

RUSSELL SANDERS

3-30-2021

DANIEL THE PROPHET – LESSON 7

DANIELS 21-DAY FAST

We now move to Daniel chapter ten. Daniel had previously, during King Dairus' rule, received the "seventy-weeks" revelation directly from Gabriel, the archangel of communication from God. Its interpretation was brief and rather scant on detail.

He now is in the third year of Emperor Cyrus, the Persian king who took over sole rulership following Darius. It is Cyrus' third year, and the time at which he had authorized slaves from other countries to be freed to return to their homeland. He had authorized Jews to return to Judea and begin to rebuild Jerusalem.

Daniel, however, was in mourning (vs. 3) probably because he did not yet fully understand all that was meant by the "seventy-week" prophecy. He was sorely burdened for a greater understanding.

This set him in a prayer vigil to seek God for more. It would take three weeks before he got the answer, although the answer had been sent the very first day.

To seek God, Daniel had left his place of rulership in the city of Babylon. He needed to be away from the "hustle and bustle" of distractions to focus earnestly on his prayer supplication. He had gone to the eastern part of the province of Babylon (v. 4), ***"by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel,"*** the Tigris River. A company of men were with him, probably for his protection.

In verse 3 Daniel says, ***"I ate no pleasant bread (food) neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth. Neither did I anoint myself (daily grooming) at all 'till three whole weeks were fulfilled"***. This is similar to Daniel 1:12 where he and his three teenage friends only took ***"pulse to eat, and water to drink."*** It is where the modern church got the idea of the "21-day Daniel fast" that is now practiced in some congregations, although, I doubt that today's Daniel fasts have the passion like Daniel had.

When 21 days were completed (v. 5-6) it says, ***"A certain man" came to him who was "clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold...his body...like beryl (a gemstone) and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire...and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude."***

This supernatural appearance was so powerful that it brought a great earthquake. The men with Daniel fled in fear to hide themselves, leaving Daniel alone with this powerful angel. Daniel fell prostrate face down onto the ground in an unconscious (deep sleep) state.

A hand then woke him, raised him to his knees, and spoke to him of being greatly loved. Daniel then stood trembling in reverential fear.

The angel said God had heard Daniel's prayer and sent the answer the very first day (vs. 12-13), but the ***"prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood (prevented) me twenty-one days."*** He had to remain there to fight the evil "prince" alongside the warrior archangel Michael (captain of the Lord's host) who had come to fight with him. He was released after 21 days to come to Daniel with the message as Michael held off the principality of Persia's commander demon.

The angel said in vs. 14, ***"Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days"*** that are yet far off.

I pause here at verse 14 because tomorrow I wish to delve deeper into part of today's lesson, particularly in regards to Daniel's manner of prayer and supplication and in regards to the heavenly warfare that delayed his answer. There are lessons to be learned from it that can help you and us today.