

The Man
Above
The River

**The Wednesday Night Study
Of The Book of Daniel**

**March 28, 2019
Pastor Dan Betzer**

THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL STATESMAN FOR THE AGES

Session Ten / Chapter 10
Wednesday, March 28, 2018

THE FOURTH VISION / THE MAN ABOVE THE RIVER

1 The first chapters in Daniel were historical:
2

- 3 • Daniel and three of his friends captured and exiled to Babylon
- 4 • Their insistence of keeping Jewish practices at the risk of their lives
- 5 • The dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar outlining Gentile history
- 6 • The ordeal of the fiery furnace
- 7 • The king turned into a beast for seven years
- 8 • The overthrow of Babylon and Regent Ruler Belshazzar
- 9 • The handwriting on the wall
- 10 • Daniel in the lions' den early in the Persian era

11
12 Chapter 7 to the end of the book details four visions received by Daniel which foretold
13 events that would take place not only in Daniel's time, but beyond through the Greek
14 persecution even in the Great Tribulation period.

15
16 We recall chapter 2 in which Nebuchadnezzar was given the dream of the coming world
17 empires:

- 18 1. Babylon
- 19 2. Medo-Persia
- 20 3. Greece
- 21 4. Rome
- 22 5. The end-time amalgamation of nations (now)

23
24 The first 2 of Daniel's visions came during Belshazzar's reign over Babylon; the other 2
25 came during the Persian rule. The last vision required the final three chapters of Daniel
26 to articulate.

27
28 Chapter 10 tells of a heavenly visitor who appeared to Daniel who gave vital future
29 information to him. This chapter tells of a conflict with an emissary of Satan who
30 hindered Daniel's prayer for a short time and give other pertinent information of what
31 was to come in the history of mankind.

1 Daniel 10:1

2 **In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose**
3 **name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was**
4 **long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.**

5
6 By this time in Daniel's life, he was pushing 90 years of age. He clearly reveals the basic
7 timetable of his fourth revelation from God: "In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia."
8 This would have been 536 years before Christ.

10 CYRUS

11
12 Cyrus is a king mentioned more than 30 times in scripture. He reigned over Persia (Iran
13 and Iraq today in today's world) between 539-530 B.C. He is so important to Jewish
14 history as it was under his rule that Jews were first allowed to return to Israel after 70
15 years of captivity.

16
17 In one of the most amazing prophecies of the Bible, ISAIAH predicted Cyrus' decree
to free the Jews. 150 years before Cyrus lived, Isaiah called him by name and gave
details of his benevolence to the Jews: Isaiah 45:1 **Thus saith the Lord to his**
anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before
him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates;
and the gates shall not be shut. Isaiah 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my
shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou
shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

18
19 Cyrus' decree releasing the Jewish people is recorded in 2 Chron. 36:22-23 **Now in the**
20 **first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord spoken by the mouth of**
21 **Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of**
22 **Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in**
23 **writing, saying, [23] Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth**
24 **hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an**
25 **house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people?**
26 **The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up.**

27
28 The Old Testament book of Ezra also teaches about this amazing monarch, Cyrus. He
29 not only allowed Jews to return to Israel, but he actually assisted them in rebuilding the
30 Temple in Jerusalem under Zerubbabel and Joshua (the high priest). Ezra 1:7-11
31 **[7] Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the Lord, which**
32 **Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house**

1 of his gods; [8] Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of
2 Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of
3 Judah. [9] And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand
4 chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives, [10] Thirty basons of gold, silver basons
5 of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand. [11] All the
6 vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did
7 Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Babylon
8 unto Jerusalem.

9
10 Daniel served as a chief counselor to Cyrus so it is only reasonable to assume that he had
11 at least something to do with influencing his king to be kind to the Jews. The historian
12 Josephus reported that Cyrus was informed of the biblical prophecies concerning him
13 (Antiquities of the Jews, XI.1.2). The natural person to have shown Cyrus the scrolls
14 was Daniel.

15
16 Cyrus was known for his advancement of human rights, his brilliant military strategy and
17 his bridging of Eastern and Western cultures. His demeanor brings to mind this passage
18 in Scripture: Proverbs 21:1 **The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers**
19 **of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.**

20 21 REJECTION OF FREEDOM

22
23 While we don't know exactly how many Jews were in Babylonian-Persian exile, we do
24 know that very few returned to Israel. Ezra 2:64-65 **The whole congregation together**
25 **was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore, [65] Beside their**
26 **servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty**
27 **and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing**
28 **women.** Fifty thousand! The rest stayed in Persia, content to remain in captivity and
29 away from the Holy Temple (to be restored) in Jerusalem.

30
Lest we jump on them for not taking advantage of their privilege, let's turn the
spotlight on ourselves. How many of us live up to our full gifting from God? I don't
speak here of material things necessarily, but the great spiritual and eternal gifts of
God available to all believers. John 8:36 **If the Son therefore shall make you**
free, ye shall be free indeed. Yet so many are content to remain in bondage to fear,
to resentment and bitterness, to depression and other bonds of the enemy.

