

Part 20 — “The Ruler of the Seen & Unseen Realms” — 23 October 2022

**Introduction: Behind the Seen**

Gen. 50:19-21—<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?<sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.<sup>21</sup> So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**Main Point:** Although God is sovereign over all things, He permits His creatures in the seen and unseen realms to work either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ Him as He accomplishes His plans and purposes in the world.

**The Revelation of the Fourth Vision to Daniel—Dan. 10:1-11:1**

**The Historical & Prophetic Context**

- **Cyrus the Great** conquered Babylon in 538 BC, with rule of the province given to Darius the Mede (likely his uncle, Cyaxares II).  
 “Cyrus shared power with a Median king until about two years after the fall of Babylon...Cyrus was Darius’ co-regent, the hereditary king of the realm of Persia, the crown prince of Media, and the commander of the Medo-Persian army...Darius died naturally...and as he had no male heir and Cyrus had married his daughter, Cyrus inherited his position upon his death and untied the Median and Persian kingdoms...”—Pierre Briant
- Daniel’s prayer of confession and supplication to the Lord regarding Jerusalem was partially answered soon after he received his third vision (Dan. 9:1-27).
  1. *The Decree of Cyrus* (538 BC) — Ezra 1:1-4
  2. *The Work of Rebuilding* (537 BC) — Ezra 3:1-6
  3. *Opposition & the Halting of the Work* (537 BC) — Ezra 4:1-5  
Ezra 4:4-5—<sup>4</sup> Then the peoples around them set out to discourage the people of Judah and make them afraid to go on building. <sup>5</sup> They bribed officials to work against them and frustrate their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia.

**Key Point:** This was a time of much \_\_\_\_\_ wrangling within the Persian government regarding policy for dealing with the people of Israel.

**The Immediate Circumstances of the Vision (10:1-4)**

Observations

1. The author summarized both the nature of the vision and Daniel’s understanding of it.  
 “it was a great conflict” \_\_\_\_\_ “he understood the word and had understanding of the vision”
2. Daniel had concluded a time of mourning when the vision was given to him.  
 ⇒ The first month (*Nissan*) was the time of the year where the Jews celebrated both the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This was a time for the people to reflect on God’s salvation and the celebrate His goodness.  
 “In light of the historical context, it is reasonable to assume that Daniel was deeply troubled over the sad turn of events incurred by the Jews who had returned to the land of Judah and that had brought the rebuilding of the temple to a halt (Ezra 4:4-5). What had been for a moment a cause of rejoicing...had now turned to disappointment.” —J. Paul Tanner

**Key Point:** The revelation of the vision came in response to Daniel’s \_\_\_\_\_ for Israel in light of the political circumstances and the conflicts that had been depicted in his prior visions.

**The Vision of the Son of Man & the Message of the Angel**

Observations

1. Daniel saw a figure that appeared to be both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
 

<i>“a man clothed in linen with a belt of fine gold”</i>	His clothing gave was similar to that of an OT _____.
<i>“his face was like the appearance of lightning”</i>	His face shown with a divine _____ (Matt. 17:2)
<i>“his eyes were like flaming torches”</i>	He sees with a piercing _____
<i>“his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze”</i>	He is proven _____ and faithful like metal that has been refined.
<i>“the sound of his words like...a multitude”</i>	He speaks with _____ and _____.

**Key Point:** Given the similarities to Rev. 1:12-17, this figure should be recognized as the Preincarnate \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Daniel and the other men responded as those who had encountered the divine.

Dan. 10:8b-9—*My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. <sup>9</sup> Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.*

*“a deep sleep”*

3. An angel then spoke to Daniel to explain the message that God desired to be revealed to him.

⇒ The angel was sent to \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel.

*“O Daniel, man greatly loved”*

*“Fear not, Daniel...your words have been heard”*

⇒ He was sent to give Daniel greater understanding of Israel’s \_\_\_\_\_.

*“in the latter days”*

4. The angel then gave Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ into the true nature of the conflict that was underway.

*“the prince of the kingdom of Persia”*

*“Michael...your prince”*

⇒ The “kings” referenced by the angel are different than the “princes” and probably literally refer to Cyrus and his son Cambyses (with whom he shared coregency until his death in 530 BC).

“Apparently there is warfare between the angels and demons which involves the affairs of nations of this earth. To deceive the nations is part of Satan’s master plan, and he uses demons in carrying it out. What this means for international politics staggers the imagination, for there is no reason not to believe that it is still going on today.” —Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*

5. Although Daniel was completely overwhelmed by this interaction, the angel ministered to him in accordance with his needs.

*“I turned my face to the ground and was mute”*

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*“the...man touched my lips”*

*“No strength remains in me...no breath is left in me”*

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*“[the] man touched me and strengthened me”*

6. In preparation for the message about to be revealed, the angel sought to assure Daniel in light of further conflict that lay ahead.

*“I will return to fight”*

*“I stood up to confirm and strengthen him”*

**Key Point:** Thought Daniel was overwhelmed by the reality conflict within the seen and unseen realms, he had been give a glimpse of the One who was ultimately sovereign over it and who would be the \_\_\_\_\_ in the end.

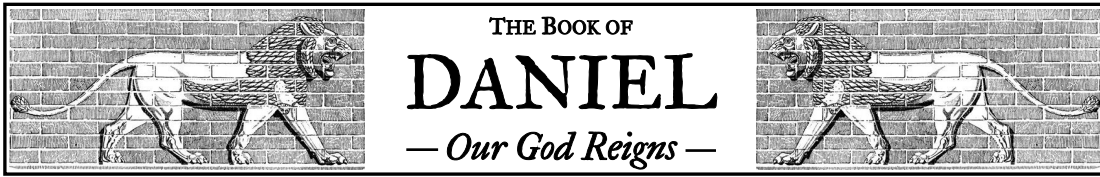
## Living Faithfully in “Babylon”

- The conflicts of our day have both a seen and unseen component and therefore our only \_\_\_\_\_ to endure faithfully comes through the Lord and all that He provides.

Eph. 6:10-13—<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

- Our primary weapon is the conflict is the \_\_\_\_\_ which God has given to us in His Word.

2 Cor. 10:3-5—<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ



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<i>“his eyes were like flaming torches”</i>	He sees with a piercing <u>intensity</u> .
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<i>“the sound of his words like...a multitude”</i>	He speaks with <u>power</u> and <u>authority</u> .

**Key Point:** Given the similarities to Rev. 1:12-17, this should be recognized as the Preincarnate Christ.

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