

## “Glorious Vision”

Daniel 10:1-9

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry.

Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 16 other major languages. Thousands tune in to hear biblical teaching and practical instruction on what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We praise God that He’s using us as a channel to reach people with the Gospel in so many different parts of the world.

In Second Corinthians 11, the apostle Paul shares with his readers a partial list of the kinds of things he suffered for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. Beatings, stoning, shipwreck, hunger, thirst, betrayal, and more. In the opening verses of chapter 12 he shares about a vision he had of the glories of heaven. Perhaps he had this vision during one of the times he was unconscious after being stoned by the enemies of the Gospel.

At any rate, he said he “*was caught up into the third heaven...into paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it’s not lawful for a man to speak.*” And although he doesn’t say this, we assume he saw things also that he wasn’t free to talk about.

In Revelation chapter one we have the record of John’s vision of the glorified Christ. Reading it, you get the sense that John struggles to find words to accurately communicate what he saw. The glory and majesty of Heaven and of the Heavenly beings almost defies description!

As we continue our study in the book of Daniel, chapter ten introduces us to a glorious vision that was given to him. This vision was so magnificent, so glorious that his physical strength totally deserted him! His experience was similar to the prophet Isaiah’s vision of Almighty God. The effect on Isaiah was that he felt like he was coming unraveled!

I hope that you’re being blessed by these studies in the book of Daniel. Isn’t it encouraging, in times of great uncertainty like we’re experiencing now, to know that God has all of human history within His grasp? Clearly, He ordered the life cycle of world empires to accomplish his purposes in the past. Even so, He can surely guide history to His predetermined conclusion. And that gives me great hope and comfort.

So, let’s turn now to our text, **Daniel 10:1-9**.

## Scripture

Daniel's vision in this text has only one parallel as I see it. As I said in my opening comments, that parallel vision is found in Revelation chapter one.

The last three chapters of Daniel's prophecy are incredibly unique. To quote commentator Herbert Leupold, "There is hardly anything in the Bible that is like these three chapters, especially like chapter eleven. The word, the vision, and minute prediction are combined in a manner that is found nowhere else in the Scriptures." End of quote.

The entirety of chapter ten, including the first verse of chapter eleven, is introduction for what follows in chapters eleven and twelve. This, in itself, indicates the magnitude of the prophecies that follow. These last three chapters contain the fourth vision that was given to Daniel. This final vision brings together various threads of prophecy, especially as they relate to the physical land of Israel and to the ancient, covenant people, the Jews.

Let's begin our study, "A Glorious Vision," by looking at **the Setting of Daniel's vision**.

The time is stated as the third year of King Cyrus, or approximately 536 BC. This was late in Daniel's royal service, about 72 years after he'd been carried captive to Babylon. He's possibly in his late 80s or early 90s! Interestingly, his Babylonian name is given here. I believe he wanted it to be clear, yes, this is the same Daniel who was renamed by King Nebuchadnezzar so many years before. The same Daniel who was given skill in understanding and interpreting dreams.

And then, the Authorized Version says, "a thing was revealed to Daniel." A better translation would be a word, or a revelation was given to Daniel. The nature of that revelation is described as we move through the text. Further, Daniel says the word was true. We wouldn't expect less of any revelation that came from God, would we? Psalm 119:160 says "*The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.*"

In addition, Daniel says the appointed time was long. Hebrew scholars find this phrase difficult, but here's the implication; that the time period referred to is long one that involves great trouble and conflict for God's chosen people.

The final item in this opening verse is Daniel's statement that he understood the word he was given, and he understood the vision. This is in contrast to some of the previous visions that

left unresolved questions in Daniel's mind. Did Daniel understand all that was revealed in these concluding chapters? Most likely not, but he understood the general framework of the prophecy, so this experience wasn't like the vision of chapter eight. There he had said *"And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward, I arose and went about the king's business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it."*

As I said earlier, the whole of chapter ten is preparation for the vision that is coming in remainder of the book. Part of that preparation is Daniel's time of mourning. We saw a similar pattern in the opening of chapter nine, which was then followed by the vision of the seventieth week. So, Daniel was observing a partial fast for three full weeks, or 21 days. He maintained a subsistence diet, probably unleavened bread, and water. And he didn't anoint himself with oil. He gave the absolute minimum of care for his body, both inside and out.

Now, why was Daniel mourning? Quite possibly it was his concern for the Jewish exiles who had returned to Jerusalem 2 years earlier. Ezra's record makes it clear that the Jewish people had a lot of difficulty getting reestablished in the land. They had started to rebuild the Temple but were stopped by local opposition.

Daniel may not have understood that the return of the exiles recorded in Ezra chapter one didn't fulfill the 70 years of desolation for Jerusalem. That required an additional 20 years. This was the difference between the first deportation in 605 BC and the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. It seems this final vision was an answer to some of Daniel's questions about the future of Israel in relation to the Gentiles.

One thing is sure, Daniel was completely sober and fully alert when this vision was given to him. He had prepared himself, spirit, soul, and body for this revelation.

Verse 4 tells us that Daniel's vision occurred on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, Nisan. It also informs us that he was beside the Tigris River. I think we can safely assume that his governmental responsibilities brought him to this location. This is the first clear statement we have that Daniel didn't return to Jerusalem with the exiles. Remember, he was quite advanced in age, and also still serving a prominent place in government. Perhaps he felt he could do more for his people in Babylon than in Jerusalem.

Let's move on now to look at **the Details of Daniel's vision.**

My friend, I hate to interrupt, but we're almost out of time for today's broadcast. Lord willing, we'll be back in one week to continue this study. If you'd like an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, just request it by its title, "A Glorious Vision."

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). That e-mail address is [mail@heraldsofhope.org](mailto:mail@heraldsofhope.org). Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "A Glorious Vision." I'd be happy to send one to you.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we continue our study, "A Glorious Vision." from Daniel chapter ten. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.