31 This sad state of affairs drove Daniel to his knees in intercession - not for a few, fleeting
32 moments, but for three full weeks. During this time, he abstained from food and even

1 from normal physical hygiene (“neither did I anoint myself at all”). This period of self-
2 denial on Daniel’s part was not some religious formality. It was the voluntary expression
3 of inward sorrow of spirit.
4

5 Daniel 10:2-3

6 **In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. [3] I ate no pleasant bread,**
7 **neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three**
8 **whole weeks were fulfilled.**
9

10 Intercession is defined in the Life In The Spirit Study Bible as “holy, believing,
11 persevering prayer, whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who
12 desperately need God’s intervention.” Chapter 9, as we studied last time, was Daniel’s
13 heartfelt plea to God on behalf of the exiled people of Israel who had somehow just lost
14 their spiritual way and who were content to remain in exile.
15

16 Now Daniel is in for a happening that has come to only a few men in history...
17

18 Daniel 10:5-7

19 **[4] And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the**
20 **great river, which is Hiddekel; (The Tigris River, as we know it today) [5] Then I lifted**
21 **up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins**
22 **were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face**
23 **as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his**
24 **feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a**
25 **multitude. [7] And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw**
26 **not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide**
27 **themselves.**
28

29 Who was this man? I believe it was the pre-incarnate Christ. Why? We remember
30 John’s exile on the Island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea (sent there by the brutal Roman
31 Emperor Domitian). Jesus appeared to him - oh, but not in the same way as when John
32 walked with Him as a loyal disciple long years before. Note John’s description of Jesus
33 as He appeared now:
34

35 Rev. 1:12-17

36 **And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven**
37 **golden candlesticks; [13] And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the**
38 **Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a**
39 **golden girdle. [14] His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow;**
40 **and his eyes were as a flame of fire; [15] And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they**

1 **burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. [16] And he had in**
2 **his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and**
3 **his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. [17] And when I saw him, I**
4 **fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear**
5 **not; I am the first and the last:**

6
7 In verse 7 Daniel made it clear that he alone saw the Man. However, whoever it was
8 with him were petrified. That is what happened to those with Saul of Tarsus (Paul)
9 enroute to Damascus to arrest Christians: Acts 9:3-7 **And as he journeyed, he came**
10 **near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: [4]**
11 **And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why**
12 **persecutest thou me? [5] And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am**
13 **Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. [6] And**
14 **he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the**
15 **Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou**
16 **must do. [7] And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a**
17 **voice, but seeing no man.**

18
19 But even Daniel, this fantastic man of God, was stunned in Christ's presence: Daniel
20 10:8-10 **Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained**
21 **no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I**
22 **retained no strength. [9] Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the**
23 **voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the**
24 **ground. [10] And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and**
25 **upon the palms of my hands.**

26
27 When we sing Gaither's lovely song, "He Touched Me," we are blessed even though we
28 are singing about a "spiritual touch," as opposed to a physical one. But try to
29 comprehend being touched by our Lord physically.

30
31 In Matthew 8, as Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount, He walked down the far side of
32 the hill back to Capernaum. There He encountered a leper who begged to be cleanse.
33 Matthew 8:1-4 **When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes**
34 **followed him. [2] And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying,**
35 **Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. [3] And Jesus put forth his hand, and**
36 **touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was**
37 **cleansed. [4] And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew**
38 **thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto**
39 **them. That is astounding because NO ONE EVER TOUCHED LEPERS as their**
40 **disease was considered highly contagious. But Jesus did - He touched the poor man.**



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THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE NORTH WEST END OF THE SEA OF GALILEE. NOTE THE MOUNT OF BEATITUDES, WHERE JESUS GAVE HIS FAMOUS SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MATTHEW 5, 6, AND 7). AT THAT TIME HE WAS LIVING IN CAPERNAUM TO THE RIGHT (WEST). COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNT JESUS ENCOUNTERED THE LEPER, TOUCHED HIM AND HEALED HIM. AT THE EXTREME NORTH END OF THE WATER NOTE THE VILLAGE OF BETHSAIDA, FROM WHICH JAMES AND JOHN CAME. "TABGHA" IS TRADITIONALLY CONSIDERED THE SITE OF THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND. ABOUT 80% OF ALL THAT JESUS DID IN HIS MINISTRY HAPPENED IN THIS GENERAL AREA.

We cannot imagine, can we, being in the presence of God. One day we will see Him, face to face, but not now, Paul wrote. We only see through a "dark glass." In Paul's day there were no mirrors such as we have today. Only polished brass or some other similar metal - so that the visage displayed was not true, but distorted to some extent or other. What a day that will be, however, when we see Jesus!

