

Daniel: Reigning on High

Chapter 10 :: The Reality that sits behind Reality

LEADER'S NOTES

Introduction

Have you ever considered what it will be like to see God face to face? (Rev 22:4)
What do you think it will be like? Does the idea comfort you? Concern you?

You might want to ponder Moses and him seeing God face to face in Exodus 33:11, 34:29ff

Analysis

The last three chapters of Daniel contain the story of one, final vision – the last of the four that Daniel had received personally. It contains the most detailed description of a vision in the entire book. As is his custom, Daniel is overwhelmed to the point of expiration and breathlessness!

Read Daniel 1:1-3

How is this next vision Daniel sees described?

Why do you think his Babylonian name is used here?

We are meant to be reminded not only of the unity of the book but that Daniel remains in exile even though others have returned to Jerusalem (see Ezra 1:1-3). Note also Daniel 1:21 and the links between the start and this final vision.

Read Daniel 10:4-6

Split into groups and do two things:

1. Draw a picture of this person Daniel encounters.
2. Compare this person with the one who appears to Ezekiel in Ezekiel 1. What is the distinctive feature of Daniel's vision?

Note in v.5-6 and in v.16 and 18 that he is described in the same distinctive way.

Read Daniel 10:7-19

Why has this person appeared to Daniel?

See Daniel 10:11-12, 20

What was Daniel's response?

Who do you think this "man dressed in linen is?

Some people think this is the pre-incarnate Jesus. Some think an angel of the Lord. Some think God himself. Some think just another angel. What do you think?

Re-read Daniel 10:12-14 and 10:20

Where is it that this linen clad man has been warring??

Read 2 Kings 6:8-19.

How does this passage help you understand what this one is doing?

Before the details of the last great vision is given to Daniel, he is given a glimpse as it were of a cosmic conflict and of how this conflict relates to God's unfolding plan for His chosen people.

This chapter reveals the fact that, behind the scenes of world events and political changes we behold on an earthly level, an unseen spiritual war of cosmic proportions is being waged. We can know nothing of this unseen war apart from what the Bible teaches us. But the Bible gives us several hints of the spiritual activities behind it in such passages as Job 1:6-12, 2:1-6; 2 Chronicles 18:18-22; Zechariah 3:1-2; Ephesians 6:10-20; and Revelation 12:7-12. You may want to have a look at some of these beyond what is below.

Application

Do you think these battles continue today? How do Colossians 2:16, Ephesians 6:10-20 and 1 Peter 5:8-9 inform your thinking?

What should be our response to understanding the reality that lies behind our reality?

Pray, stand firm, trust Christ for he has already defeated the powers of the world and the devil is a defeated force. Do not become overly obsessed by this for the Bible is not overly obsessed by it. Rather be aware that all you see is not all there is. God works in the cosmic world and in our world.

Two quotes from Martin Luther may warm your souls:

Why should you fear? Why should you be afraid? Do you not know that the prince of this world has been judged? He is no lord, no prince any more. You have a different, a stronger Lord, Christ, who has overcome and bound him. Therefore let the prince and god of this world look sour, bare his teeth, make a great noise, threaten, and act in an unmannerly way; he can do no more than a bad dog on a chain, which may bark, run here and there, and tear at the chain. But because it is tied and you avoid it, it cannot bite you. So the devil acts toward every Christian. Therefore everything depends on this that we do not feel secure but continue in the fear of God and in prayer; then the chained dog cannot harm us. But this chained dog may at least frighten him who would be secure and go ahead without caution, although he may not come close enough to be bitten.

All the cunning of the devil is exercised in trying to tear us away from the Word. If in the external preaching he does not succeed in making people unwilling to hear the Word, yet he succeeds in the heart by persuading them not to cling to it.

Daniel: Reigning on High

Chapter 10 :: The Reality that sits behind Reality

Introduction

Have you ever considered what it will be like to see God face to face? (Rev 22:4)
What do you think it will be like? Does the idea comfort you? Concern you?

Analysis

The last three chapters of Daniel contain the story of one, final vision – the last of the four that Daniel had received personally. It contains the most detailed description of a vision in the entire book. As is his custom, Daniel is overwhelmed to the point of expiration and breathlessness!

Read Daniel 1:1-3

How is this next vision Daniel sees described?

Why do you think his Babylonian name is used here?

Read Daniel 10:4-6

Split into groups and do two things:

1. Draw a picture of this person Daniel encounters on the back.
2. Compare this person with the one who appears to Ezekiel in Ezekiel 1. What is the distinctive feature of Daniel's vision?

Read Daniel 10:7-19

Why has this person appeared to Daniel?

What was Daniel's response?

Who do you think this "man dressed in linen is?"

Re-read Daniel 10:12-14 and 10:20

Where is it that this linen clad man has been warring??

Read 2 Kings 6:8-19.

How does this passage help you understand what this one is doing?

Application

Do you think these battles continue today? How do Colossians 2:16, Ephesians 6:10-20 and 1 Peter 5:8-9 inform your thinking?

What should be our response to understanding the reality that lies behind our reality?

