

Daniel
A Guided Study
for
Christ Community Church



Chapters 10-12

Read Daniel 10

Primer question: Have you ever had an encounter with the tangible presence of God? If so, reflect on what stand outs to you from that experience? If not, is the potential more scary, exciting, doubtful, or...? Why?

When does Daniel receive this vision, relative to the one of chapter 9?

What has occurred in between chapters 9-10? (read Ezra 1)

What is Daniel doing before this divine messenger comes? (v2-3)

Where is Daniel when he receives this vision (v4)? What is surprising about this? Why might he be there?

Note: Daniel 10-12 form a unit recording a visionary experience and the vision itself. The experience brackets the vision, beginning and ending this section. The experience is recorded in 10:1-21 and 12:5-13. The vision itself is 11:1-12:4.

List the descriptions of the man Daniel sees in v5-7.

Compare this to the vision in Ezekiel 1 (esp. v25-28) and vision of Christ in Rev 1:12-16. What are the similarities and differences?

How do Daniel's companions respond (v7)? Why?

What is Daniel's response (v8-11)? What can we discern is going on in his mind and soul? What is his posture?

What is the man's response to Daniel (v10-11)?

What is the spiritual condition the messenger seeks to impart to Daniel (v12, 19)? Why?

What does this chapter imply about prayer? See especially v2-3, 12. (bring this together with Daniel 2:18-29, 6:10, 9:20-21)

Daniel 10 pulls back the curtain that we glimpse backstage spiritual warfare (v13-14, v20-21). Describe what is evident to you from the passage, and list questions that remain unanswered. (see also 2 Cor 2:11, Eph. 6:11, Jude 1:9)

What is the messenger doing as he touches Daniel's lips (16)? Compare to Isaiah 6:7 and Jeremiah 1:9. What is the role of a prophet?

Why do you think Daniel was left so physically worn out (v8-9, v15-17) by this experience?

If the vision itself is in chs 11-12, what does chapter 10 reveal for us? Why might God have preserved this for his Church?

V19 reveals the true reality that God can give spiritual strength and peace. How does it happen? For what reasons might you need strength and peace in this day? Where/How are you looking to receive them?

REMINDER: These chapters form a unit recording a visionary experience and the vision itself. The experience brackets the vision, beginning and ending this section. The experience is recorded in 10:1-21 and 12:5-13. The vision itself is 11:1-12:4.

Read Daniel 11-12

Note: Daniel 11 is particularly challenging and confusing for us who lack knowledge of the ancient near east in this time – the fact that it's written in clocked prophetic style adds to the mystery. For now, know that it's enough to realize that v5-20 are describing the history of relationship / conflict between two of the Greek successor states to Alexander the Great's Empire occurring in the 2-3rd centuries BC (the South Ptolemies and the North Seleucids). From 11:21 through at least v35, the chapter focuses again on Antiochus Epiphanes, the character we explored at length in Daniel 8. The vision's emphasis comes at the end, in chapter 12, and then Daniel seeks to make sense of what he has seen.

Primer question: Describe a time when you felt or experienced deliverance. What was glorious about that deliverance? What was lacking or unsatisfying?

What is the center, reference point that looks either “north” or “south” in this vision? (hint: 11:16, 41)

Daniel 11 records many warring and scheming activities of the kings of the north and south over a long period. God sees them all beforehand and reveals them to Daniel. What does this assume about history?

What is said to occur “at the appointed time” (a phrase seen twice in 11:29-35)?

Go back and read 8:17-25. What occurs at “the time of the end” there? See also perhaps 8:13 and 9:27. What occurs at the “time of the end” in this section? (11:35, 40, 12:4... perhaps 12:1)

10:13 calls the Michael “one of the chief princes”. What else do we learn about him from 11:1 and 12:1? See also Jude 9 and Rev 12:7.

Angels act with many purposes. See, as a sampling: Psalm 103:20, Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:13-14 Hebrews 1:14. What does this teach us about the nature of this universe?

Jesus alludes to Daniel 12:1 in Matthew 24:21 (see Mt 24:15-21). Some think this refers to the destruction of the Temple in 70AD, while others to end-time events. Either way, where does Jesus point us amid the distress (24:30-31)? And how does this relate to Daniel 12:1?

What is deliverance according Daniel 12:1-3?

Find three descriptions in 12:1-3 of those who are delivered.

What will the deliverance be like (v2-3)? Compare to 1 Cor 15:50-54 and Phil 3:21?

Note: Daniel 12:5-13 is back to the setting of 10:1-21, post-vision. And Daniel is now trying to make sense of what he's just seen.

Remind yourself: Which river? And who is the man clothed in linen? (10:4-6)

Compare Daniel 12:5-7 with Daniel 7:25 and 8:13-14.

When will these atrocities be finished situationally (not chronologically)? See end of 12:7

12:8: "I heard but I did not understand". What is something of God or his work in your life that you're still grappling to understand?

What response is given to Daniel to his question of v8? (see v9 and v13).

What does it look like for Daniel to "go his way till the end"? See Paul's version of this charge in 2 Timothy - especially 1:6-14, 2:1-13, 4:6-9.

Connect 12:13 with 12:2-3. For the idea of a godly 'rest' see also Isaiah 57:1-2, Heb. 4:9-11, Rev 14:13.

Daniel's vision is "rolled up and sealed" (12:4, 9)... until when? What is assumed by this regarding their specific application to Daniel's day?

What does God ensure Daniel knows about what occurs during this time (v10)?
Apparently, God doesn't think it's important that Daniel understands more! (see Prov 1:7).

In 12:11-12 there are two new time periods given, what are they?

Many see a similarity between these and the periods of Daniel 7:25 and 8:14. And many potential answers are given for the extra 30 and 45 days, most related to the activities of Antiochus Epiphanies... but no one really knows!

Concluding Thoughts and Applications

Could you paraphrase the message of Daniel in a few sentences?

Look back over the whole of Daniel. What are the 2-3 key verses that the Spirit of the Lord is highlighting for you at this time?

What is a key truth God has been teaching you? To what situation(s) in your life does it apply?

What changes do you feel God is inviting you to make?

Much of the first half of Daniel sought to build our faith for trials and pressures of ungodly cultural climates. What's one way God might want to build your faith in an area or battle you're facing?

Much of the latter half of Daniel looked ahead – what do we learn from Daniel's reception and processing of that 'forward' look? How do we face the future?

How do you plan on living now with a back stage pass?