

Daniel's final vision

Chapters 10 -12

Part 1: the Angelic Visitors



Essential points to bear in mind

This chapter 10 introduces us to Daniel's 4th and final prophetic vision covering chapters 10 to 12.

It covers the time of Daniel c. 500BC to the end of the age.

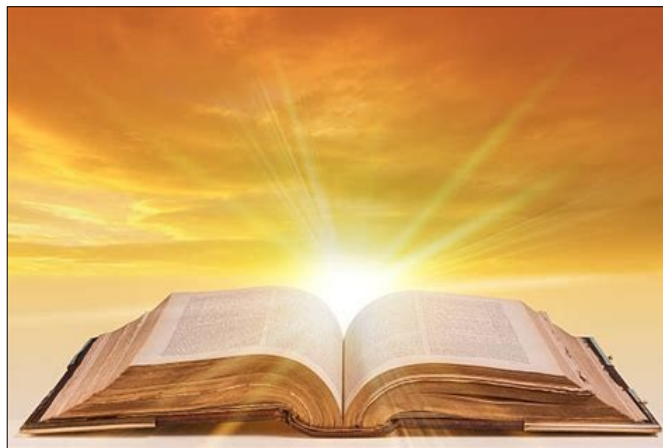
This chapter also prepares us for the very detailed Ch.11 which covers events in the Middle East relating to Israel esp. within the next 400 years from Daniel's day – v. difficult times.

This prophecy assures us that God is in charge. He knows all the details, and is not caught out by events on earth.

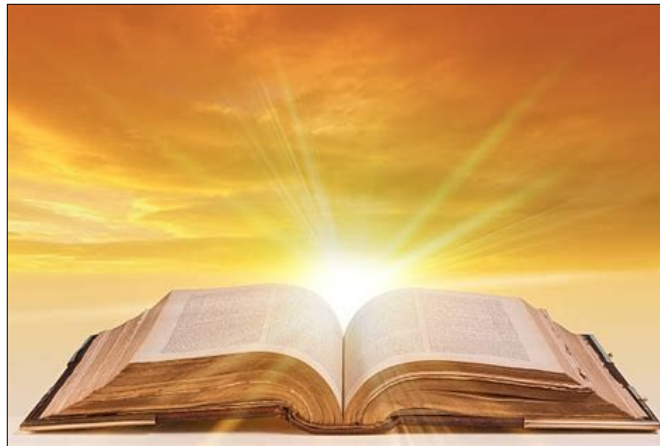
It gives a profound insight into what is going on – not just events happening on earth, but that these are driven by spiritual forces of good and evil at war in the heavens. We are caught in it.

If God's people are to cope and thrive in this fallen world we need to have some understanding of prophecy – to see what is coming and to look beyond to the glorious end.

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision. At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.



I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground. A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.



Tough times are ahead!

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

It is dated as Cyrus's 3rd year (536 BC)

In his 1st year, he gave the edict for the Jews to return home cf. Ezra 1:1

But not many had returned (including Daniel – v. old by now and still useful in Persian administration (continuing from the Babylonian))

He gives a summary of the vision to be revealed = a great war



How it started...

At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

Why was he mourning for 3 weeks?

- 1, Over the past?
- 2, Hard times in Judea – cf Haggai – given up building – bad news
- 3, If he started in 1st month it covered the Passover time- another sad reminder of the past glories.

So he prayed about it!

With a 'limited' fast of basic food and no cosmetics for "3 sevens of days" = 3 full weeks



On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,

The date of the vision:

Down by the river – meditation and praying?

Accompanied by servants? (they go with officials)



An Awesome Vision

I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Daniel sees a 'man' (over the water?)

He gave a detailed description

– who is it?

Problem! Old commentators say it's a theophany (the angel of the Lord – Jesus) cf. Close similarity to John's experience in Revelation 1. If it isn't the Lord, then it must be an unnamed top ranking angel (see why later).



