

## “A Glorious Vision” 2

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.

Last week on *Hope for Today* we began 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. Last week, we looked at the setting of Daniel's vision, today, we will begin looking at some of the details of that vision.

As we resume our study for today, I will read the text, Daniel 10:1 to 14.

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

As Daniel is there by the river, he sees a vision of a glorious man. This man is dressed in linen, probably, fine, white linen such as Israel's priests wore. Around his waist is a golden belt or sash, most likely, linen embroidered with gold. And the gold is of unsurpassed quality!

The body of this heavenly being is described as being “like beryl.” Several suggestions have been made about this precious stone. It is translated as chrysolite in the Septuagint. Others have classified it as topaz. The Roman author, Pliny, described topaz as “a transparent stone with a refulgence like that of gold.” It seems the body of this messenger is “like a gigantic transparent jewel reflecting the glory of the rest of the vision.”

The face of this being is illuminated by lightning and the eyes are like torches of fire. His arms and his feet are like polished brass. And his appearance is accompanied by the mighty sound of a multitude. This sound was, apparently, not words to be understood but the impression of overwhelming power. If you compare these descriptions with John's vision of the glorified Christ in the book of Revelation you will see significant similarities.

Various commentators have expressed their opinions about who this heavenly messenger is. All agree it is not a man, but either a glorious angel, such as Gabriel, or perhaps a theophany; that is, a manifestation of God's person. In favor of this argument, there's a distinction made between the personage described in verses 5 and 6, and the angel of verse 10 to 14. And Michael is specifically mentioned in verse 13. Young and Keil are two conservative expositors who believe this was an appearance of Christ as the angel of Jehovah.

Notice with me the effect this heavenly visitor has on Daniel and his attendants. Daniel

clearly states that *“I alone saw the vision.”* But somehow, even though those who were with Daniel saw nothing, they had this overwhelming sense of fear that caused them to run and hide! This reminds me of Saul’s conversion on the road to Damascus. As a result, Daniel is left alone to behold this awesome vision.

The effect of this vision was that it completely robbed Daniel of his physical strength and affected his physical appearance! He says that his *“comeliness was turned to corruption.”* The New American Standard version puts it this way, “my natural color turned to deathly pallor.” The word *corruption*, used here, is from the same root as the word, *marred*, in Isaiah 52:14. There, the writer is speaking of the change in Jesus’ physical features as a result of His scourging and crucifixion. And once again, Daniel reiterates that he retained NO strength.

Even in his weakened physical state, Daniel was still able to hear and understand the words being spoken. But those words only increased his debility. He apparently fainted, face down on the ground! Even the holiest of mortal men are not equipped to withstand the awesome, overpowering holiness of Almighty God. It was in this condition of extreme physical and emotional weakness that he was strengthened to receive further revelation.

In verse 10 Daniel states that *“suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.”* The literal translation is “shook me up upon my knees.” This introduces a personage different from the one in the earlier verses. If that was, indeed, an appearance of God, then this must be an angel.

Picture Daniel, on his hands and knees, trembling, with his face toward the ground. The angel touches him and speaks. *“O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.”* John 3:16 expresses God’s love for all people, but there are some people who seem to be objects of a special, divine love. A few who come to mind are, David, a man after God’s own heart, and John, the disciple whom Jesus loved.

With the aid of the angel, Daniel is strengthened enough so that he can stand upright, but his body continues to tremble in a state of extreme agitation. While the angel doesn’t offer the common words “do not be afraid,” it seems he’s reassuring Daniel that he has nothing to fear. God’s purpose in coming to him is gracious, loving, and for the good of himself and his people.

Verses 12 to 14 introduce us to a Scriptural truth that we don’t often think about, the unseen spirit world of both good and evil. Here, God pulls back the curtain and gives us a glimpse into that world. After once more exhorting Daniel not to be afraid, the angel tells him that from the

very first day of his mourning and fasting, his prayer was heard.

He told Daniel that he had immediately been sent with the answer to his prayer, but there was opposition. He told Daniel that he was opposed by “prince of the kingdom of Persia.” This opposition lasted three weeks or 21 days. This prince isn’t the king of Persia, but a demonic spirit under Satan’s control who is assigned control over that jurisdiction.

It is clear that he is evil because he is in opposition to God’s messenger. Michael is the angelic prince who leads and protects God’s people. This prince oversees the kingdom of Persia and its opposition to God’s people. We must remember that the kingdoms of this world are temporarily under the control of Satan. See Matthew 4:8 and 9, and First Corinthians 15:24

This scene reminds me of Paul’s words in Ephesians 6:12; *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”* All during this 21-day period of time a battle was raging, unknown and unseen by Daniel. Michael’s appearance tips the scales in favor of this messenger, allowing him to finally reach Daniel.

## **CLOSING**

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.