



THE BOOK OF **DANIEL**

It's All Part Of A Bigger Plan

Chapters 10-12

Goal Of Chapters 10-12

As we end the book of Daniel, the last three chapters are filled with more visions and dreams. Although Daniel was troubled once again by visions, we also get a glimpse of hope with clear pointers to Jesus and the work that He will accomplish on the cross. As accurate as Daniel was with the rising and falling of nations and empires, and as accurate as he is with hardship, persecution and suffering, the decree concerning Jesus reigning forever is another truth.



The Angels' Comfort

In Chapter 10 we see a pattern that flows out of chapter 9; Daniel is in distress and in need of help, and an angel comes to comfort him once again. In Daniel 9 it was Gabriel, and now in Daniel 10 it's Michael, who seems to be one of the angels that will protect God's people during the end times (Daniel 12:1). Throughout the breath of scripture we will see angels often comforting God's people:

Luke 22:43

“And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.”

Matthew 4:11

“Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.”

Acts 8:26

“Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ This is a desert place.”

Matthew 1:20

“But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’”

Matthew 28:5

“But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.”

Daniel Pointing To Jesus

Daniel shows us that hardship, persecution, and suffering have all been decreed in these chapters, but they're not the only decree: Jesus will reign forever and judge the living and the dead according to His righteousness - this has been decreed as well. Here is a direct prophesy to the work Jesus will come to do.

Chapter 9:24-26a

“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, land to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again[a] with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. ”

Chapter 12:2

“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

These are very specific prophecies concerning the death of Christ and the resurrection of his people. If God gave Daniel this level of detail, I think we can be assured that everything that happens is ultimately a part of his plan.

Questions:

- 1) Although we know that God is sovereign and in complete control, why do we find it difficult to endure hardship?
- 2) In Chapters 9 & 10 the angel comes to comfort Daniel. Have you ever been comforted by the Lord during moments of distress?
- 3) Does knowing that all things work together help you during challenging times? If not, have you considered what it would take to change your perspective of hardship?