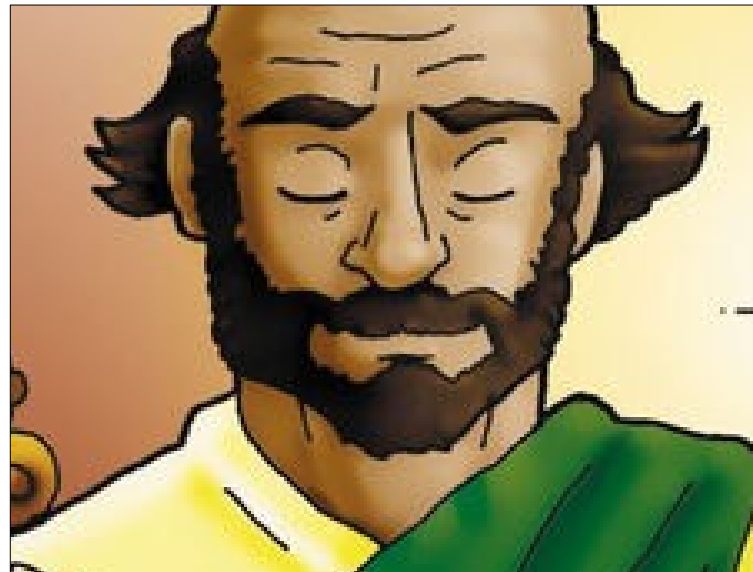
I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.

They all sensed the powerful Presence.
Compare with Saul of Tarsus's experience on the Damascus road in Acts 9.



So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

Alone. The vision experience sapped all his strength.
He spoke (unreported words) Daniel falls asleep (passes out)



A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

Whose hand woke him and gave him some strength?
- now he was on hands and knees.



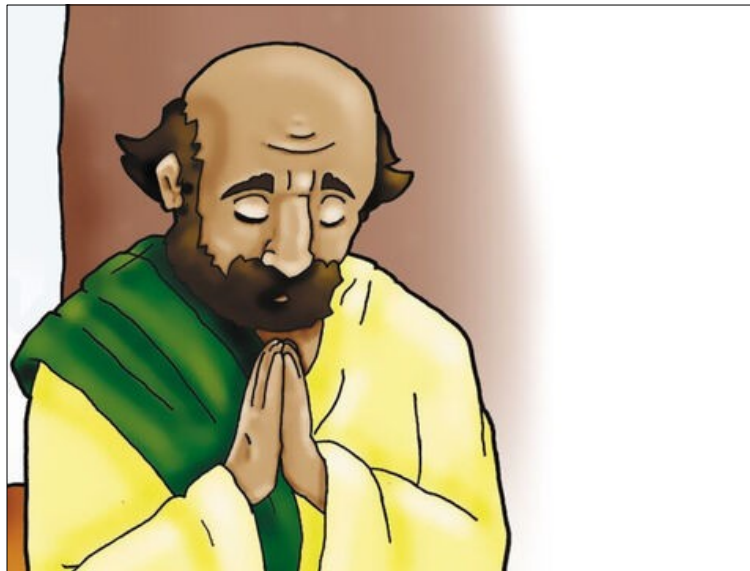
He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you."

He speaks a personal address and shows his knowledge
Listen, stand
I have been sent (by God)



And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

He will give an explanation for the 'delay' but reveals that his prayers were heard from the start.



But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days.

The prince of Persia was an evil spirit/angel power over Persia. He was making trouble for God's people in Persia.

He was a powerful enemy - 21 days resistance, by working on people's lives and circumstances on earth.

Daniel's prayers must have set things moving too.

We have a glimpse into the fact that we are in a spiritual battle

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.



