

## **FEB 1 - DEVOTIONAL - "DANIEL'S 21 DAYS"**

### **Daniel 10**

*1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.*

*2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. 7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. 9 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.*

*10 And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."*

*15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. 16 And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. 17 How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me."*

*18 Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19 And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." 20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.*

### **1. NOTICE THE "SPECIAL TIME OF PRAYER & FASTING"**

Daniel was a man of great prayer, so it is not surprising to us that when there is a climate of great spiritual warfare taking place in the heavenlies and there is a "great conflict" revealed in this hour—we find Daniel setting aside some special time of prayer

and waiting on God! ...This probably wasn't Daniel's routine approach to prayer, but rather a sense in his heart, that this moment would need something different.

The different approach that Daniel takes (v. 3) is to "strip down" and "simplify" the natural activities of his life and to "draw near to God" and wait for Him! ...There's something to be observed about the way that Godly men & women have restrained or dialed back the natural elements of their lives in order to make greater room in their souls to encounter God! This could even be observed in Jesus' life, as he took 40 days in the wilderness to prepare for launching his public ministry or the way he would strip down the noise of people and life and get alone with God by withdrawing to solitary places.

## **2. ENCOUNTERING GOD'S REVELATION**

...Daniel would do this for 21 days and when the angel shows up and adds his commentary to Daniel's story in v. 12 the angel says, "*Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.*"

- The angel reveals that Daniel's prayers were heard and received in heaven—long before Daniel saw any action taking place on earth! ...Really helpful to know, right!?
- The angel described Daniel's actions and heart posture as "humbling yourself" ...there will be moments in our lives that we need to take the posture of needing God to come to us and meet us—He is what we need!
- Daniel is seeking to understand something ...When you consider his situation, it seems that he is provoked to seek some understanding—but I can't imagine he had much anticipation of what he ended up hearing and encountering from the angel! ...Helpful for us to know that all we need to do is respond to the prompt to "seek God", and God will take care of what needs to be shown to us!!

## **3. NOTICE THAT LIFE IS NOT JUST WHAT YOU SEE WITH A NATURAL EYE**

Ephesians 6 reminds us that, "*we wrestle not 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 heavenly places.*" ...There are few places in Scripture that peel back the veil that lies between the seen and the unseen realm of our lives—but Daniel has that veil pulled back—and we all get reminded that there's more going on around us than the flesh and blood people, politics, and protests that we can see with natural eyes!

Daniel provides a great insight! ...There is stuff going on in this world that it might take 21 days of prayer and fasting to encounter and engage! ...Let's go on that journey and see!