



International Bible Lessons Commentary

Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series

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Daniel 10:10-19 **New Revised Standard Version** **January 28, 2018**

The [International Bible Lesson](#) (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, January 28, 2018**, is from **Daniel 10:10-19**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** will help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. You can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the [International Bible Lesson Forum](#).

(Daniel 10:10) But then a hand touched me and roused me to my hands and knees.

The angel Gabriel (who also appears in Daniel 8:16; 9:21 & Luke 1:19; 1:26) appeared to Daniel once again in answer to Daniel's fasting and prayers. After seventy years of exile and after some of the Jews had returned to Jerusalem, Gabriel appeared to Daniel once again in 537 BC (see Daniel 10:1); therefore, Daniel was quite elderly by this

time. Daniel was so overwhelmed during Gabriel's angelic visitation that he fell down before him, and Gabriel touched him three times during their visit to strengthen him, enable him to speak, and to do what he commanded.

(Daniel 10:11) He said to me, “Daniel, greatly beloved, pay attention to the words that I am going to speak to you. Stand on your feet, for I have now been sent to you.” So while he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling.

Gabriel told Daniel that he was “greatly beloved” or “highly esteemed” three times (Daniel 9:23; 10:11 & 10:19).

“Greatly beloved” is used in the King James Version and the New Revised Standard Version. “Highly esteemed” is used in the English Standard Version, the New American Standard Version, and the New International Version. Our Heavenly Father said of Jesus: “This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased” (Matthew 3:17). In several verses in the New Testament, Christians are called beloved; for example, “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Colossians 3:12). To receive angelic visitations and be given the prophecies he received, Daniel was greatly beloved or highly esteemed by God, and Daniel's life demonstrated why God was well-pleased with him. Imagine living a life of obedient faith in God so consistently that God considers you highly

esteemed in His eyes! Gabriel enabled Daniel to stand up when he touched him, and then he commanded Daniel to stand up so he could tell Daniel what God had sent him to say. God graciously gives us the ability to do whatever He commands us to do.

(Daniel 10:12) He said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.

Even though Daniel faithfully obeyed God and prayed, the appearance of Gabriel filled him with fear, so the angel gave him reasons not to be afraid. By his example, Daniel shows us how we need to begin our study of the Bible. As Bible teachers and students, we need to set our minds to gain understanding, we need to humble ourselves before God, and we need to pray; then, we have the assurance God will hear our words from the first moment we pray them, but we may not always receive the answer how or when we expect. Though Gabriel had appeared to him before, Daniel did not expect an angel visitation. Daniel's experience in this instance does not mean that God will send an angel to answer our prayers (but God can), for this was a rare experience for Daniel. In Daniel's situation, God needed to send an angel, so He did. Today, God has given us the Holy Spirit and teachers to help us understand the

Bible: “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come” (John 16:13). Note: previously when Gabriel spoke to Daniel, he was unopposed (see Daniel 9:2-23).

(Daniel 10:13) But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me twenty-one days. So Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I left him there with the prince of the kingdom of Persia,

We now learn at least one reason why God’s answers and our learning God’s answers to our prayers and can be delayed, but not stopped. Even though the LORD sent Gabriel to tell Daniel the future, Gabriel had to engage in spiritual warfare and defeat spiritual enemies before he could deliver the message of the LORD to Daniel. God’s angels face spiritual enemies and so do we. Spiritual enemies can interfere with our prayers and God’s answers for a time, but God can and will defeat His and our spiritual enemies. In this situation, God allowed the demon over Persia (the prince of the Persian Empire) to work with the king of Persia to resist Gabriel for twenty-one days; then, God sent the archangel Michael (one of the chief princes) to help Gabriel defeat God’s enemies. The demon was with the king of Persia, and in some

mysterious way the demon and the king worked together to interfere with Gabriel's divine mission. But Daniel's continued fasting and praying made a difference, and along with Daniel's prayers, God's angels defeated this pagan king and his demonic spirit guides. God's enemies did not want Daniel and his subsequent readers to learn that God is the Lord over all time and history, including the king of Persia, and God will answer the prayers of believers.