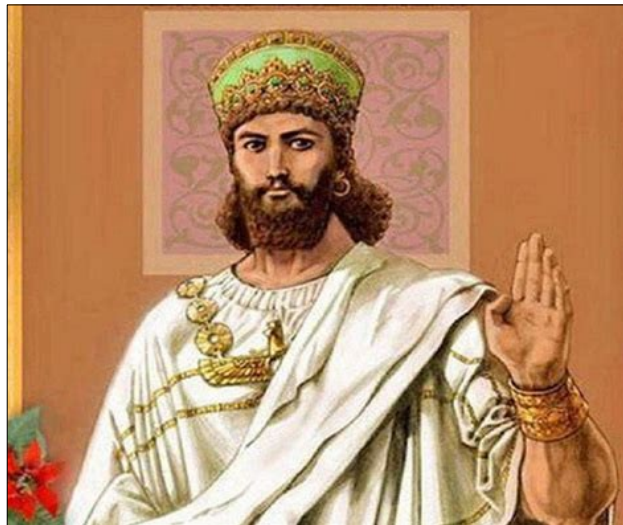
cf. Moses' intercession and the Amalekites.

Exodus 17:11

Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

The speaker describes Michael as one of the chief princes (there must be others). He comes to help in the spiritual battle. (Does the Lord need help? - No, but he chooses to use others).

The King of Persia could be the earthly monarch, Cyrus.



Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.

Delay is now over, I'm here to reveal the future for the Jewish people - in the distant future. (latter days)



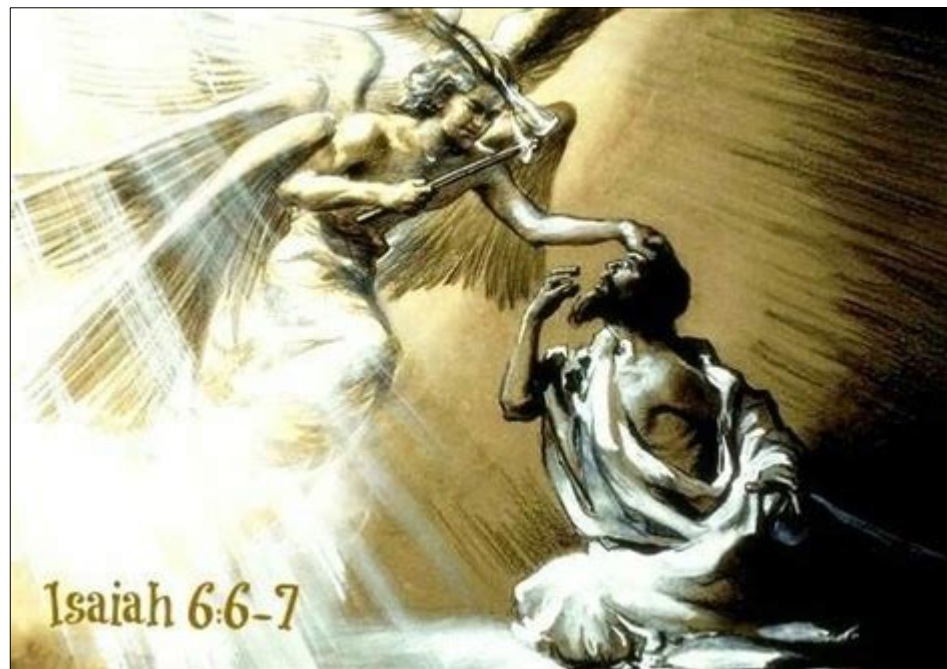
While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless.

The revelation of the battle at present weakens him



Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak.

Another angel present there touches and strengthens him
cf Isaiah 6



I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I am helpless. How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe."

Daniel 'apologises' for his reaction
(‘my lord’ is a term of respect and reverence)



Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. "Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong."

The other angel touched him again and spoke
Don't fear
You are much loved
Be at peace (encouraged)



When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said,
"Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."

Daniel addresses the original speaker
Please continue ... I'm ready now.

