

Kingdom Messenger

Daniel 10

Good morning! Thank you for reading and studying my book together as a church family. ☺ It actually is not my book; it is God's book. I wrote it under the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit so that the words written on these pages are God's . . . **poured through my personality, but with a perfection and authority that my words could never carry.**

So far I have told you about three prophetic vision that the LORD gave to me. Now I want to share with you the fourth and final vision that God gave me. This fourth vision, like the one you heard about last week, pertain to the future of my people . . . the Jews and to the future of my nation . . . Israel.

I want you to know how thankful I am to be a Jew. We are the people whom the Lord set His unconditional love upon and ordained to be the nation through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

As you know, when I was a teenager, I was taken captive and deported from my home in Jerusalem to Babylon. But in the almost 70 years since that day, my love for my homeland and my people has never waned. **In fact, throughout my entire life here I have made it my practice to open the window of my Babylonian home three times every day.** Each time I kneel down and **face Jerusalem** and I pray to the LORD. **When I pray, I keep Jerusalem in my heart.** I give thanks to the unconditional covenant He made to Abraham and then to David. **It was there in Jerusalem** that Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son Isaac and where God provided a lamb. **It was there in Jerusalem** where David established his throne and where his son, Solomon, built the Temple. **It is there in Jerusalem** where David's offspring . . . our Messiah will rule forever and ever!

Let me share a bit of our history to help you understand the story that I am going to tell you! You remember that Jeremiah prophesied (cf Jer. 25:12-13) that our captivity in Babylon would last 70 years. I was so excited when Cyrus in his very first year in 538 BC issued a proclamation. Friends, listen to what this pagan Persian ruler wrote in his decree:

"The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Any of you who are his people may go to Jerusalem in Judah to rebuild this Temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, who lives in Jerusalem. And may your God be with you! Wherever this Jewish remnant is found, let their

neighbors contribute toward their expenses by giving them silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock, as well as a voluntary offering for the Temple of God in Jerusalem.”” (Ezra 1:2-4 [NLT-SE](#))

Friends, do you know that 150 earlier, God told us that this would happen? A century before Cyrus was born, God told us his name and what he would do!

“When I say of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd,’ he will certainly do as I say. He will command, ‘Rebuild Jerusalem’; he will say, ‘Restore the Temple.’”” (Isaiah 44:28 [NLT-SE](#))

Well, I was on top of the world. **“God is working to restore us and to fulfill His promise for our nation’s glory!!”** I so wanted to go with Zerubbabel to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple of our great God! I remember when it was torn down and I wanted to see it rise for the glory of God. But I am in my mid-eighties. If I survived the trip, I would only slow down the work of the LORD. So I remain behind.

You can imagine my dismay when only 42,000 of us answered King Cyrus’ call and returned to my beloved Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Only 42,000! Just a small remnant of our numbers. You see the majority of us Jews had made good lives for themselves in Babylon and they did not want to leave. We were no longer held captive by Persia, but our captivity was now worse . . . **we were held captive by our own desires and our love for things.**

I ask you friends, **“Are you free or are you held captive by your love of this present world?”** **Truth: No one is free until they are free to worship the LORD with all their heart.**

I tried to comfort myself with the thought, **“Well, at least 42,000 returned.”** I waited for the news about those 42,000. But the news made me more sad. The rebuilding of the Temple was sooooo slow. Soon after they begun, our people experienced opposition from those who took over our land those 70 years. They did not want us to return and build the Temple!! **A bigger problem** though was that our people also began to focus on their own houses and property rather than the worship of our God. **And within two years the building on the Temple completely stopped! We had only completed the foundation! Our people were once again disobeying the LORD!**

It was now the third year of King Cyrus and I once again took up my pen to tell about my experience with this fourth vision. You have it in your Bible in chapter 10 of my book. Let me tell you about it.

When this fourth vision came to me . . . I was undone by it. **I mistakenly thought this was the time that God would bring lasting peace to my people.** But the vision told me of **a time of war and great hardship** that was yet future for us as a nation. This prophesied war is yet future to your day in the 21st century. The conflict is of a kind that the world has never known before. **I tell every word about this conflict is absolutely true!**

I immediately fell to my knees in prayer before the Lord. My hopes were dashed and tears fell from my eyes. **I was used to God answering my pleas quickly.**

But though I prayed in faith with fervency, no answer came! The longer I waited in prayer for God to answer me **the more distressed I became.**

Friends, God is God and He calls us to wait upon Him in faith. The LORD **does not always do what WE WANT HIM TO DO.** His ways are higher than our ways. We hope for quick answers to our prayers, **but He sometimes delays.** Know that He will answer us in the exact according to His kind intentions for us. **Do not stop praying just because you do not receive a speedy answer!!** Wait on the LORD!

