



Daniel 10

Daniel Chapter 10

We are just about at the end of Daniel and I also get just a little bit nostalgic as I come to the end of a book like this. The Bible is just rich and full, and no matter where you are it is a blessing. But, there are some books that you just enjoy and some of the Bible characters that just really endear themselves to you, and Daniel is just such a Bible character. I love him. I am anxious to meet him. I hope to spend quite a bit of time with this fellow. He is just one of those men of God that I deeply admire.

Now he tells us,

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia

This would date the prophecy some where around 535-536 B.C.

A thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true,

God's Word is always true.

but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and he had understanding of the vision.

So, we are going to be told that this vision is for a long period of time. In fact, this vision is going to cover a good period of the history of man. It actually will go out beyond where we are today. This vision that Daniel has and the understanding that he has will actually go out to the return of Jesus Christ in glory to establish God's kingdom upon the earth, because chapters 10-12 are all a part of this vision.

In those days I Daniel was mourning for three full weeks.

The cause of his mourning, he does not express. Very possibly it is the news that came back from those who had gone to rebuild the temple with Ezra, and of the difficult conditions that they were experiencing. It could be that there were so few people that even desired to return.

It was the longing and prayer of Daniel and of every true Jew that God would restore to them Jerusalem, the land, the temple, and now the opportunity has come to return from the captivity. And of the millions that were taken captive, just forty thousand plus, went back with Ezra to resettle in the land, and that must have been discouraging. But worse than that, the reports that were coming from those who did go was that the conditions were bad. The people were demoralized, and already they were turning away from a primary focus on God and they were getting interested in their own things more than the things of God. And Haggai the prophet was prophesying to the people about this time rebuking them and saying, "Is it time for you to dwell in plaster houses and the temple of God is still desolate."

Take a look at your life. Take a look that you're always broke and you never have anything. It seems like your pockets have holes in them, the money just goes through. It is because you have not put God in His proper place in your life. You are giving God the leftovers, and so you are being robbed of the blessings that God bestows upon those who put God first in their lives.

When we encourage you to put God first, when we encourage you to give God the first fruits, it is for your benefit. God blesses those who will honor him and serve Him with their whole heart. That is just a principal that God has declared over and over.

So Haggai is pointing out to the people that it is because they have forsaken God. And they have their own self interest above the interest of God that things are going bad for you. Turn it around and get the proper priorities again and you will find the blessings of God will still be there.

So whatever the cause, Daniel was in mourning for three full weeks. And during this time he did the following,

I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, (which was a very popular custom in the east) until the whole three weeks were fulfilled.

Now, there are various kinds of fast that a person can go on. A fast does not necessarily need to be a total fast. There are times that people just wish to deny the flesh, to not eat food for a period of time, in order that they might give themselves to fasting and prayer, and the Bible does teach concerning fasting and prayer.

We are told how Jesus fasted for forty days prior to His public ministry. And we are told how the Pharisees got after Jesus because though the disciples of John fasted, Jesus disciples didn't seem to observe this custom of fasting, and Jesus explained that while the bridegroom was with them, they didn't fast but rejoiced, but the bridegroom would go and there would come a time when they would fast. When the disciples questioned Jesus, because of their spiritual ineptness, their inability to cast the demon out of this boy, Jesus said, "This kind cometh only out by fasting and prayer."

The Bible does make reference to fasting both in the New and in the Old Testament, the denial of the flesh in order to pursue after the Spirit. The problem there is you see is there is the physical man and the Spiritual man, and we take very good care of the physical man, but so often we are neglecting the Spiritual man. We see that the physical man gets his three meals every day, and this is instilled in us from youth.

I have my grandchildren quite often and I'll go down and we'll get busy and we'll have missed lunch and I'll say, "Let's go out for dinner." And they will reply, "Oh, we can't have dinner, we haven't had lunch yet." You can't call it dinner, because you have to have the three meals in there. So we take care of ourselves physically, but so often Spiritual man is starved. No wonder the physical man is strong and the Spiritual man is weak. So fasting and prayer sort of reverses the process.

