

Daniel Chapter 10

Louis T. Talbot

Thank you Mr. Announcer and good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you and thank you for the privilege of entering your home once again and each morning of the week Monday through Friday at this hour. I greet you in the wonderful name of our wonderful Lord and I greet you also as students of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles because we consider all of you folks in radio land as a part of our student body. Many of you folks would like to be in the Bible Institute but circumstances in the providence of God have arisen so that you are denied that privilege. But we come every morning bringing the teaching of the Word of God into your home. And it's the same kind of teaching that we give to the students at the Bible Institute.

Let me thank you again my dear friends for your letters. You know that they are a real tonic to my soul. Your expressed interest in the Bible Institute is a great encouragement to my heart because we want to see this work of (inaudible) young men and young women carried on until the Lord comes.

You know that the devil is certainly pressing the battle and we Christians should press the battle as well. And what the devil is doing should be a challenge to all of us to do the same thing. It's a wonderful thing to have a part in making Christ known among men. And I've been very very interested in the training of young men and young women for many many years now. And especially those who are going to be the missionaries of tomorrow. And I think that I have told you that a goodly percentage of the students of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles will be out on

the fields beyond if the Lord Jesus Christ (inaudible) making known the gospel of Christ. Now just address your letters to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, Los Angeles 17 California.

Now I want you, please, to turn your Bibles to Daniel Chapter 10. I'm just spending a few mornings putting on the chapters that I did not go into very thoroughly when we were making the study and Chapter 10 was one of them. I just touched on one or two of the verses. But my friends, as I read the chapter through, this Chapter 10, that I was convinced that it is one of the most solemn chapters in all the Word of God because it deals with demonology. And that is something that many Christians know very little about. And it also unveils to us the great conflict that goes on in the unseen world, something that we know nothing about. Only as we read the Word of God for this conflict is-, it is recorded there.

I want you just to keep in mind that the theme of the Book of Daniel is the character the cause and the consummation of the times of the Gentiles. And by the times of the Gentiles it's meant that period of time during which Gentile nations are exercising lordship or governments over this earth. We have seen that that period began with Nebuchadnezzar and is going to conclude with a personal visible (inaudible) return of the Lord.

Do you remember how that the Lord Jesus Christ said in Luke Chapter 21 verse 24 that "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." And then he goes on talking about uh-, the troublest times that they're going to be upon the earth during the-, the end of the times of the Gentiles, culminating with his own words "and then shall ye see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great power and great glory."

Now just bear in mind also that chapters 10, 11, and 12 are one prophecy, and they they they reveal things like a moving picture going before our eyes, picture things that have to do with the times of the Gentiles. I think I told you also in former studies that that chapter marks in the Bible chapter divisions and verse marks- marks were not in the original text, they were made there put in there by the translators in order that we may find places in the Bible more speedily but chapters 10, 11, and 12 should not have been divided at all. They are just one prophecy.

Now in Chapter 10 you have recorded the prayer that was prayed by Daniel for more information concerning these people in the last days of the times of the Gentiles. And you have also how that the devil came into conflict with the angel that God had sent to enlighten Daniel, a conflict that lasted 21 days and that the angel had to return to God's presence to enlist the help of the Archangel Michael to cover his way through the unseen world in order that this prophecy that we are now studying might be conveyed to him. You know all that is very very solemn indeed.

And then in chapter eleven you have the the prophecy that that Daniel prayed might be revealed to him. And the very information that the devil did not want to reach Daniel because I guess Daniel knew that he was going to have it recorded in the book that bears his name and that all of us folks living at this time of the times of the Gentiles would be reading all about it and would understand therefore the significance of all the turmoil that is going on in the world today and especially in the Middle East. And we, my friends, are reading, we're studying the very thing that the devil tried to prevent being conveyed to the prophet Daniel. In this Chapter 11 you find the prophecy that Daniel wanted to have revealed to him. It gives the account of a full view of

Gentile dominion from the first day year of Darius right on to the battle of Armageddon and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You have in this 11th chapter a life size portrait as it were of the willful King who is yet to come. And how that there will be the great struggle on the battlefield of Armageddon and how that he will become a world dictator and yet he shall come to his end when the Lord Jesus Christ comes to take the reign of government. And then in chapter 12 you have a (inaudible) that completes the vision, adding yet other details about the Great Tribulation and the establishment of Christ's kingdom over this earth.

Now I want, my dear friends, to pick out this morning as you follow the verses the highlights of this chapter 10. I want to put before you something of this great subject of demonology as it is revealed in the word of God. And so look at verses two and three of this chapter 10, "In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled." Now the question that comes into our mind was why did Daniel mourn for three whole weeks? Well doubtless he was distressed at the worldly minded attitude of many of the Israelites in their adopted land of Babylon.

You know that the 70 weeks of Daniel at this time were being fulfilled. And you'll remember how that God the angels said to Daniel is recorded in the 11th chapter that during the first-, the first forty nine years the streets and the walls of Jerusalem would be built, rebuilt. And Cyrus, the king of Persia, (inaudible) Persia had allowed the children of Israel to go back. And to

accomplish that task. But when it came to a showdown we learned from the book of Nehemiah that only about 40,000 of them went to-, back to restore Jerusalem. And the others were just content to remain in the Persian Empire and I guess that they had adopted the heathen habits of life and they were seeking wealth and ease and they did not want to go back.

