

Daniel part 15
Daniel 10:1 – 11:20

by Erik Olsen

-INTRO

- we're going to save the second half of the 70 Weeks Prophecy for ch. 12...
- quick review of last week...
 - Daniel praying for fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy about Israel's return to Israel after 70 years of captivity and the fall of Babylon...
 - later that year Cyrus issued the decree allowing Israel to return...
- Daniel 10 occurs three years later... "in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia" (10:1)
 - Daniel is around 90 years of age and it seems most probable that he was no longer serving in the courts of Babylon (now part of the Medo-Persian empire)
 - 1:21: "Thus Daniel continued until the first year of king Cyrus"
 - describes Daniel as standing next to the Tigris river, which runs through Babylon (10:4)
 - about 700 miles from Jerusalem
 - this is the last appearance of Daniel in the Bible
 - Daniel is mourning and fasting....
 - "I was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth..." (10:2-3)

--Why is Daniel mourning?

- Daniel's expectation: during his 70 years of servitude in Babylon, he greatly looked forward to Israel's return to Jerusalem and the restoration of their life in Jerusalem.
 - through the captivity, Daniel regularly prayed in his room with the windows open, facing Jerusalem, during the time of day (3:00) when the daily sacrifice occurred at the temple in Jerusalem before Israel's fall
 - focus of Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9: "Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God **for the holy mountain of my God... [Jerusalem]**"
- The return and reconstruction of the temple has begun, but it is far less than Daniel and others hoped for...
 - Ezra 3:12-13 records the scene in Jerusalem at the time of Daniel's mourning: "But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, **old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes.** Yet many shouted aloud for joy, 13 so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off.
- opposition from foreigners would soon cause Israel to abandon the reconstruction
 - Ezra 4:4-5: "They troubled them in building, and hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia."
- Israel once again began to drift from God. Reconstruction began again over a decade later when God chastened Israel by causing a drought over the land and called them to repentance through the prophets Haggai and Zechariah
 - Haggai 1:9-10: "...Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. For I called a drought on the land and the mountains..."
 - Zechariah 1:3: "'Return to Me,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord of hosts. 'Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.'" But they did not hear nor heed Me..."

--God's plan that was underway was much bigger than Daniel realized...

--restoration of the temple in Jerusalem isn't the great event of the future, but rather the establishment of the temple of the heart by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ

--only redemption through Christ can break Israel's pattern of sin!

--Ezekiel (who was deported to Babylon near the time of Daniel) prophesied about the final restoration of Israel that follows their redemption in Christ:

--"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes**, and you will keep My judgments and do them. 28 Then you shall dwell in

the land that I gave to your fathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God. 29 I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses." (Ezekiel 36:26-29)

--Daniel's vision of an angel signifies the fact that God is in control of history (sometimes exercising His control through angelic forces)

--God is steering the course of history to accomplish His purposes which are centered around the first and second coming of Christ

--long list of prophetic details in ch.10 cover events surrounding Jerusalem between 538 B.C. and c.168 B.C. that affect Israel and help set the stage for the first coming of Christ and the spreading of the gospel by the church

--adds detail to the historical framework revealed in the preceding prophecies in Daniel

--at the end of ch.11 the narrative begins to fast-forward to the conclusion of the 70 weeks...

--example: the Hellenization of the Greek empire resulted in the publication of the Septuagint (Greek version of the Old Testament) in the third century before Christ

--verifiable date of Septuagint proves the authenticity of many Old Testament prophecies

--not only made the Old Testament accessible to the common person who spoke Greek, but also facilitated the translation of the Old Testament into other languages for missionary work

--the Old Testament (the foundation of the New Testament and the only "Scriptures" during the early church)

--the inner-most sanctuary of the temple in Jerusalem where blood was sprinkled by the high priest of Israel on the Day of Atonement was merely a dim reflection of the "Most Holy Place" in heaven where Jesus Christ offered the sacrifice of Himself...

--Hebrews 9:11-14: "But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

--Hebrews 9:23-28; "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another — 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

--John 1:29: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

--the temple of our heart:

--Jesus' words to the Samaritan woman at the well: "The hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ... 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...." (John 4:21-23)

--1 Cor 6:19-20: "you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God**, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

--explanation of select passages from Daniel 10:1 - 11:20:

10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. 2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. 3 I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. 4 Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! 6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

--description of the angel Daniel saw

7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. 8 Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. 9 Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. 10 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. 11 And he said to me, "O Daniel,

man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

--"from the first day you set your heart to understand..."

--once again, Daniel is given revelation as a response to his prayers

--similar dynamic in ch.9: "At the beginning of your supplications the command went out..." (9:23)

13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

-“Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days...”

--continues theme of Israel and the world’s future, building on details of past revelations

15 When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. 16 And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, "My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.

-angels are sometimes addressed as lord (lower case “l”)

17 For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me." 18 Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19 And he said, "O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

-at first Daniel was terrified by the vision, but now he has been reassured and strengthened and is ready to hear what the angel has to say

20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.

-previous revelation given to Daniel referred to as “scripture of Truth”

-the following prophecies add further detail to previous revelation

11:1 "Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)

-this occurred just three years earlier when Daniel was praying for return to Jerusalem and received the 70 weeks prophecy...

2 And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia,

-“three more kings...”:

-Cambyses: 529-522 B.C.

-Gaumata: 523-522 B.C.

-Darius I: 522-486 B.C.

and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

-“fourth” king:

-Xerxes 1 (also known as Ahasuerus): 485 – 464 B.C.

-“he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece”

-waged a number of campaigns against Greece beginning in 480 B.C

3 Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

-Alexander the Great defeats the Medo-Persian empire and ushers in the 3rd Kingdom of Daniel’s prophecy

4 And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

-Alexander the Great died at an early age - Alexander’s kingdom was divided among four of his generals (not among his posterity)

11:5-20 [The Kingdom of the North and the Kingdom of the South...]

--this section details the struggle between two of the four Kingdoms that resulted from Alexander the Great’s death, the Seleucid Kingdom north of Jerusalem and the Ptolemaic Kingdom south of Jerusalem

--control of Jerusalem and the remnant of Israel in Jerusalem went back and forth between the north and the south