Through prayer we are feeding the Spiritual man and just letting the old physical man get weak a bit, and it doesn't hurt. A fast though does not have to be a complete fasting from all foods. There are some jobs that would prohibit such a fast. You need your strength. But any form of fasting, and form of the denial of the flesh is good. and if you are in a position where you can not go on a total kind of a fast, then I highly recommend that you fast as did Daniel. Just cut out some of the goodies, like the Hagen Daaz before you go to bed, or cut out pastries. This is what Daniel basically did, the pastries and the meat. And this is good for you to just sort of cut these things out for a while in order that when you get a hankering for these things just realize that Lord I just want to serve you and the pang will remind you that you need the sweetness of the Lord in your life, and just seek the Lord. So you can go on long periods of partial types fastings.

I only thought of total fastings when I was younger. And when we started out in the ministry, I was still in Bible college and there were three of us who were in our senior year and we decided that between semesters that we would hold a revival meeting in a church that was gracious enough to open their doors to us. It was in Ventura. So, Dean Miller, who pastored the Presbyterian Church in Palm Desert many years until he retired a couple of years ago, He was to lead the songs. Dick Mills was to do the solo work and he was the prayer warrior, and I was to preach. So we called ourselves the Youth Trio. And we went up to Ventura and held this meeting up there.

Well, Dick was going to fast and pray during the week of the meeting, so that was good, because he was the prayer warrior on the team. And the church gave us a restaurant where we could just sign the tab, so we went down to the restaurant, and to our amazement Dick, who was suppose to be fasting and praying, he ordered a bowl of soup and a chocolate shake and several other liquid items. And when we said, "Dick, I thought you were going to fast?" He said, "It's a liquid fast fellows." But that is good. anything that just sort of reminds you of a special commitment to the Lord.

So, Daniel's was not a full fasting, but it was going without pastries, meat and wine for this period of time that he was seeking the Lord until the three whole weeks were fulfilled.

And in the four and twentieth day of the first month (that is the month of Nisan, which means that he fasted through the feast of Passover), as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel (which is the Tigris River).

So he was not in the city of Babylon, but about fifty miles away at the Tigris River.

Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with the fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

Daniel had a vision.

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

Now there were others with Daniel. Who they were, he does not tell us. They didn't see the vision, but they felt the presence so much that they began to fear. They were shaking and they ran from the presence.

Now who is this that Daniel had a vision of? In Revelation 1, John is describing his vision in verse 13: "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps(chest) with a golden girdle. His head and His hair were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters." And as you look at that description of Jesus, the vision that John had on the island of Patmos, and you read the vision that Daniel had, the descriptions so match that it would be difficult to believe that Daniel saw anyone other than Jesus Christ, one of the manifestations of Jesus in the Old Testament, one of the theophanies.

Now it is believed that Jesus appeared many times during the Old Testament period to the Old Testament saints. Jesus said concerning Abraham, "Before Abraham was, I AM." And the Jews said unto him, "What do you mean you were before Abraham? You are not even fifty years old." Jesus said, "Abraham rejoiced to see my day and he saw it." And that's when they challenged, "What do you mean?" And He said, "Before Abraham was, I AM."

So, they believe that perhaps Melchizedek was in reality the king of peace and actually one of the manifestations of Jesus Christ and that Jesus was referring to that.

We do know that the Lord appeared to Abraham, and Abraham had talked to the Lord when the angel of the Lord was on his way to destroy the city of Sodom.

Now there is a difficulty in interpreting or in understanding that this appearance to Daniel was Jesus Christ. And the difficulty lies in the continuing of the chapter as there is that mention of fighting with the prince of Persia and more or less being detained by the prince of Persia, the powers of darkness that control Persia, until deliverance came through Michael, the chief prince. We'll get to that in a moment.

Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned into corruption, and I retained no strength.

I want you to note the affect and the results of the vision upon Daniel. Suddenly he felt ugly. The beauty, the comeliness, was turned in me into corruption, and he retained no strength.

Isaiah declares in chapter 6, "In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting upon the throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips."

The true affect of seeing the Lord is that of seeing yourself in the light of the Lord and a total deprecating of yourself. Seeing yourself in the light of the Lord, we are ugly. We see us as we are. We see the filth, the sin, the corruption. And, no man can be proud who has really seen the Lord. The affect is always that of the debasing of self. Throughout the Bible where ever one really saw the Lord, it was self debasement. It is woe unto me for I am a man of unclean lips.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for they shall see God." Poverty of spirit is that which comes from seeing God. Really seeing the Lord, having a real concept of God, you can see yourself in the light of the Lord.

People walk around and they are always, as Jesus said, making a mistake because you are measuring yourself by each other. That is the wrong standard. You can always look around and say, "Well I am not too bad. Look at them." And you look at yourself in the light of other people and you may get a sort of exalted opinion of yourself, but you look at yourself in the light of the Lord and it just wipes you out. Woe is me. And how each of us need to get a real vision of Jesus. How we need to see Him in His glory, in His power, and then we will get a true view of ourselves and the beauty turns into corruption. It was an experience that just really wiped Daniel out.

And he said,

Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

It left him prostrate, lying face in the dirt. This vision of the Lord just totally wiped him out.

And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

So Daniel has this vision of the Lord which leaves him prostrate on the ground on his face. A hand touches him and strengthens him enough that he gets up on his hands and knees and then the command of the voice to stand.

The messenger had been sent to Daniel, and it refers to Daniel as a man greatly beloved. Three times Daniel is referred to as a man greatly beloved. There is one in the New Testament who is referred to as the disciple whom Jesus loved. It was John. But, the interesting thing is that here it is the angel that is declaring this to Daniel, "You are greatly beloved." Who is the one who said, "John was greatly beloved?" John. He always identified himself as the one whom the Lord loveth. Peter didn't say that about John. They had a little jealousy going. They were wanting to be the greatest when they got there. But, John says that about himself. I love that. He had the assurance that the Lord loved him. And you should surely have that same assurance that the Lord loves you. He believed the Lord. The Lord spoke of his love and John believed it and thus he said, "the disciple whom Jesus loved."

You know there are some people who have that capacity of making you think that you are their best friend. And other people will be talking about them like they are real close friends. And you think, "They are not as close as I am. I'm their best friend." But these people have the unique capacity of just making everybody feel close and everybody is the best friend kind of a feeling. And I think that Jesus had that kind of capacity of making every body think that they were loved more than anyone else. He wants you to think that, because in reality you are very special to Him, and He loves you. And, it wouldn't be a bad idea to refer to yourself as the disciple that Jesus loved, the one that Jesus loves. But, here the angel is declaring to Daniel greatly beloved.

Now, it is possible that in seeing the vision of Jesus that this messenger that begins to talk to Daniel in verse 10 is an angel dispatched from God to give Daniel the answer to his pray in giving him understanding of the future. And that is the way that some Bible interpreters see this.

Now, it should be mentioned that there are many different views by Bible scholars. There are those scholars that say that this vision that Daniel saw could not possibly be Jesus Christ, because of the fact that He speaks about the prince of Persia detaining Him and it would be impossible for Satan to have that kind of power over Jesus for He is God. Talbot takes that position in his commentary on Daniel.

But, then there are others who see that there is more than one person dealing with Daniel. And we find in verse 18 that Daniel speaks of apparently another person. "Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me." Verse 16, "And behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips, and opened my mouth and spake and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows..." There is possibly several personages in this vision that Daniel is receiving. And that the first which parallels the vision of John of Jesus Christ was in fact one of the theophanies or Christophanies of the Old Testament, but now in verse 10 an angel, the messenger that has been dispatched to give Daniel the understanding is just that, an angel separate from the vision from the Lord that John had. So, whatever fits you best, take that for which you are comfortable with.

