

A glimpse of the unseen

As Daniel and the angel begin their conversation, part of the key to understanding it lies in the repeated phrases and ideas.

Read Daniel 10 v 10 – 11 v 1

Repetitions

- ❓ *Sum up how Daniel is feeling (v 10, 15, 16, 17).*
- ❓ *What does the angel do to Daniel three times (v 10, 16, 18), and why?*
- ❓ *Why should Daniel “not be afraid” (v 12, 19)?*

The overall message we are meant to absorb is two-fold. First, God loves Daniel—he is willing to take his divine emissary, off one mission (v 13-14) to make sure that Daniel’s prayer is answered. Second, we are again being shown the cost to Daniel of being a prophet of God.

Reasons for delay

- ❓ *Why did the angel not arrive earlier (v 13, 20)?*

A veil is being pulled back on an unseen universe. There is an angelic host who do the bidding of God, but there are others, too—fallen ones, who work to oppose God’s will. And there has been a struggle between the angel who has come to Daniel, and the “prince of the Persian kingdom”, which required the help of “Michael, one of the chief princes” (v 13).

Strengthened

- ❓ *What is it that finally gives Daniel “strength” to keep listening and understanding (v 19)?*

Apply

What are we to make of all this? This passage should both startle and comfort us, as it did Daniel. There is far more going on than we realise or can see—and we are far smaller and more powerless than we often appreciate.

And yet, God is in charge. He moves the wheels of history, and sets up and removes kings and rulers. But he also cares for single individuals among his people, such as Daniel. His angels were instructed to care for this one man, even as they sought to battle against “the prince of Persia” (v 20). The all-powerful God showed incredible care for one struggling man; and we can be confident that he cares for us in this way, too.

- ❓ *How will the startling and comforting truths here change the way you look at your own day-to-day life this week?*
- ❓ *How will they encourage you to pray each day, and to trust God when answers to your prayers do not seem immediately forthcoming?*