(Daniel 10:14) and have come to help you understand what is to happen to your people at the end of days. For there is a further vision for those days.”

After giving Daniel a glimpse into spiritual realities and warfare, the angel explained to Daniel, in ways Daniel could understand and all he needed to know, God's plans for the future of Israel and the Judah. God gave Daniel the vision, and then after much prayer and fasting, God sent Gabriel to explain the vision to Daniel. God has given us the Bible, and from much study, prayer, and sometimes fasting, God will sometimes use Bible teachers in addition to the Holy Spirit to give us the understanding we need and all we need to know.

(Daniel 10:15) While he was speaking these words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and was speechless.

Daniel was so overwhelmed by the angel and his words that he could not speak, and he bowed his face toward the ground. Because Gabriel had been opposed and delayed for twenty-one days and needed Michael's help, Daniel was speechless. He recognized that the vision from God, that he had previously received, and Gabriel's message and vision interpretation were of immense significance for God's people and their future. Today, Bible students know how God fulfilled the vision and the interpretation God gave Daniel, and they have conclusive evidence that no matter what happens in the future God will accomplish His purposes no matter how much opposition God faces.

(Daniel 10:16) Then one in human form touched my lips, and I opened my mouth to speak, and said to the one who stood before me, "My lord, because of the vision such pains have come upon me that I retain no strength.

Gabriel touched Daniel's lips again to give him the power to stand up and speak to him. Daniel's vision overwhelmed him because it concerned war and the future of his people; he saw how much they would suffer in wars involving Persia and Greece (see Daniel 10:20) and later the Roman

Empire (see Daniel 2). Yet, after years of suffering and despite all opposition, God, the Creator and Lord over all, would send the Messiah according to His predictions and perfect timing to fulfill His purposes in history.

(Daniel 10:17) How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For I am shaking, no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me."

Not just from old age, Daniel was so overwhelmed with Gabriel's appearance that he explained to him why he could not talk and could hardly breathe.

(Daniel 10:18) Again one in human form touched me and strengthened me.

By touching him again, the angel gave Daniel all the strength he needed to obey him.

(Daniel 10:19) He said, "Do not fear, greatly beloved, you are safe. Be strong and courageous!" When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

Once again, the angel commanded Daniel to be strong, and Daniel said that he could now be strong because God through the angel had strengthened him. Once again, the angel reassured Daniel that he was highly esteemed or

greatly beloved. Daniel had nothing to fear from God or Gabriel, for God was at peace with him. The angel proclaimed “Peace”: Gabriel and Daniel were at peace between themselves, and Daniel received peace in mind and spirit from God. The vision God gave Daniel and Gabriel’s interpretation meant war and hardship for God’s people from invading armies, but despite wars and hardship, God’s people can find peace with God and enjoy peace within themselves. Eventually, God will achieve all His purposes through His Messiah and bring everlasting peace to the world that Jesus came to save. When the angels appeared to the shepherds the night of Jesus’ birth, they also proclaimed peace: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14). Gabriel assured Daniel that God’s favor rested on him; therefore, he had good reasons to be at peace and have no fear of God or Gabriel. By grace through faith in Jesus Christ, God’s favor rests on God’s people today. Before His crucifixion, Jesus said to His followers: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27). After Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to His followers, “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you’” (John 20:21). We, too, can receive the peace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and just as Jesus gave His disciples the ability to obey Him through

the Holy Spirit, God will also give us the ability and power to do whatever He has commanded us to do in the Bible; as the Apostle Paul wrote: “I can do all this through him [Christ] who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What did Gabriel say about Daniel’s character before God?
2. During his visitation, what did Gabriel do to help Daniel?
3. When did God hear and answer Daniel’s prayer?
4. From Daniel’s example, what can we learn about prayer and Bible study?
5. Give one reason you may not receive an answer to prayer when you expect?

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