For three weeks I mourned and wept before the LORD. All that time I did not eat any meat or not drink any wine. **Bread and water. That was it. I did not even take a bath!**

Then on April 23, 536 BC, something happened so stunning, so transforming that I still grow breathless telling you about it. Nothing in my 85 years compared to it.

I was standing on the bank of the Tigris River with some godly friends. I was weeping before the LORD. **Then, I look up and a man appeared before me!** My friends could not see what I was seeing, but they saw the brilliance that emanated from this man and that was enough to terrify them! They ran away as fast as their legs would carry them!

I stood before this man undone by Him. He **was dressed** in fine linen clothing. These are the kinds of clothes a high priest wears! **He had a belt** around his waist that was not of leather, but made of pure gold! It was the belt of a KING! **His body . . .** I have a hard time describing Him. His body was like . . . like a

brilliant, beautiful gem . . . like a ruby, an emerald, a diamond! So brilliant was He!

His face . . . it flashed like lighting. I had to turn my eyes from looking directly for fear that I would be blinded by His splendor.

His eyes . . . so piercing with knowledge and truth. I immediately knew that **He could see everything about me . . . everything is uncovered to Him . . . His eyes** fell upon me like flaming torches.

His arms and feet they shone like burnished bronze . . . the kind of bronze that the altar in the Temple was made . . . the place where sin is judged! This one comes with judgment to put away sin forever.

And when He spoke, His voice was like the a stadium of people shouting for their favorite team. This is the voice of a Prophet of God. The sound was deafening to my ears!

Friends, I knew that the One before me is no man, nor angel. **God Himself is visiting me!! My heavy, sorrowing heart now flowed with fresh hope! Yet this vision exhausted me. My body felt limp, my face drained of color, and I felt like I was going to faint to the ground.** Then the man spoke. **He personally spoke to me!** When I heard His voice, I did faint. I fell to the ground with me face in the **mud of the Tigris!**

I was not there long when I felt a hand on my shoulder. This was not the hand of the man in my vision, **but the hand of a messenger from God . . . an angel.** He lifted me to my knees. I was still weak and trembling, unable to stand when he said to me,

“Daniel, you are very precious to God, so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you.” When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling.” (Daniel 10:11 [NLT-SE](#))

I was stunned. He told me . . . me . . . Daniel . . . that I was very precious to God. Nothing in my life strengthens me more than that thought! **Friends, do you know that if you are in Jesus Christ, that you are precious to God too!** I love what the apostle John says,

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1 [NIV](#))

The angel then continued, *“Don’t be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer.” (Daniel 10:12 [NLT-SE](#))*

The angel wanted me to know that God heard my humble pray from the first day I prayed. **The LORD hears the humble cries of His people. He does! He never sleeps or is distant or deaf to us.**

Then the angel pulled back the curtain on the invisible world . . . a world that you and I cannot see except by faith. I would never have known such a world exists except the LORD reveal it to me.

The angel told me that for 21 days the Prince of Persia blocked his way from delivering God's message to me.

It took me some time to understand what he was telling me! **He described an invisible war that takes place between the evil angels and the elect angels . . .** between demons and angels. He also described that a specific demon had authority **to tempt, to deceive and to corrupt the whole Persian empire.** This demon's whole purpose is to disrupt God's good rule and plan on earth.

Think of this, a holy angel sent by God gets delayed because he is hassled by a demon! Now we KNOW that God is God and He is so powerful He could defeat Satan with a word. **But in His providence and wisdom, the LORD allows for His created beings . . . both righteous and unrighteous to participate in His plan to bring glory to His good Name.** I do not understand all of that, but I know that this is true!!

This reality helps us to understand why it is so important to pray for those in authority over us. Because Satan and his minions are constantly working to bring darkness into our world, especially by corrupting and deceiving those whom God has given earthly authority. What was true of ancient Persia is true of your USA.

Satan is working to hinder God and His righteousness. So pray for those over you! **Prayer is your part in this cosmic conflict!**

I understand that you are going to have an election here soon in your country. Know that there is an invisible war that has great influence over both parties and every person involved. Know that you cannot fight a spiritual war with physical weapons. Know that your hope is not in people or elections, but in Jesus the Messiah. **If your thoughts and conversations rest only on the physical causes to the darkness invading your country, you are looking in the wrong place for understanding and for answers!** Friends, everything is spiritual.

Talk with one another about this invisible spiritual war and not just about the latest news cycle! Talk about Him who loves you and makes you more than conquerors.

This invisible reality also helps us to understand what is happening in your life on a personal level too!

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith," (1 Peter 5:8-9a NIV)

I was contemplating these things when the angel told me that his stand-off with the demon of Persia ended when another angel, Michael, came to help him. Michael is an arch-angel . . . an angel to whom God has given great power and authority! When Michael engaged with the demon of Persia, the angel who was talking with me slipped away from the fight and was free to come to me.

When he arrived, he said to me, *"I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come!"*

This vision takes us all into the future . . . clear to the end of the Tribulation that John writes about in Revelation!

Well, when he said this, I fell again into the mud!! I have never heard ANYTHING like this at all! Have you??!?

Then another angel came and touched my lips. And I opened my mouth and said to him,

*"I am filled with anguish because of the vision I have seen, my lord, and I am very weak. How can someone like me, your servant, talk to you, my lord? My strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe. "" (Daniel 10:16-17 NLT-SE). "Remember that I am just a feeble human. And I am 85 years old! In case you did not know it, **that is really old in human years!***

Then the angel looked at me and touched me again and I felt strength flowing to me again. Isaiah promised that those who wait upon the LORD will have their strength renewed like the eagles!

"Do not be afraid" he said. *"For you are very precious to God."* Wow! I needed that word in that moment. **I needed to be reminded that God loved me.** Though God's plan includes severe judgment, He loves all who come to Him in faith!

"Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!"

I replied, *"Please speak to me, my lord, for you have strengthened me. I am ready to hear what you have to say."* And then he reminded me of his purpose.

“Do you know why I have come? Soon I must return to fight against the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia, and after that the spirit prince of the kingdom of Greece will come. (I have a war to win!! And I have got to get back to the battle). Meanwhile, I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one helps me against these spirit princes except Michael, your spirit prince.” (Daniel 10:20-21 [NLT-SE](#))

Friends, I have told you much about my frailty and weakness. **But please know that regardless of how strong you are, when you stand before the holy LORD of creation, you will be undone.** Only by the blood of Jesus, will you survive that future day!! Make yourselves ready. Do not be unprepared for that day when the LORD calls you to stand before Him. Run to Jesus as your Redeemer and Savior!!

Now I believe your pastor said he has a few words before we are through this morning. May the peace of the Messiah be with each of you!!

Thank you Daniel! I do have a few words. ☺ **There is a mountain of truth to explore with you and we only have time for a wheelbarrow full.** But let us grab what we can!!

I believe that one purpose this message is given is so that God’s people will have hope in our future. Hope is the experience of looking into the future and rejoicing in what we KNOW is ahead of us! **Hope is the confidence that in the mess of this world, the LORD is working out His good and perfect plan all the way to completion.**

And do we not need HOPE? When we look at the mess of our world it is easy to become frustrated, angry, worried, fearful, grumbling and disagreeable. There is a better way! Hope fills us with peace in place of fighting; joy in place of sorrow, confidence in place of fear, love in place of anger and worship in place of grumbling. **Daniel 10 helps us to grab hold of hope.** This chapter presents four keys to strengthen our hope as we live in this troubled present age and as we anticipate future troubles.

Four Keys to Strengthening Our Hope

Key #1: A Prayer to Pray. (An Appeal to Make)

Key #2: A Glory to See

Key #3: A War to Win

Key #4: A Future to Know

Four Keys to Strengthening Our Hope

Key #1: A Prayer to Pray. An Appeal to Make.

Hope is strengthened by prayer. We grow despairing when we turn our thoughts to human solutions or human governments. If our confidence about the future diminishes or increases as the result of an election, our hope is not rooted in God and His providence.

Prayer takes us back to the foundation of life. Daniel knows that God is the God who controls the kings and the kingdoms of this world. As a man who is given authority in the governments of the greatest empires of his time, both Babylon and Persia, Daniel knows that his greatest influence comes from prayer!

Truth: Our greatest influence upon our children, our church and our nation does not come from our conversations, efforts, arguments or actions. Our greatest influence comes from praying to the Sovereign LORD who is willing to perform miracles for His glory.