So he is standing trembling before this one who has touched him, helped him to his hands and knees, and commanded him to get to his feet.

Then he said unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

Now this is twenty-one days later. The first day that he began to pray this prayer was heard and this messenger was dispatched from God to give Daniel the understanding that he was seeking.

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

So, here we get an interesting insight into the unseen world, the world of spirits that are antagonistic and opposed to each other, spiritual warfare that goes on, those angelic spirits that are obedient unto God, and the warfare with those fallen angels who joined in Satan's rebellion against God, the spiritual warfare between good and evil, that spiritual warfare that you experience in your life as you feel the tugging towards the good and the tugging towards the evil, and thus you find yourself often in the midst of this conflict, the conflict of the good against the evil and that desire for good and that pulling towards the evil. There is a warfare, a powerful warfare that is being waged daily about your life. And, many times we feel sort of the residual effects of this warfare and we don't understand our emotions. We don't understand our feelings. We may feel an unsettled experience. We may feel a sort of discouragement or a feeling of being just depressed or anxieties and these can often be caused by these spirit forces that are warring against our soul. And we feel this and we don't know where it is coming from. Often times there is just sort of a spirit of unrest and turmoil.

I noticed it many times in the home as the children were growing up. There would be those days when I would be in the other room trying to study and I would hear them going at it with each other. And just this name calling and this bantering back and forth and this sibling kind of stuff and it would build until I would go out and jump right in the middle of it and get right involved in the whole thing and then lose my whole train of thought and get wiped out because I jumped right in the middle of it. And you got right in the middle of a spiritual warfare that was going on, and you get battered and you don't know why.

Finally I was in studying one day and they started out in the other room and I just said, "Lord, I take authority over this in the name of Jesus Christ, this bickering and backbiting. Lord I take authority over that and I ask you Lord to just bring peace, and Lord you deal with that now. I bind the forces of darkness that would seek to bring discord and disunity. I bind that in Jesus name. Lord under take." And you know soon the boys were going outside to play ball and it was all over with and I didn't get upset. So I learned an important lesson.

If Satan can draw you into the physical conflict, man he can just do a number on you. Stay out of that physical arena. Stay back where you have the power.

You know the glorious thing about prayer is that you can just wipe a person out and they don't even know where it is coming from. It is a long distance artillery. You can just do so much damage to the enemy. If you get right into their face, pretty soon you find yourself losing the victory and yelling at them and telling them what a stupid nut they are, and you have gotten into it and you have lost it then. And you go away feeling miserable. You think that you went out to witness to someone and you end up yelling at them and you think you blew it. It is because you got involved. They yelled at you and don't want to talk about it. And the thing is you can just step back and just start praying. And through prayer you can just make a person feel convicted, and they don't know where it is coming from. They start lashing out at everybody, because they don't know where it is coming from. And it is sort of fun to load the mortar shells in and they don't even have any idea what is happening to them. But by pray, you are taking authority and power over the situation, and you can bring Christ victory in those situations. And, that is the beautiful thing.

There is a spiritual warfare and the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. You start using carnal weapons and you are going to find yourself in big trouble. And, this is one of the main problems with the church today is that in spiritual warfare we are trying to implement and integrate carnal weaponry against the enemy. We go to Madison Avenue to get advertising ideas. We study the demographics and sociology to try to find what is the greatest need of the community and how can the church best meet these needs and how can we be relevant, and we start getting into all these carnal methodologies rather than staying in the place of strength, the place of the Spirit, the place where we have the decided advantage and where we have the victory. But, the church gets involved in these carnal programs and in these carnal methods and then we wonder why is the church so inept. Why is it so ineffective? Why do we have all of this strife and problem all the time.

