

Struggling with God's Plan

Daniel 10

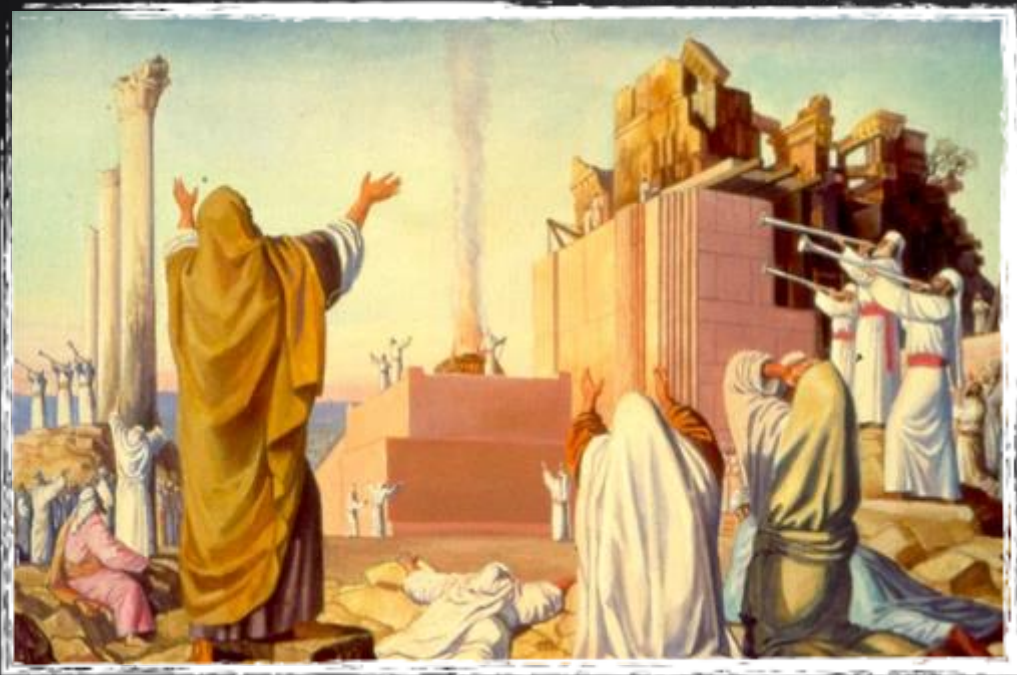


*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the
Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the
earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

(Isaiah 55:8-9; ESV)

Daniel 10:1-3 (ESV)

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision. 2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.



The Exiles Return

...But It's a
Troubled Time

Ezra 1-4

FAITHFULNESS may be more
DIFFICULT than we initially suppose.

*“Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters,
when you meet trials of various kinds, for
you know that the testing of your faith
produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness
have its full effect, that you may be perfect
and complete, lacking in nothing.”*

(James 1:2-4; ESV)



Biosphere 2



Reaction
Wood



Daniel 10:4-5 (ESV)

4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) 5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and look, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.

Daniel 10:6-7 (ESV)

6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. 7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves.

Daniel 10:8-9 (ESV)

8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. 9 Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.

The TRUTH is more DEVASTATING
than we suppose.

Daniel 10:10-11 (ESV)

10 And look, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11 And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

Daniel 10:12 (ESV)

12 Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.”

Daniel 10:13-14 (ESV)

13 “The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

(Ephesians 6:12; ESV)

PRAYER is more CRUCIAL than we
suppose.

“Daniel’s prayers succeeded in drawing angels from heaven to earth. These angels formed an invincible heavenly guard around the people of the Lord, with the result that the plans of the enemy failed. In the mighty battle then being fought between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world, Daniel succeeded in mobilizing the angels as a spiritual air force against the satanic powers in the air.” (Herman Veldkamp)

Daniel 10:15-16 (ESV)

15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. 16 And look, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength."

Daniel 10:17 (ESV)

17 “How can my lord’s servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me.”

Daniel 10:18-19 (ESV)

18 Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19 And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

Daniel 10:20-21 (ESV)

20 Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, look, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

HISTORY is more COMPLICATED than
we suppose.

When You Struggle with God's Plan, Know...

- In difficult days, God draws near.
- This planet and human history are contested (but Jesus is stronger!).
- God chooses to involve us in His work.
- Our journey with God forms us into the people He intends for us to be.

Walter A. Henrichsen



Author of Disciples Are Made Not Born

How to
DISCIPLE
your
Children



Foreword by LeRoy Eims

Walter Henrichsen
*How to Disciple
Your Children*
(1981)