but that army will be delivered into his hand.

12 When the army is taken away, the king of the south will become arrogant. He will be responsible for the death of thousands and thousands of people, but he will not continue to prevail.

13 For the king of the north will again muster an army, one larger than before. At the end of some years he will advance with a huge army and enormous supplies.

14 “In those times many will oppose the king of the south. Those who are violent among your own people will rise up in confirmation of the vision, but they will falter.

15 Then the king of the north will advance and will build siege mounds and capture a well-fortified city. The forces of the south will not prevail, not even his finest contingents. They will have no strength to prevail.

16 The one advancing against him will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to stand before him. He will prevail in the beautiful land, and its annihilation will be within his power.

17 His intention will be to come with the strength of his entire kingdom, and he will form alliances. He will give the king of the south a daughter in marriage in order to destroy the kingdom, but it will not turn out to his advantage.

18 Then he will turn his attention to the coastal regions and will capture many of them. But a commander will bring his shameful conduct to a halt; in addition, he will make him pay for his shameful conduct.

19 He will then turn his attention to the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall, not to be found again.

20 There will arise after him one who will send out an exactor of tribute to enhance the splendor of the kingdom, but after a few days he will be destroyed, though not in anger or battle.

**Concerning Antiochus IV Epiphanes**

21 “Then there will arise in his place a despicable person to whom the royal honor has not been rightfully conferred. He will come on the scene in a time of prosperity and will seize the kingdom through deceit.

22 Armies will be suddenly swept away in defeat before him; both they and a covenant leader will be destroyed.

23 After entering into an alliance with him, he will behave treacherously; he will ascend to power with only a small force.

24 In a time of prosperity for the most productive areas of the province he will come and accomplish what neither his fathers nor their fathers accomplished. He will distribute loot, spoils, and property to his followers, and he will devise plans against fortified cities, but not for long.

25 He will rouse his strength and enthusiasm against the king of the south with a large army. The king of the south will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to prevail because of the plans devised against him.

26 Those who share the king’s fine food will attempt to destroy him, and his army will be swept away; many will be killed in battle.

27 These two kings, their minds filled with evil intentions, will trade lies with one another at the same table. But it will not succeed, for there is still an end at the appointed time.

28 Then the king of the north will return to his own land with much property. His mind will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action, and then return to his own land.

29 At an appointed time he will again invade the south, but this latter visit will not turn out the way the former one did.

30 The ships of Kittim will come against him, leaving him disheartened. He will turn back and direct his indignation against the holy covenant. He will return and honor those who forsake the holy covenant.

31 His forces will rise up and profane the fortified sanctuary, stopping the daily sacrifice. In its place they will set up the abomination that causes desolation. [[Matt 24:15](#); [Mark 13:14](#)]

32 Then with smooth words he will defile those who have rejected the covenant. But the people who are loyal to their God will act valiantly.

33 These who are wise among the people will teach the masses. However, they will fall by the sword and by the flame, and they will be imprisoned and plundered for some time.

34 When they stumble, they will be granted some help. But many will unite with them deceitfully.

35 Even some of the wise will stumble, resulting in their refinement, purification, and cleansing until the time of the end, for it is still for the appointed time.

### Concerning the End Times (The Antichrist)

36 “Then the king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every deity and he will utter presumptuous things against the God of gods. He will succeed until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been decreed must occur.

37 He will not respect the gods of his fathers—not even the god loved by women. He will not respect any god; he will elevate himself above them all.

38 What he will honor is a god of fortresses—a god his fathers did not acknowledge he will honor with gold, silver, valuable stones, and treasured commodities.

39 He will attack mighty fortresses, aided by a foreign deity. To those who recognize him he will grant considerable honor. He will place them in authority over many people, and he will parcel out land for a price.

40 “At the time of the end the king of the south will attack him. Then the king of the north will storm against him with chariots, horsemen, and a large armada of ships. He will invade lands, passing through them like an overflowing river.

41 Then he will enter the beautiful land. Many will fall, but these will escape: Edom, Moab, and the Ammonite leadership.

42 He will extend his power against other lands; the land of Egypt will not escape.

43 He will have control over the hidden stores of gold and silver, as well as all the treasures of Egypt. Libyans and Ethiopians will submit to him.

44 But reports will trouble him from the east and north, and he will set out in a tremendous rage to destroy and wipe out many.

45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas toward the beautiful holy mountain. But he will come to his end, with no one to help him.

12:1 “At that time Michael, the great prince who watches over your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress unlike any other from the nation’s beginning up to that time. But at that time your own people, all those whose names are found written in the book, will escape.

2 Many of those who sleep in the dusty ground will awake—some to everlasting life, and others to shame and everlasting abhorrence.

3 But the wise will shine like the brightness of the heavenly expanse. And those bringing many to righteousness will be like the stars forever and ever.

## Final Instructions to Daniel (April 23, 536 BC)

Daniel 12:4–13

### Instruction to Preserve the Message

4 “But you, Daniel, close up these words and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will dash about, and knowledge will increase.”

### Duration of the “Time of Distress”

5 I, Daniel, watched as two others stood there, one on each side of the river.

6 One said to the man clothed in linen who was above the waters of the river, “When will the end of these wondrous events occur?”

7 Then I heard the man clothed in linen who was over the waters of the river as he raised both his right and left hands to the sky and made an oath by the one who lives forever: “It is for a time, times, and half a time. Then, when the power of the one who shatters the holy people has been exhausted, all these things will be finished.”

### Daniel’s Last Question

8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I said, “Sir, what will happen after these things?”

9 He said, “Go, Daniel. For these matters are closed and sealed until the time of the end.

10 Many will be purified, made clean, and refined, but the wicked will go on being wicked. None of the wicked will understand, though the wise will understand.

11 From the time that the daily sacrifice is removed and the abomination that causes desolation is set in place, there are 1,290 days. [[Matt 24:15](#); [Mark 13:14](#)]

12 Blessed is the one who waits and attains to the 1,335 days.

13 But you should go your way until the end. You will rest and then at the end of the days you will arise to receive what you have been allotted.”