

Daniel 10:1-3

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/dan/dan-10/daniel-101-3/>

During the reign of King Cyrus, Daniel receives another message from God about a great conflict in the future.

Daniel's final and most detailed *vision* is found in chapters 10-12. In Chapter 2, we saw Daniel interpret a vision given to King Nebuchadnezzar. The first two visions given to Daniel were during the reign of Babylonian King Belshazzar (Daniel 7-8). The third *vision* took place after Persia conquered Babylon, during the first year of Darius's rule (Daniel 9). This final *vision* occurs in the *third year of Cyrus the king of Persia*. Some scholars believe that Cyrus and Darius are the same man; others conclude that Darius was simply a governor set over the city of Babylon, where *Daniel* lived out his exile from Israel.

At this time, *Daniel* is an old man, likely somewhere in his eighties. He identifies himself as both *Daniel*, his Jewish name, and *Beltshazzar*, his Babylonian name. This could be because the intended audience for this first person *message* included Babylonians who would have known him as *Beltshazzar*. He refers to his experience as both a *vision* and a *message*. The *vision* is of an angelic messenger from God, and the *message* concerns the future power struggles between earthly kings, as well as Israel's place in these struggles.

Daniel introduces this *message* as *true and one of great conflict*. *Daniel* informs the reader that he *understood the message* given to him and that he also had an *understanding of the vision*. This is a key difference relative to the previous visions.

The writing style changes to a first-person perspective as *Daniel* explains his *vision*, and the context in which it occurred. This is a first hand account. He *has been mourning for three entire weeks*. *Daniel* gives no reason for his mourning at this point. However, in verse 12 the angel says that the *vision* and *message* was dispatched from the first day that Daniel set his heart on understanding, which is likely from the time Daniel began his fast. His *mourning* seems likely to be connected in some way to what he was seeking to understand. In the course of his sorrow, he has denied himself *tasty food*, including *meat* and *wine*. He is not using *ointment at all*. He is not affording himself any sort of sensory pleasure or comfort *until the three weeks were completed*. It appears that Daniel initially set out to make a *three weeks* fast in order to gain *understanding*.

Biblical Text

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Beltshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. 2 In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 3 I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed.