**Surviving in Dangerous Times – Lesson 10 – Daniel 10**

I. Review

II. The Situation (v1-4)

A. Overall – Dan 10-12 is one long vision with a very long introduction which is Chap 10

1. Structure of Dan 10 is a conversation between heaven and earth

2. Dan 10 oscillates between Daniel and “a certain man” verbally and non-verbally

a. Some think “certain man” was Christophany, but notice this man needed help

b. Some think it was Christ (v5-6) followed by an angel (from v10 on)

c. “Certain man” probably an angel – most likely not Gabriel

3. Non-verbal communication seen in bodily posture, outward appearance, inward disposition and feelings, and physical actions

B. When – 536 BC – 3rd year of Cyrus, king of Persia (v1-4)

1. 24th day of first month with two flashbacks of 21 days each

2. Had seen first exiles begin to return to Israel – concerned for his people because they were already facing opposition (Ez 3:1- 4:5,24, particularly 4:4-5)

a. People no doubt discouraged

b. Spiritual high to spiritual low

C. What – a message revealed by a vision

1. True

2. One of great conflict – both earthly and heavenly conflict – unseen powers (Eph 6:12)

a. Alludes to the content of the coming vision

b. Majors on warfare including severe suffering for God’s people

D. Who – to Daniel, also named Belteshazzar

1. Understood the message and the vision

2. Had been mourning for three weeks – Daniel was no stranger to mourning (Dan 9:3)

3. Had not eaten tasty food, meat, wine or used ointment for three weeks

4. Implied that he was praying for his people (see v12)

a. To understand future for his people – still did not completely understand the previous visions about his people (Dan 2,7,8,9)

b. May have heard of initial difficulties being faced by early returnees to Jerusalem

c. Still connected to his brethren though 100s of miles away (I Cor 12:26, Heb 13:3)

E. Where – on the bank of the Tigris River

III. Daniel suddenly sees “a certain man” – most likely an angel [compare Ezek 1:1-24] (v5-9)

A. Appearance (v5-6)

1. Dressed in linen

2. Waist girded in a belt of gold of Uphaz (Ophir?)

3. Body was like beryl – also translated chrysolite or yellow serpentine

4. Face had appearance of lightning

5. Eyes were flaming torches

6. Arms and feet like gleaming polished bronze

7. Sound of words like sound of tumult

B. Daniel left alone (v7)

1. Others there with him, but did not see the vision

2. Great dread fell on the others, and they ran away to hide

C. Daniel’s appearance changes (v8-9)

1. No strength left in him – physically and psychologically exhausted

2. Natural color turned deathly pale

3. Heard words from the man

4. Fell into a deep sleep with face on the ground

5. Others that have been impacted similarly: Moses (Ex 3); Joshua (Josh 5); Isaiah (Is 6); Peter, James and John (Mt 17); Paul (Acts 9)

IV. The man addresses Daniel (v10-15)

A. Man touches Daniel (v10a), and Daniel is moved to hands and knees trembling (v10b)

B. Man speaks to Daniel (v11a)

1. Called Daniel a man of high esteem

2. Asks him to understand the words he is about to tell him

3. Told Daniel to stand, and he did so trembling (v11b)

C. Man addresses Daniel again (v12-14)

1. Do not fear – first thing angels say when addressing men – Mt 28:5, Lk 1:13,30, 2:10

2. He had come specifically in response to Daniel’s prayer

3. Daniel set his heart on understanding what was to come

4. Daniel had humbled himself before God

5. Man had been delayed for 21 days

a. Prince of kingdom of Persia (evil angelic power resisting God’s purposes) withstood him – ultimately he fails (as will prince of Greece later)

b. Battles are not just being fought on earthly fields, but God is involved and will ultimately triumph

c. History is long and deep – Ps 124

6. Michael, one of the chief princes, came to the man to help since he was left alone with the kings of Persia (Jude 9, Rev 12:7)

7. The message – an understanding of what will happen to the Jews in latter days – vision pertains to days in the future

D. Daniel reacts (v15)

1. Turned his face to the ground – downcast

2. Became speechless

V. One resembling a human stands before Daniel and touches his lips (v16-21)

A. Daniel speaks (v16b-17)

1. Vision has caused anguish to come upon me and loss of strength

2. “How can I, a servant, speak with my Lord?”

3. No strength or breath left in him

B. Same man touches Daniel and strengthens him (v18-19a)

1. Encourages him – you are a man of high esteem

2. Do not be afraid – peace be to you

3. Take courage and be courageous – be strong, grow firm

a. Daniel received this courage

b. Daniel acknowledges renewed courage (v19b)

C. Same man asks Daniel if he knows why he came to him; gives parting words (v20-21)

1. Man returns to fight against prince of Persia – prince of Greece is soon to come

2. Will tell you what is recorded for certain for the true future (Chapter 11)

3. Only Michael stands firmly against these forces, and he is your prince

VI. For us today – do not take the heavenly battle or the devil lightly

A. Devil’s strategy #1 (roaring lion) – he is all powerful, and we can’t resist him (I Pet 5:8)

B. Devil’s strategy #2 (angel of light) – devil seduces everyone – they fail to recognize his existence and reality (II Cor 11:14)

C. Put on whole armor of God (Eph 6:10-17) and then pray (6:18)