A classic book was written several years ago called, "The Gospel Blimp." It was a church that decided to attract attention to the church. They were in a neighborhood in a town where nobody really knew where they were, so they were going to attract attention to the church and put a blimp up in the air. They wanted the people to follow the blimp and go to where the blimp was. So they put up this blimp and there was all this arguing about how high it should be and fights broke out and church division and all. Then there came a storm and all the men were out trying to hold the blimp down. The net result of the whole thing was that the church split and fizzled, because their whole purpose was to keep the blimp afloat. And such is the case with so many of the carnal methods that we use. It just doesn't do the job and it brings strife and contention. Whereas if we would live after the Spirit and walk after the Spirit and use the spiritual weapons that God has given to us, then we can bring forth Spiritual victories.

Now, we wrestle not against flesh and blood. Remember that! But against principalities and powers and these spirit forces of wickedness that control the rulers of this age. It is so important that we keep the true perspective.

A lot of times when you are being bombarded and you don't really understand it. You don't know why. The important thing is to recognize this is a spiritual battle. This is an attack of the enemy. And one of the most important things is to learn to be spiritually sensitive, to know the source of the attack against you, and realize that it is the enemy attacking you.

Now, if you think that they are attacking me, my response is to put up my defenses and attack back. But when you realize that this is a spiritual attack, then having recognized it, you can deal with it. If you don't recognize it as a spiritual attack then you can't deal with it and Satan can just have a field day with you, and you fighting at everything, just beating the air, and here Satan is just beating you into the ground and you don't even recognize that this is an attack of the enemy.

When you recognize that it is a spiritual attack from the enemy then you can resist it. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. But you have got to recognize that it is an attack of Satan against you. I'll resist it

in the name of Jesus, and you rejoice in your position of victory. Remember the three “R’s,” recognize, resist and rejoice. You rejoice because Jesus defeated Satan. And that is why we have to stay in the realm of the Spirit, because when you are in the realm of the Spirit, Satan is a defeated foe.

Paul tells us in Colossians 2 that Jesus Christ spoiled the principalities and powers that were against us, triumphing over them in His cross as He made an open display of His victory. And if we will stay in that position in Christ and in this spiritual battle from that position through pray we can pull down Satan’s strongholds in the lives of those around us.

Why is it that your loved one has not opened his heart to Jesus Christ? Why is it that he is stubbornly resisting? The reason why, according to the Bible, is that the god of this world has blinded their eyes that they can not see the truth. Why is it that they don’t listen? Why is it that they can’t seem to understand? Their eyes are blind.

Now if you had a person here with a white cane and all, you would say, “Be careful of that post.” And they would say, “What post? I don’t see any post.” “Well it is right there. It is right in front of you.” And they run right into it, and you told them to be careful, but they can’t see. They are blind. You would keep saying to the person, “Well, why can’t you see that?” You realize the guy is blind and can’t see it.

Now here we are constantly saying to people, “Why can’t you see this?” Well, they can’t because they are blind, because the god of this world has blinded their eyes.

Paul says that we might take them from the captivity of the enemy who is holding them captive against their wills. So, when I pray I need to pray that God will bind that work of Satan that is holding them as a captive. I need to pray that God will open up their eyes to let them see. All of the arguing, and they may be excellent arguments, yet the person can’t see and you get so frustrated, but you need to realize that it is a spiritual battle. Satan has blinded their eyes.