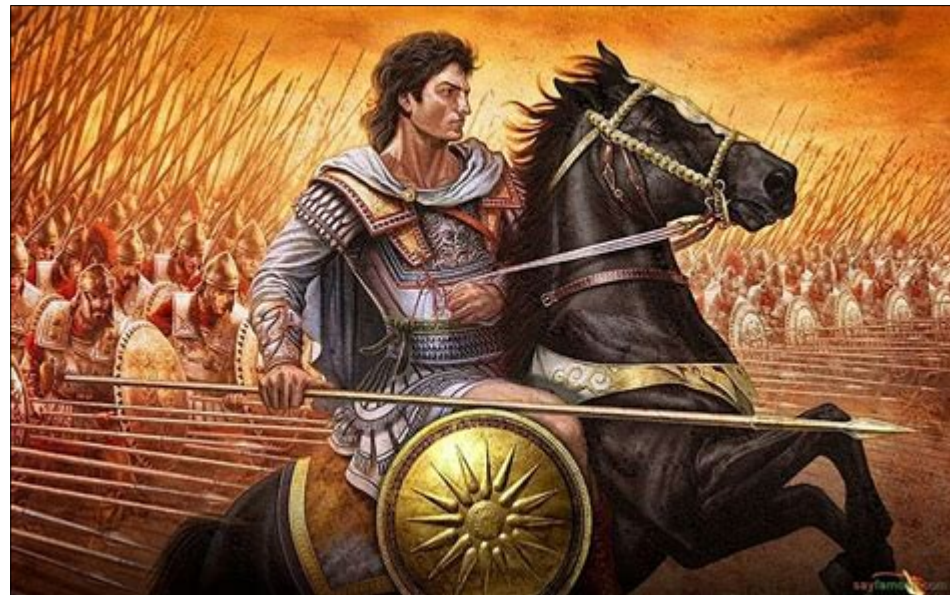


So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come;

This is an explanation of why I've come. - to bring an answer to your prayers.

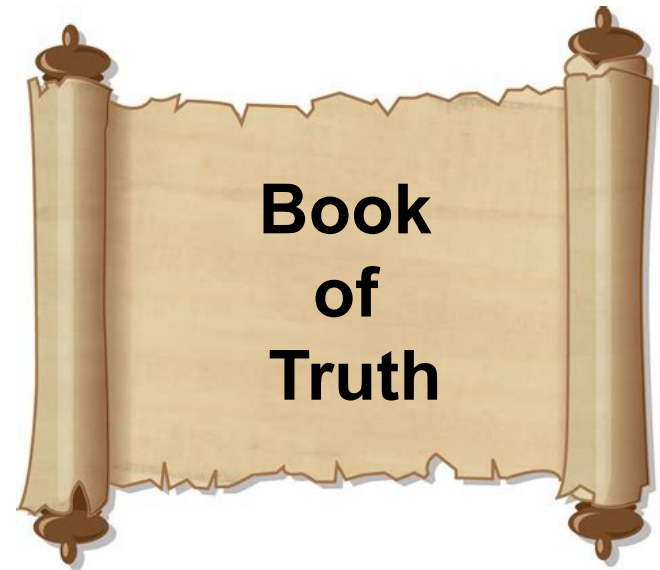
Going back soon to continue battle for God's people in Persia
After that the power behind the Greek empire will come.

It will be Greece that the Jews will have to next contend with



but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.)

I'll tell you what will happen in the 'plan'.
Evil angels are at war with myself, and Michael, your prince is with me.



Cf later Revelation 12:7-

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

Daniel 11:1 “And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.

I helped Darius during his first year with the transition from the Babylonian to the Persian empire.

There's more detail to come.



