

THE KING OF KINGS

DANIEL 10

OUR KING COMES TO US



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

"I'm too old to be useful." Any of our seniors ever feel like that? "I'm old, weak, and forgotten by God and others. What can I possibly do for the Lord? What can I expect from the Lord? How can I help his church now?" Maybe you're not a senior but you look ahead and fear that future? Let's ask 86-year-old Daniel, "**What can we do when we can't do anything?**" He's got a tremendously encouraging answer for us in Daniel 10.

BACKGROUND

Be faithful in faithless times because:

- Our King Cares for us (Daniel 1)
- Our King Communicates with us (Daniel 2:1-30)
- Our King Conquers for us (Daniel 2:31-49)
- Our King Commands us (Daniel 3)
- Our King Condemns the Proud (Daniel 4:1-33)
- Our King Converts the Lost (Daniel 4:34-37)
- Our King Calculates Spiritual Weight (Daniel 5)
- Our King Closes Lions Mouths (Daniel 6)
- Our King Concludes History (Daniel 7)
- Our King Crushes the Antichrist (Daniel 8)
- Our King Covenants with Us (Daniel 9:1-19)
- Our King is Crucified for Us (Daniel 9:20-27)
- Our King Comes to Us (Daniel 10)

Daniel 10

It's two years since the Persian King, Cyrus, decreed the return of the captive Jews to Israel. Only a small group had gone, with the vast majority preferring to stay in Persia. The few who returned to Israel had started well by rebuilding the foundation of the temple. However, opposition from the Samaritans persuaded the Persians to order the work stopped. Daniel was in his mid-80's now and his dream of a rebuilt Israel (both physically and spiritually) was fading fast.



**How did Daniel respond to this discouragement?
He gave himself to fasting and prayer.**



1. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO THE REPENTANT (1-6)

Repentance (1-3)

Instead of condemning the comfortable non-returners and criticizing the beleaguered returners, Daniel gave himself to three weeks of fasting and prayer. He identified with the suffering and hardships of God's people and wept over the sins of his people.

Revelation (4-6)

Three weeks into his humiliation, and three days after the Passover, Daniel was standing with a heavy and broken heart on the banks of the River Tigris, when he looked up and saw a spectacular supernatural vision. As Sinclair Ferguson wrote, "He struggled to find words to express the glory of the presence of this "man." He ransacks the vocabulary of precious metals, stones, and the natural elements to describe the inexpressible beauty he beheld." If we try to find specific meaning in these words, we can suggest:

- **He was clothed in linen with a belt of fine gold around his waist:** A priestly outfit
- **His body was like a beryl:** A colorful and costly gemstone that conveyed beauty and worth.
- **His face like the appearance of lightning:** Glorious, awesome, terrifying holiness
- **His eyes like flaming torches:** Searching and penetrating omniscience (all-knowing)
- **His arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze:** Strength and stability
- **His voice was like the sound of a multitude:** Powerful and authoritative

However, it's probably the overall impression that we're to focus on most. The awesomely beautiful sights and sounds overwhelmed all of Daniel's senses.

Who was this. Some say it was one of the archangels. However, the description and the result outstrips any encounter with an angel. also, Daniel calls him "my Lord" three times. Most significantly, the description is closely paralleled with the description of Jesus in Revelation 1:13-17. We therefore conclude that this is a pre-incarnate appearance of the Son of God, giving a revelation of himself to exiled and discouraged Daniel, just as he would to exiled and discouraged John.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Jesus loves to visit his humble and contrite people (10:12; Isa. 57:15). He resists the proud but draws near to the humble (Ps. 138:6). If Jesus visits Daniel beside the River Tigris in exile, he can visit you in your nursing home, hospice, or when you are housebound. Offer him a repentant heart and he will return to your heart. Seeing the ugliness of sin is the best way to see the beauty of Christ. No one is too old for humble prayer. Ezra and Nehemiah were to be the doing leaders, but aging Daniel was to be the praying leader.

WELCOME JESUS BY
WELCOMING REPENTANCE



What's the right response to Jesus?



2. GOD REVEALS HIS PLAN TO THE REVERENT (7-21)

Reverence

In a scene reminiscent of the Damascus road (Acts 9:7). Daniel collapses with awe at what he's seen and heard. His companions who see a fraction of what Daniel saw, run away in terror. In a scene reminiscent of Isaiah 6, 5-6, Daniel experiences three cycles of Christ's reassurance.

