

## “A Glorious Vision” 4

Daniel 10:1-21

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.

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For the past few weeks on *Hope for Today* we’ve been studying from Daniel chapter ten. Our study is titled “A Glorious Vision.” Chapter ten and the first verse of chapter eleven lays the foundation for the amazing vision that Daniel is given in the remainder of the book. Our study is titled “The Skill to Understand.”

Last week, we looked at some of the details of Daniel’s vision as well as some of the effects Daniel experienced. Today, we will conclude our study. Right now, I will read **Daniel 10:1 to 21**.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in this chapter, Daniel is strengthened supernaturally. This may be the same angel that addressed him in verse 11. The wording he uses is similar and so is the designation of “*Oh man, greatly beloved.*” He encourages Daniel to receive peace from God and to be strong, repeating the words for emphasis. His words were sufficient to strengthen Daniel to the point where he could respond, “let my lord speak.”

Three times now in this chapter, an angelic being has strengthened Daniel. Why? It seems that what the angel is about to reveal to Daniel in chapter 11 must be frighteningly vivid and of tremendous importance. John Walvoord notes that this triple strengthening of Daniel is sometimes compared to Jesus’ experience in the Garden of Gethsemane just prior to His crucifixion. In both cases, an angel is the source of strengthening. This is the final time in this vision where Daniel is strengthened by a heavenly messenger.

Verse 20 begins with the angel asking Daniel “Do you know why I have come to you?” That may seem a bit strange to us, because the angel had explained his reason for coming. But don’t forget, Daniel “had been through the wringer,” as we say. The mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical stimulation Daniel has been through has been extreme. Several times in this vision

he's been so weak he can't stand upright or even have the strength to speak audibly.

Evidently, the angel is returning to do battle with the prince of Persia. What's up with that? Hadn't Michael defeated this demonic spirit? Yes, he had, and the prince of Persia's influence was waning on the world scene. We know that because of what the angel says next. But the history of warfare is filled with examples where a foe has been subjugated, but periodic conflicts flare up from the smoldering resentment of the conquered. So there's a need for continual vigilance.

The angel's message implies that when the Persian empire passes off the world scene, he will then need to do battle with the prince of Greece. The mention of these two empires sets the stage for the prophecies revealed in chapter eleven. It also tells us that there's an invisible struggle going on in the spirit world between the cosmic forces of good and evil. Satan and his minions have been given a certain amount of freedom to work their will in men and nations, but that freedom is proscribed by God's plans and purposes.

The angel informs Daniel that he has come to show him the things that are noted in the Scripture of Truth. Evidently, God's plans for human history were already written down but now they are given to Daniel to be included as part of Holy Scripture. We are blessed to be able look into the things Daniel recorded for us.

The recorded events of this chapter remind us of our human weakness and inadequacy. On the other hand, they also remind us of God's divine enabling. Here we have an entire chapter devoted to highlighting these realities. At the very least, that should alert us to the fact that the revelation to follow is of vital importance for God's purposes in the world.

As we move toward the close of this message, what are some practical things we can take away from this Scripture text?

First, Daniel's love for God and for God's people is exemplary. That love motivated him to spend significant time seeking God's face on behalf of his people. If the heavenly messenger had not come to him after the span of 21 days, would Daniel have continued his fasting and intercession? I don't know; his character seems to indicate that he would have. How deep is your love for your fellow Believers? How deep is my love? Would we willingly make this kind of sacrifice for others because we're concerned for their wellbeing? First John 4:20 reminds us that our love for our brothers and sisters is an accurate measure of our love for God.

In addition, we're given a glimpse into the "heavenly places" where angels and demons contend for their respective masters. To think this was limited to Daniel's time is naïve and

dangerous. Paul's advice in Ephesians 6:10 to 18 regarding spiritual warfare is vitally important in our day. The principalities and powers of darkness know their time is short and they are accelerating their evil influence over the kingdoms of this world.

This acceleration is fueling the rise in the persecution of Believers. While the western world hasn't experienced this in the past, that's changing. Any mention of absolute truth or biblical morality is not welcome in the public square and is denounced as bigotry or a phobia. The stage is being set for the Lawless One, the Man of Sin, who will temporarily bring the whole world under his demonic influence and control. Let's be alert to what is happening around us!

Finally, let's recognize that God alone is the source of our strength. Whatever we need to face, we have his promise that He will NEVER leave us or forsake us. The message we are called to deliver as His ambassadors is not designed to make us likeable in this world. Jesus said they hated Him, and they will hate us as His followers. But let's rest assured, the glorious vision that Daniel saw was but a foretaste of the glorious kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For Daniel, it was a vision; for us, it will soon be a reality! Maranatha!

## **CLOSING**

My friend, were you blessed by this teaching? If so, you can request an audio CD or a printed copy of this complete teaching, "A Glorious Vision" from Daniel chapter ten.

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, "The Skill to Understand." I'd be happy to send one to you.

Once again, the quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to [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 free copy of this teaching, "A Glorious Vision" It's available in print or on an audio CD.

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Now friend, I urge you to tune in next week as we begin our teaching from Daniel chapter eleven, "Of Men and Nations." And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.