You need to first of all come in prayer and through prayer, praying that God would open their eyes and stop that work of Satan that is holding them as a captive, that is blinding their eyes, and pray, “Lord, set them free in the name of Jesus, and in the authority of the name of Jesus. Free them, Lord.” A person cannot look at the claims of Jesus Christ with this horrible oppressive work of Satan that is perverting truth and twisting things and has so taken over their mind and thought processes that they can not think rationally. And you know that in dealing with them. They can talk to you rationally about any subject in the world, but you get on the Bible and they get totally irrational. They almost get foaming at the mouth. I mean that it is spiritual. They are under such pressure from Satan, the spiritual warfare that is going on and now you are beginning to touch these things and it triggers this spiritual reaction and response within. And that is why in these kind of issues we need to remain in the realm of the Spirit and we need to use this weapon that God has given us of prayer. Prayer in a sense becomes a Spirit force. It is a spiritual force in this spiritual battle.

Now, there is the physical world and the spiritual world. The both of them are very real. We are prone to think only in the physical world, because I can see it and I can touch it and I can smell it. And, we so often are oblivious to the spirit world because I can’t see it. I can’t touch it, but it is there and it is real. And, there are spirit forces and spirit beings that are here tonight in this service. There are angels of darkness that are here interested in what is going on and there are the angels of God, the angels of light, that are here tonight in this service.

Now, these spirit beings that are here tonight, when they came in they didn’t have to use the doors, like you. They came in through the walls, through the ceilings, or through the floor, if they happen to be coming from China. You see they are not subject to material obstacles as we are, nor are they subject to time as we are. If you want to go to China, it would take you about eighteen hours to get your body there, but they can be there as fast as you think it.

So, being in a spirit realm over against the physical realm that we are in, they have definite advantages over us. But, when I pray, my prayer takes on the nature and the characteristics of a spirit force, and my

prayers like a spirit can move as rapidly as thought, faster than the speed of light. So, that here are a couple living in Florida who are going through a real problem in their spiritual walk right now, and Satan is really after them and seeking to destroy their home. I can get on my knees or whatever position I am comfortable in praying and I can begin to intercede in these problems that are going on in this marriage in this couples home back there in Florida. And as I am praying here, my prayers become a spirit force back there. They go back to Florida and enter into the home and begin to bring peace and tranquillity. They begin to come against those forces of darkness that are seeking to disrupt and tear apart. And they begin to hold back the forces of darkness. Prayer, you see, becomes a spirit force doing spiritual battle.

Now, here is the case where an angel was dispatched to Daniel to bring him the answer from God for his prayers, but these demonic forces that were controlling the kingdom of Persia, the powers of darkness that were over the nation, as this angel was coming to Daniel, they withstood him and they captured him, so to speak, for twenty-one days, until Michael, that chief angel came. "One of the chief princes to help me," he said, "and I remained there with the king of Persia."

*Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days:
for yet the vision is for many days.*

This vision that he is going to receive is for the future. And as we come into chapter 11 you will be astounded and amazed at how the Lord revealed to Daniel with such intricate kind of details, the conditions that were going to go on in the splitting of the Grecian kingdom. This was before there ever was a Grecian kingdom. It describes the coming of Alexander the Great and of the kingdom being divided into the four different divisions and of the warfare that would go on between the Ptolemies and the Seleucids. And how Cleopatra would be involved.

In fact there are prophecies here concerning Cleopatra and the things that would take place in that intrigue. They are written with such accuracy that this 11th chapter has become one of the greatest problems of Bible critiques. They don't know what to do with it. And so what they have done is say that it wasn't written by Daniel, because he couldn't have written about these things because they haven't happened yet. So, they think it was impossible for him to have written them. Great logic. But that's the logic of man without God and without a belief in God who is the eternal God living outside of our time continuum and able to speak about the end from the beginning.

We will get to chapter 11 and you will be fascinated when you compare it to the actual history and see with what accuracy it is written and then chapter 12 speaks of future things. This prophecy is going to take you out to the end. It is going to take you to the glorious return of the Son of God to establish the kingdom of God upon the earth.

Now this prophecy is centering around Israel. It only brings in the other empires as they relate to Israel, but it is for Daniel's people in the latter days, or the last days, for yet the vision is for many days. It is going to cover a long period of time and indeed it does.