Sequence 1: Reverence (8-9), Reassurance (10-14). **Sequence 2:** Reverence (15), Reassurance (16). **Sequence 3:** Reverence (16-17); Reassurance (18-21). Daniel is so overcome with the sight of the Son of God that he faints and struggles to get back on his feet again. His Savior gradually restores him, raising him to his knees and then feet, offering reassuring words and touches. Perhaps the most comforting words he heard were "O Daniel, man greatly loved." There are no words any believer wants to hear more than these loving words from the Savior.

Revelation

Having revealed himself, the Son of God now reveals history. He opens the curtains and tells Daniel what's been going on behind the scene of time. He explains the past and the future.

The Past: God reveals the spiritual conflict behind all other conflicts (10). The greatest enemy of God's people is not the Persians, the Samaritans, the 'remainers' or the 'remoaners' but the Devil and his minions (Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 4:4). That's who's being referred to with the words 'the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me.' This is not the political King of Persia but the spiritual power that motivates and moves him. When this prince opposed Christ and hindered him from coming to Daniel, Michael the angel came to help (13). This is not suggesting an equal battle that Christ just won, or that Christ needed help. It's a way of emphasizing the fierce raging opposition to Christ and his people. But ultimately he scatters these princes and is left alone with the Persian Kings (13).

The Future: The future looks very like the past. The fight with the 'prince of Persia' will continue, then the 'prince of Greece' will tag team with him. That's what the future looks like, a non-stop battle against non-stop enemies. But Michael 'your prince' will be Christ's ally in this. One of the angels that you move by prayer is in Christ's coalition.

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Our ultimate enemy is the devil. Our greatest enemy is not Joe Biden, COVID, vaccines, or masks, but the devil. However great the political, judicial, cultural, educational, digital opposition appears, the spiritual enemy behind them is far greater. Evil spirits surround and sometimes occupy the places and pixels of power. But this victory is a harbinger of the full, final, and forever victory of Christ over the Devil.

Our ultimate weapon is prayer. Daniel's prayer brought not only angels but the Son of God to earth. How encouraging for seniors (and the young). An 86-year-old man prayed and changed history. We can too.

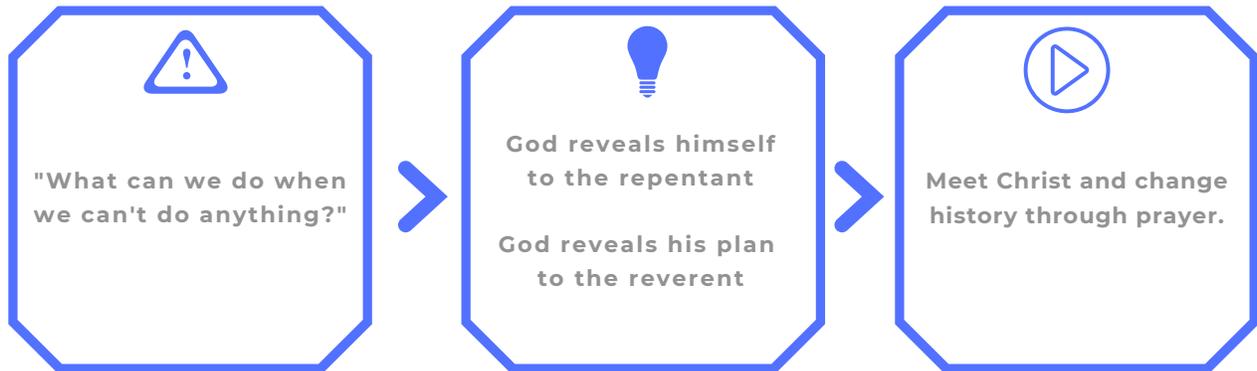
THE DEVIL OCCUPIES PALACES AND PIXELS BUT
CHRIST EVICTS THROUGH PRAYERFUL PEOPLE



Hear God's Story > Change your story > Tell the story



CONCLUSION



PRAYER: Encouraging God, give us the spirit of prayer so that we can meet with Jesus and join with Jesus in his successful battle against evil. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what other seasons in life might a Christian feel they are useless for the Kingdom.
2. What leaves you discouraged today and who are you blaming for these problems?
3. What do you learn from this Abraham Kuyper quote: "If once the curtain were pulled back, and the spiritual world behind it came to view, it would expose to our spiritual vision a struggle so intense, so convulsive, sweeping everything within its range, that the fiercest battle ever fought on earth would seem, by comparison, a mere game. Not here, but up there—that is where the real conflict is waged. Our earthly struggle drones in its backlash. The world crises we identify with these locations are actually reflections of an older, more ruthless, perpetual conflict, namely, that between the city of God with its angelic host and the kingdom of darkness, which seeks to turn the direction of all history against God and against His people." How will you respond to this?
4. How does this passage encourage you about the present, the future, and the end?

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