This week I plan to set aside some time each morning to pray for revival in my own soul, in my physical family and in our church family. My thoughts this past week have rested upon Psalm 85:

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.” (Psalm 85:6-7 [ESV](#))

What are we really praying for when we pray for revival? I thought of five specifics: When we pray for spiritual revival, we are praying for . . .

- 1. A clearer vision of God’s holiness.**
- 2. A sorrow over our own sin.**
- 3. A delight in God’s Word.**
- 4. A zeal for God’s mission.**
- 5. A love for God’s people.**

Won’t you pray with me for revival?

Truth: Our hope is strengthened by our praying.

Key #1: A Prayer to Pray.

Key #2: A Glory to See

Daniel's seeing the glory of God moved him to tremble in worship before the LORD. Daniel personally saw the second person of the Godhead and that personal knowledge of God that transformed his life. He knew by experience and by revelation that the Triune God is big, majestic, holy and sovereign. And at 85, when he experienced this moment of new discovery, he trembled before this LORD. This is what a vision of the LORD always does.

I think of Isaiah who saw the LORD and he cried out, *“And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’”* (Isaiah 6:5 [ESV](#)).

I think of John who saw the LORD in a vision and said, *“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.”* (Revelation 1:17 [ESV](#))

If we do not ever tremble before the LORD it is because we have never seen the glory of the LORD. Protest, *“But should we expect to see the glory of the LORD? I am not a Daniel or an Isaiah or a John!”*

The access to see the glory of the LORD is opened to every person who comes to Jesus in faith.

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6 [ESV](#))

Truth: God uses the ministry of the Gospel to give sight to our souls so that we see God's glory. The soul that sees God trembles before Him. The more we see the more we will tremble. The more we tremble the more we will see.

God's purpose in saving us is more than granting us forgiveness of sin and to secure for us a home in heaven. **God's purpose is also to restore our spiritual sight so that we can see His very Person and share His life.** This vision of God is the beginning, middle and end of the Christian life.

Do I see the glory of God in the face of Jesus? If not, it is because the god of this world has blinded your mind to keep you from seeing Him and His glory!

Friend, Jesus is willing to say to your heart, *“Let the light shine!”* **But He commands you to look to Him and to ask of Him in faith!**

Let us never content ourselves with a worship that yawns our way through Sunday mornings and that forgets about God Monday through Saturday! If our worship is dull, our hope will be weak! If we do not see God as God, we think only about the human elements as causing the events of our times.

Truth: Our hope is strengthened by our seeing.

Key #1: An Appeal to Make.

Key #2: A Glory to See

Key #3: A War to Win

Do you not find Daniel’s description of the invisible war riveting? The account is detailed enough to get us thinking about this great spiritual battle, but general enough to keep us wondering!

Here is what we know. We have a real enemy who is very strong and very organized with myriads of demons under his charge. His purpose is to rob God of his glory. His methods are lies and murder. And he is coming after us!

“But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:3 [ESV](#))

“Fight the good fight of the faith.” (1 Timothy 6:12 [ESV](#))

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 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. 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.” (Ephesians 6:10-13 [ESV](#))

Truth: Our hope is strengthened by our fighting.

Key #1: An Appeal to Make.

Key #2: A Glory to See

Key #3: A War to Win

Key #4: A Future to Know

Daniel is given four amazing visions . . . **each revealing aspects about God's future plan for the nations and for Israel.** Daniel is given these visions, not so that he will despair, but so that he would have hope in uncertain times! The visions reveal that the LORD is sovereign over the affairs of man. Man is not ultimate; God is!!

Friends, without knowing the promises of God we cannot hold on to them.

Truth: Without holding on to the promises of God we are defenseless against fear, frustration and worry.

It is my concern that the church is not knowing or remembering the promises of God and that we have become a grumbling, angry, fearful, fretful and hard-headed people. The fear and frustrations are turning us against one another and leaving us vulnerable to every Satanic assault.

Truth: Our hope is strengthened by our knowing.

Conclusion

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." (Romans 10:9-10 [ESV](#))

Christian friend, perhaps today you find yourself so very weak. You think, "I do not have much hope. I find myself often fearful of the future, frustrated by the present and resentful of the past. What am I to do?"

I love that the LORD heard Daniel's cry. He reminded Daniel that He loved him. And he sent an angel to touch him on his shoulder to strengthen him. Friend, you have the same Savior and God. He is willing to bring strength to your weary soul. Call out to Him today to do a fresh work and revive your soul!

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