

Daniel 10:1-11 - Prayer, Fasting & Alien Encounters

Intro - Daniel 10 is the beginning of the end of this book that bears his name. The second half of Daniel is successive recordings of visions ^(1-6 mainly history. 7-12 mainly prophecy = history that hasn't happened yet).

Chapter 10 begins the 4th vision given to Daniel and 10-12 are one joined unit. 10 = how it's delivered; 11 = near future (100's); 12 = far future 1000's). In this final section of Daniel we find ourselves in familiar territory....Daniel is praying. Daniel was a man of great devotion, & we can learn a lot about prayer from his prayer-life. Prayer has gotten Daniel out of trouble....& into trouble. We can observe several things that accompanied Daniel's prayer-life as well as see remarkable answers to his prayers. God not only answered but He sends a messenger at times to deliver the answer "Special delivery from heaven". But the delivery man was not a *man*, and he was not even from this world.

Prayer, Fasting and Alien Encounters.
Celestial Life

Devotional Life &

DEVOTIONAL LIFE

1. Daniel was a man of great devotion.
 - a. Perhaps this is why he was one of the greatest men to ever live - Ezek. 14:20
 - i. Man of character, conviction, and devotion.
 - b. Daniel was devoted to devotion. Dan. 6:10 (he took time to pray)
2. Daniel's pray-life was partnered with other things.
 - a. He might have prayed alone, but his prayers were not alone.
 - i. Chap. 2 - prayed with faith and friends....it saved his life.
 - ii. Chap. 6 - prayed with conviction/courage... it threatened his life (lions)
 - iii. Chap. 9 - prayer with Bible reading & confession
 - iv. Chap. 10 - prayer mixed with fasting
 - b. When prayer is partnered up ^(with others and other devotions) it is very powerful
 - i. Matt. 17:21
3. Fasting 10:2-3
 - a. Fasting = voluntary giving of up some good things to focus on more important things.
 - i. Hinder the physical to enhance the spiritual. Life is more than the body - Luke 12:23
 - ii. Fasting is *Voluntary* and *Temporary* 10:2-3 (3 weeks) (Catholics - lent - 40 days)
 - b. Fasting is usually related to serious business and sadness 10:2
 - i. Matt. 9:14-15 there is a time for feasting and a time for fasting.
 - ii. Why was Daniel sad and mourning and fasting?
 1. 10:1 In Cyrus' first year he let the Jews go home Ezra 1:1-4
 2. Daniel prayed about it in chapter 9 but didn't get to partake in it (?? Big disappointment??)
 - c. Fasting is not necessarily a total abstaining from food etc.
 - i. Daniel didn't give up food.... just good food and lotions - 10:3 (veg & water)
 - ii. Daniel gave up the niceties for 3 weeks...then enjoyed meat/wine again
4. Should we ever fast?
 - a. Are we ever willing to *do without* so we can be devoted to devotions?
 - b. Matt. 9:15 - "...then they will fast" Matt. 6:16-18 - "When you fast..."

- i. Don't brag about it if you do it
 - 1. this week a congressman called press conference after his 8 hour thirst strike
- c. There is a time for feasting and a time for fasting
- d. If there is some big issue...big sadness...consider partnering prayer & fasting

CELESTIAL LIFE

- Daniel's devotional life led to encounters with celestial life....alien life
 - 10:4-6
 - The delivery "man" was not hu-man
 - "Extraterrestrial" = not of this earth celestial beings
 - Daniel's priority mail came by *Angel Delivery*, not *Amazon Delivery*
- Are we alone in the universe?
 - Congress had hearings this week on UFO's
 - NASA (other scientists) have a fascination and a motivation to try and find out if we are alone in the universe.
 - If they would only come SONday school, they would find out we are not alone
 - There are not Vulcans and Klingons...or people on Tatooine....
 - But there are Cherubim and Seraphim...Living Creatures....angels
 - The Bible is not silent about the existence of other higher life forms.
 - Higher than us - Heb. 2:6-7
 - Big events of our faith were attested by and accompanied by angels
 - Promised son / Sodom / Law / wilderness / promised Messiah / announcement to Mary / Jesus' birth / Temptation / Resurrection
 - Not all angels are good angels
 - Beware of their deception - masquerade as angels of light - 2 Cor. 11:14
 - Demonic deception will increase toward the end of time - 2 Thess. 2:9-12
- This angelic messenger is described
 - 10:5-6 Out of this world description
- This alien encounter engendered great fear
 - Daniel's companions ran for their lives - 10:7 (Acts 9:7)
 - Daniel was terrified.
 - He lost his color and his strength 10:8
 - This wasn't his first rodeo/encounter. Daniel met Gabriel twice before in 8:16 & 9:21
 - It seems that fear is a common reaction to angelic encounters Luke 2:9 Matt. 28:2-5
- Daniel's fear had other physical ramifications.
 - Face-planted and fell into a deep sleep 10:9 (fainted/knocked out/TKO)
 - After being touched by an angel he managed to get to his hand and knees - 10:10
 - The angel reassures him and helps him to his feet
 - Daniel begins listening while trembling 10:11
- *Prayer, Fasting, and Alien Encounters* higher life & higher forms of life
 - Be devoted to devotional life. ...and know that there is celestial life
 - *Angles we have heard of high, sweetly singing o're the plain, and the mountains in...."*