



Not an easy job

Daniel did not have to wait long for an answer to his prayer—in the first year of King Cyrus, the Jews were allowed to return home (see Ezra 1 v 2-4).

But Daniel was not among them. Perhaps, now in his eighties, he was simply too old to make the journey. And in Cyrus' third year of rule, he received another vision.

Some details

Read Daniel 10 v 1

❓ *What do we learn about the vision here?*

And that is it for chapter 10! The rest of the chapter is taken up with showing us what effect this vision had on Daniel, rather than the content of the vision itself.

A helper

Read Daniel 10 v 2-12

- ❓ *Who came to Daniel (v 5-6)?*
- ❓ *Picture in your mind, as far as you are able, what Daniel saw in verses 5-6.*
- ❓ *Why did this person come (v 12)?*

Daniel had been doing what Peter would describe in his first letter: searching “intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow” (1 Peter 1 v 10-11).

Last man standing

❓ *How did everyone who was with Daniel respond (v 7)?*

❓ *How did Daniel respond (v 7-9)?*

TIME OUT

Daniel's response to this vision is similar to the experience of other men who were carried away in visions, to stand in the heavens and receive a message for God's people.

Read Isaiah 6 v 1-5; Ezekiel 1 v 1, 22-28; Revelation 1 v 12-17

Only Daniel received this vision because the others with him had fled trembling (Daniel 10 v 7). The prophetic role was not for everyone; and for those to whom it came, it did so with a cost. We wrongly think that these prophets, greatly used by God, had the best of jobs in terms of ease and reputation. Not so! Hearing the word of God was often an almost unbearable experience; passing it on was very often difficult or dangerous.

Pray

The gospel that has come to you has come by proclamation; someone told it to you. It's quite likely that that proclamation came at a cost to that person; and it is therefore all the more to be cherished.

Give thanks for that person; and give thanks for those who preach God's word to you now. Pray for them; that God would strengthen them to wrestle with his word, gain insight into it, and proclaim it boldly, whatever the difficulties.