And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face towards the ground, and I became dumb.

It was sort of an overwhelming kind of an experience that just left him speechless.

And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.

He was helpless, wiped out because of the vision.

For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.

It was just a totally devastating kind of an experience to actually get involved in the spiritual realm in a physical body getting this kind of insight and all. And contact in the spirit realm just left him physically washed out.

Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,
So it seems that there are different entities that are dealing with Daniel here.

And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said Let my lord speak: for thou hast strengthened me,

Now there is going to be a lot that is going to be given to Daniel, but he receives now that strength from the Lord to receive these things that are going to be given.

I like these words. Notice first of all, greatly beloved. Just take this personal as the lord is speaking to you tonight. O greatly beloved, fear not.

There are a lot of things in the world today to just disturb us and upset us. Conditions are so unsettled. Again we see the problems rising in Russia, and we don't yet know what the outcome is going to be. We have had the feeling all the way along that perhaps this door in Russia that is open for the Gospel may be just for a short time and we are to do as much as we can in the short time that we have. And it may be that the doors may be closing again very soon and the communist dictator will take over. It is very possible. And this cold war that we have tried to lay to rest and bury and say it is all over, peace and safety, it could be that once again this thing is going to heat up under new leadership in Russia. And it could be that they will be hungry for money and hungry to strengthen their economy. They may decide to move south into the Persian Gulf and take these oil states in order that they can control the oil supplies of the world, raise the prices of oil and get all the money flowing into their coffers from the western industrial world. And with their nuclear strength still in place and all of their submarines armed with their nuclear weapons still in place, we would be helpless to do anything about it and even more so in a few more weeks. And things don't look good, but what does the Lord say to you? Fear not. And what is the answer to that? "Fear not", he said, "for I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God. I will help you. I will strengthen. I will uphold thee by the right hand of my power."

So, the minister here said to Daniel, "fear not." Then he said unto him, "peace be unto you."

May the peace of Christ which surpasses human understanding keep your heart and your mind. Peace be unto you. Peace is one of the glorious affects of God's Spirit within our life. That peace that comes from confidence that God is in control, that peace that passes human understanding. I love it. I find that it really heckles the heathen when you have such peace in such a world of turmoil. Peace be unto you and the Lord said, "be strong."

You know I sort of miss the hippie days. Those old bands, long haired kids, granny glasses, they taught me some important lessons.

Going down Fairview one day waiting behind one of these old vans, the signal finally turned green, and this van started and chugged and then stopped. You could see the smoke coming out of the exhaust while he tried to get the thing started and he didn't realize that I was in such a hurry behind him. And I realized that soon it was going to turn yellow and red and I just couldn't wait through another red light. So, I got on the horn as if to say get that thing off the road. And as I laid on the horn I saw the hand come out the window with a peace sign. Oh was that a stinging rebuke to me. I am the one that should have been giving them the peace sign. They taught me a lot about peace.

The longing and the desire of man's heart for peace and the Lord said, "Peace Daniel." He was mourning. He was troubled over the situation. Things aren't going well. It looks bad. And the Lord is just saying, "Peace Daniel. Be strong."

And I believe that the Lord is saying that to us tonight. We are living in a time of great turmoil. We are living in a time of uncertainty. And the Lord is saying to you tonight, "Oh, I love you. Peace. Be strong."

So, he said, "O.K. Lord. You can go on now. You can give me more, because you have strengthened me."

Then he said, Knowest thou wherefore I have come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia:

This spiritual battle is not over and he is going back to get into it. And I bet you the angels really love getting involved against the enemy. He's not going to flee this one. He is returning to fight the prince of Persia.

And when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.

After Persia, he is going to fight the prince of Grecia who is going to come, the powers of darkness that will take over the Grecian Empire and elevate it to a world dominating power.

But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

So, this is really the introduction now into the prophecy that will be given to Daniel in chapter 11 and 12.