Jesus had a message for the great prophet Daniel:

Daniel 10:11-17

And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. [12] Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

1 [13] But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but,
2 lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the
3 kings of Persia. [14] Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy
4 people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. [15] And when he had
5 spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.
6 [16] And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I
7 opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by
8 the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. [17] For
9 how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me,
10 straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.

- 11 • Verse 11 “O Daniel, greatly beloved...”

12 How’s that for an accolade? To have Jesus articulate such devotion and love to His great
13 prophet and statesman, Daniel?

- 14 • Verse 13 “...the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty
15 days...”

16 Jesus said, in effect, “Daniel...I heard you the first time you called to me 21 days ago!
17 But I was hindered by Satan...”

18 I could fill up several pages here, writing about hindrances to prayer. Praying is a
19 spiritual act and there is more than ONE SPIRIT. Paul reminded the Ephesians of this:
20 Ephes. 6:12

21 **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against**
22 **powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness**
23 **in high places.**

24 The enemy of your soul, Satan (along with all his vicious, wicked buddies) does not want
25 your prayers answered. He has all kinds of tools to stop your prayers from going
26 through.

27 1. Motivation James 4:3 **Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye**
28 **may consume it upon your lusts.**

29 2. Sin Isaiah 59:1-2 **Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot**
30 **save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: [2] But your iniquities have**
31 **separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that**
32 **he will not hear.**

1 3. Idolatry Ezekiel 14:3 **Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their**
2 **heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be**
3 **enquired of at all by them?**

4
5 An idol is anything that takes the place of God in your heart.

6
7 4. Stinginess (Strange reason, but Biblical!) Proverbs 21:13 **Whoso stoppeth his**
8 **ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.**

9
10 5. Unforgiveness Mark 11:25 **And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have**
11 **ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your**
12 **trespasses.**

13
14 6. Unity between husband and wife 1 Peter 3:7 **Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with**
15 **them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker**
16 **vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not**
17 **hindered.**

18
19 7. Unbelief James 1:5-7 **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that**
20 **giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. [6] But let**
21 **him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea**
22 **driven with the wind and tossed. [7] For let not that man think that he shall receive**
23 **any thing of the Lord.**

24 25 THE PROPHECY OF THE RISE OF GREECE

26
27 There was yet another heavenly messenger to Daniel, this one an angel. It might have
28 been Gabriel:

29
30 Daniel 10:18-21

31 **Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he**
32 **strengthened me, [19] And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee,**
33 **be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and**
34 **said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me. [20] Then said he, Knowest**
35 **thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of**
36 **Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. [21] But I will**
37 **shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that**
38 **holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.**

39
40 Daniel was still “weak in the knees” after the Lord appeared unto him so an angel was

The Rise of Greece City-States



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21 sent to strengthen him and deliver a bombshell of a prophecy: Daniel was living now in
22 the Medo-Persia era, but another was coming! Greece! (Again - refer to chapter 2
23 which prophesied all the major world gentile powers that would come. Among them –
24 GREECE!)

25
26 The word *politics* comes from the Greek word *polis* which meant “city state.” So
27 “politics” literally means “the things of the polis” where each city state was independent.
28 About the time of Daniel, some of the city states such as Sparta and Athens began to
29 comprehend that they would have much more clout in the world if they merged interests.
30

31 Just a couple decades after Daniel 11's events came the Persian Wars (500-448) according
32 to Herodotus, one of the earliest nameable historians whose work still survives. He
33 would have been a contemporary of Daniel although they never were even in the same
34 country together.
35

36 The Persian Empire in Cyrus’ and Daniel’s time ruled over all Greek city states and had
37 even made territorial gains in the Balkans and Eastern Europe. (Read the book of
38 Esther) Xerxes (Ahaseurus in Scripture) launched the second invasion of Greece and
39 lost miserably. To defend Greece from further attacks, Athens founded the Delian
40 League in 477 BC, forming a common army.

1 All of these happenings would lead to the eventual rise of a world strongman named
2 Alexander the Great (whose father was Philip, for whom Philippi was named where Paul
3 had a dramatic ministry hundreds of years later.) Daniel 11:3-4 **And a mighty king**
4 **shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. [4]**
5 **And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided**
6 **toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his**
7 **dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others**
8 **beside those.** That prophecy, fulfilled in detail, should send a shiver right down your
9 back!!

10
11 Alexander died in Babylon at the age of 32, mourning that he had no further worlds to
12 conquer.

13
14 Upon his death, his empire was split into the four sections of Daniel 11:4 (each of his four
15 main generals had a slice) and led to the eventual Maccabean revolt (Chanukah). All of
16 this - just as Daniel 2 so clearly prophesied.

17
18 Against this canvas of world history, plainly prophesied centuries earlier in Scripture,
19 who can seriously question the validity and supernatural elements of the Word of God?

20
21 ***Next week is our annual business meeting, but we will resume Daniel in two weeks.***