

# Daniel 10:4-9

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/dan/dan-10/daniel-104-9/>

*Daniel sees a vision of a man dressed in wealthy clothing, whose skin and eyes are shining and dazzling. Daniel faints when he sees this heavenly visitor.*

The last three chapters of *Daniel* recount Daniel's final vision given to him by God. *Daniel* has been mourning for three weeks. He has denied himself tasty food or ointments during this period. He notes that it was the *twenty-fourth day of the first month* of the Hebrew year. This makes it clear this was an actual event that occurred on an actual date in history.

*Daniel* explains where he was when he experienced his vision. It was not during his sleep or prayers, as in previous visions. He was *by the bank of the great river*, the *Tigris*. Other men were *with* him there, though he does not identify them. Babylon was located on the *Tigris* River. It was, along with the Euphrates River, the source of fertility in the "Fertile Crescent" that is often considered the cradle of civilization. Given Daniel's description it seems likely he was not in the city itself, but somewhere in the outlying regions, yet still on the *bank of the Tigris*.

Sitting at the bank of the *great river*, *Daniel* lifted his eyes and looked, and saw a strange man standing before him. He writes *behold* to draw important attention to this new presence. This *certain person* is impressive and awesome in appearance. He is *dressed in linen* and his *waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz*. *Uphaz* is generally assumed to be a location that produced gold, though that is not verified either within or outside the Bible. This *man* is *dressed* in fine clothing and a costly *belt of pure gold*. His *body also was like beryl*. *Beryl* is a shining gem. This messenger's body was dazzling and golden, and *his face had the appearance of lightning*. His *eyes are like flaming torches*, and his *arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze*. Not only is he richly dressed, this *man* is shining. His *eyes are like fire*. He is obviously not a mere *man*. In fact, he is an angel, or messenger from God. The angel is unnamed, and does not appear to be Gabriel, the angel previously sent to Daniel (Daniel 8:16; 9:20-21).

He speaks to *Daniel*, and the *sound of his words* are like *the sound of a tumult*. *Tumult*, or "hamón" in Hebrew, can be translated to "multitudes" or "roar." The fiery *man* spoke in a roar of many voices. *Daniel's* reaction is perfectly understandable. As he saw *this great vision* he found that *no strength was left in him*, and his *natural color turned to a deathly pallor*; his face went as pale as a dead man's. He emphasizes his reaction when he repeats that he *retained no strength*.

The men with *Daniel* ran away to hide themselves. Interestingly, they *did not see the vision*, for *Daniel alone saw the vision*, but a *great dread fell on the men*. Despite their ignorance of what *Daniel* was seeing, the presence of the visitor weighed fearfully on them and drove them away, presumably so that *Daniel* could have a private conversation with the stranger. *Daniel* is left alone after the other men ran away. He writes that as soon as he heard the *sound of the stranger's words*, he *fell into a deep sleep on his face, with his face to the ground*. The appearance of this heavenly person, his body and eyes blazing with light, his voice like a thunderous crowd of people, causes *Daniel* to faint.

## Biblical Text

**4** On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, **5** I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with *a belt of* pure gold of Uphaz. **6** His body also *was* like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult. **7** Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. **8** So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. **9** But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.