

***GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION*****From Trembling to Trust****Daniel 10:1--11:1**

*"Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong."* Dan. 10:19

**Day 1: Read Daniel 10:1–12.**

1. The significance of the date that opens this chapter becomes apparent when we reflect on an earlier edict of Cyrus to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem. (Ezra 1:1–4) What decision has Daniel made and how does the use of his Babylonian name (not used since chapter 5) highlight this choice?
2. What does verse 1 tell us about the message given to Daniel?
3. Describe Daniel's behavior during the three weeks prior to this vision. Contrast this with the celebrations that would normally be taking place during this first month. (See Exodus 12:1–20.)
4. Verse 2 describes Daniel as mourning over the opposition to the kingdom of God. Read Matt. 5:4, 6, and see how God blesses those whose hearts are broken by the same things that break his heart.
5. Read Nehemiah 4:1–4, 7–9 and relate what events are going on concurrently in Jerusalem, which may have been part of the reason behind Daniel's mourning, fasting and praying.
6. Describe a time in your life when God prompted you to remain in a situation, rather than to participate in a new venture. What were the ways in which you matured spiritually during that 'waiting' time?

**Day 2: Read Daniel 10:1–9.**

7. Even though the commentators can't agree on whether the vision Daniel sees is an angel or a Theophany (a preincarnation appearance of Christ), they agree that the lasting impression speaks of God's power and glory. How is this vision (vss. 7–9) similar to:
  - a. the appearance of Jesus to Paul? (Acts 9:3–9)
  - b. the appearance of the enthroned God? (Rev. 1:13–17; 4:2–3)
8. Describe Daniel's condition after seeing the vision. (vs. 8)

**Day 3: Read Daniel 10:10--11:1**

9. What effect do the three touches of the celestial being have on Daniel?
  - a. First touch – (vs.10)
  - b. Second touch – (vs.16)
  - c. Third touch – (vs.18)

How is this curative touch echoed more completely in the Gospels? (Matthew 14:29–31; Mark 5:35, 41–42; Luke 5:12–13)

10. List the words of encouragement uttered by the heavenly messenger. (vss. 10–12, 19) What effect do the words have on Daniel?
11. Daniel is in his eighties; his companions have fled, and he's scared. What assurances lie behind the command "Do not be afraid" (vss. 12, 18) that are meant to strengthen Daniel and us? (Meditate on Gen. 15:1; Is. 43:1–3; Rev. 1:17–18.)
12. Ask God to bring to your mind someone who is in a fearful condition. Pray for that person right now and consider writing or calling to encourage him or her with the truth of God's presence, faithfulness and love.
13. When and why are Daniel's prayers heard? (vs. 12) What happens as a result of his praying? How might this encourage you in your prayer life? (Is. 65:24; James 5:16b)

**Day 4: Read Daniel 10:10--11:1.**

14. As the curtain is pulled back slightly in verses 13 and 20, we catch a glimpse of the interconnection between heavenly events and the course of human history. Who do you think the "prince" of Persia is? Jude 9, Eph. 6:12
15. Although a heavenly messenger was dispatched in answer to Daniel's prayers, what detained him for 21 days? (vs. 13) What is the purpose of the messenger's appearance? (vs. 14)
16. Who came to aid this figure as he fought in this 3-week struggle? (vs. 13; Jude 9) What is one of the main duties of angels? (Heb. 1:14)

**Day 5: Read Daniel 10:10--11:1.**

17. The heavenly power and the archangel are fighting on God's side. Who is fighting on the other side, and what clues us in to the fact that he is not only powerful but evil? (vs. 13) How can we be assured that the outcome of these battles is not in jeopardy? (Eph. 1:19–21; Col. 2:9–10)
18. How has Jesus effected the victory in this cosmic spiritual struggle? (Col. 2:15) Although the victory has been secured, the battle is not over. What truth strengthens us in the struggle? (1John 4:4)
19. What is the (war)robe God has graciously given, to enable us to face our daily spiritual battles? (Pull out some nuggets from Eph. 6:10–18.) As you examine this closet of Divine garments, ask God to reveal which accessories you may have relegated to the back, and why. Be willing to share this struggle.
20. Is the spiritual conflict momentary? In Daniel 10:20—11:1 what is Daniel told will happen next? When we grow weary of the struggle, how do we need to encourage one another? (Romans 8:18, 35–39)