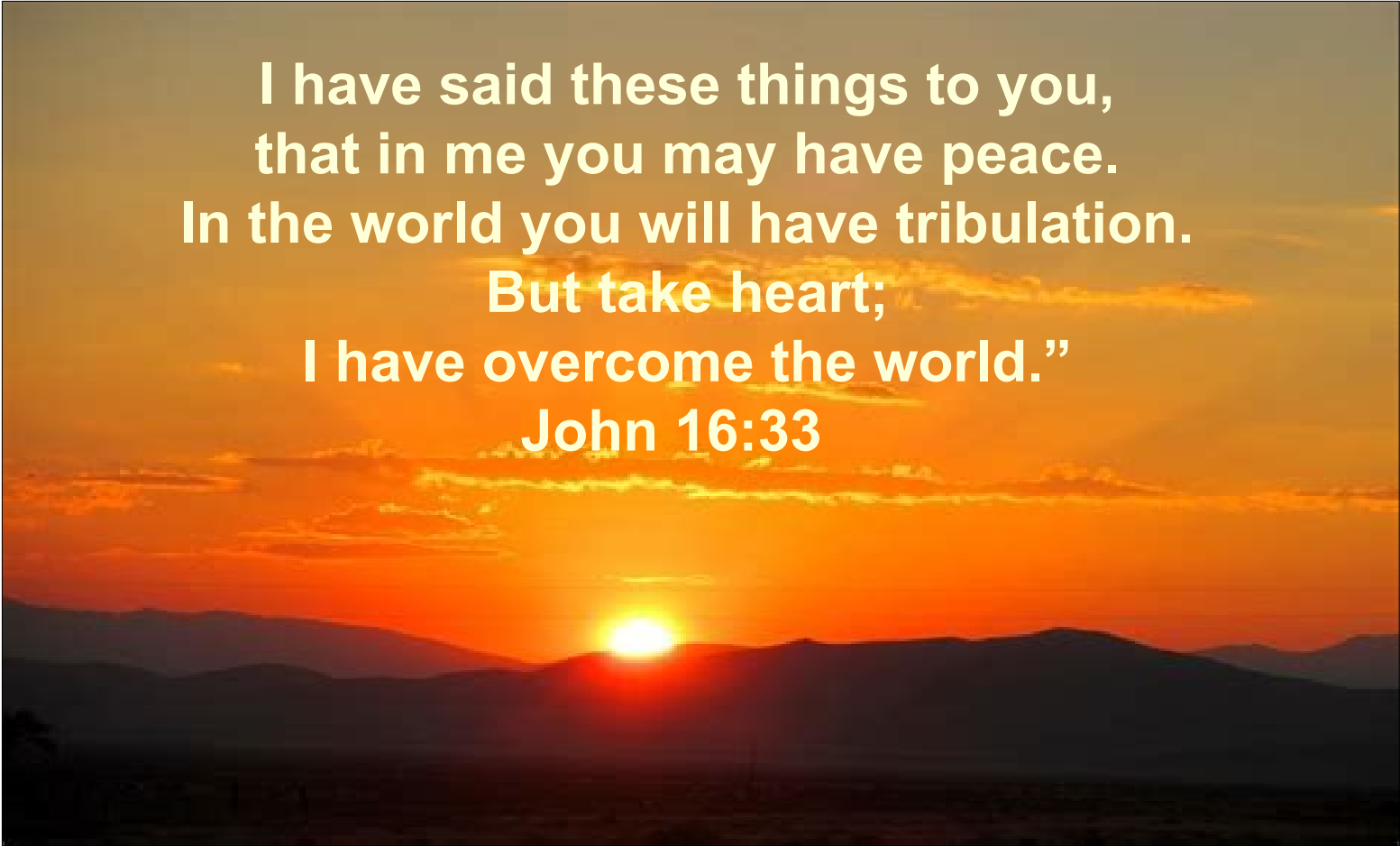
In Conclusion

This chapter of Daniel reminds us that in this world there is an on-going battle and we are involved.

God is in charge!

Prayer is v. important.

Prepared understanding helps us in this.



**I have said these things to you,
that in me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart;
I have overcome the world.”
John 16:33**