They had lost all interest in their ancient land. And you know that Daniel was sad about that. And Daniel himself, my friend, at the time must have been about 90 years of age and consequently he was too old to help in the work of rebuilding his beloved city. But when he saw the lack of interest his heart was sad indeed. I think that if Daniel hadn't been so old that he would have been the first to return, had he been a young man. That God's glory was the ruling passion of Daniel's life and it is little wonder then that his heart was heavy.

He saw the lack of enthusiasm on the part of his own people and their apathetic state of mind. And he could eat no bread. You ever come to the place in life, my dear friends, where your life is, your heart is so burdened that all appetite for food just leaves you? Well Daniel had that and he did not anoint himself either. That is that-, that he was-, he just had his mind on one thing.

And then there was another thing, my dear friends, that distressed him and that it was this, that he got reports from the forty thousand that did go back to Jerusalem that the devil was attacking them, and they were ridiculing the men and doing everything to discourage them in their operation. It was no easy task that was set before them because when they went back to Jerusalem they found the whole thing, a heap of ruins, just as it was after Nebuchadnezzar had gotten through about 90 years before. And consequently with a lack of interest that the people

had to gather with the discouragement in the hearts of the 40,000 that did go back that day. But Daniel's heart was heavy indeed.

I wonder, my dear friends, if you have felt that way as you consider the broken state of the church. Have you ever realized, my dear friends, in your own experience something of what Daniel was talking about here? And as you look upon the lack of zeal for Christ among the average church member today, does it ever send you to prayer and does it weigh on your heart as-, as the condition of the children of Israel did upon the heart of Daniel? I want to say that the closer we lived to the-, that we live to the heart of God the easier it will be to understand and appreciate the feelings which possessed this man Daniel.

And so consequently for three whole weeks, that is 21 days. He was not only fasting and mourning but he prayed and yet there was no apparent answer that came from God to His prayer. And then finally his persecu-, his perseverance was rewarded because at the close of three weeks uh-, the answer came by the mouth of an angel. I want you to see now how (inaudible) the answer to his prayer came to Daniel. Look at verses 4 and 5, "And in the four and twentieth day of the month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;" Now Hiddekel is the ancient name for the River Tigris as we know it today. Then Daniel says "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and behold, and I looked and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with a fine gold of Uphaz:"

And then he goes on to describe this being that he saw and evidently it was an angel of some might and power. And thus Daniel began to describe the angel which which appeared to him in

the form of a man glorious and wonderful to behold. Now this was not a dream that Daniel had. It was an actual vision as he was by the side of the River Tigris when the angel from heaven appeared onto him. And he told Daniel this, look at verse 6, Daniel or rather Daniel here in verse 6 goes on to describe this angel.

My friends what a-, what a wonderful being an angel is. And you know that the word of God says that there are millions of them. And this angel is described in verse 6 in this way. "His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in color to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude."

My friends, when you and I get into heaven we're going to see myriads and myriads of beings just like these. You know that the Bible speaks about angels as an innumerable company that is that they cannot be numbered by man although God knows every one of them. And this heavenly being that Daniel describes, it was evidently one of the highest order of angels.

We do not believe that this angel was a manifestation of God in angelic form because in the verses which follow we find that Satan's evil angel withstood this holy messenger of God for one and twenty days. The very period of time during which Daniel was mourning and fasting and in prayer. And if this heavenly being had been God Himself then Satan's emissary could not have hindered Him for God is all powerful.

And the Holy Angel said to Daniel that Michael had gone to his help that is after fighting with this-, with an emissary of the devil for 21 days he had to go back into the presence of God and enlist the help of Michael the Archangel to cut his way through the upper air to where Daniel was.

But why was this Archangel uh-, this angel rather this-, this messenger three whole weeks in reaching Daniel you would think that an angel with uh-, with a face like the lightning and with these other characteristics would be more powerful than any of those that are aligned with Satan. But I tell you my dear friends that we have in this statement that the angel made a literal insight into the unseen world and the mighty power of some of the fallen demons that are lined up (inaudible) the plan and the purpose of God.

Now in verses 12 and 13, you have the angel telling about this struggle in the upper air. Verses 12 and 13, "then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. That is because of thy prayer. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."

My dear friends, we get here a remarkable insight into the unseen world and the conflict that is being carried on in the upper air that is in the-, in the heavenly places, that is the first and the second heaven.

You know that there are three heavens that are mentioned in the Bible? There is the-, the heavens where the birds fly and the clouds move, then there is the second heaven where the sun and the moon and the stars are. Now those two heavens are the places where a great conflict is going on. And then there is the third heaven which is God's dwelling place.

Now these words that we have just read give us an insight into that great conflict that goes on in the heavenly places between the devil and all of these hosts and the, and the angels that carry out God's bidding. And may we not my friends here find the reason why many of our own prayers do not seem to be answered when and as we would like to see them answered. Here is the account given by the angel that for three whole weeks that Daniel had been before God in earnest supplication and he prayed and he besought and he interceded on behalf of his people and yet no answer came. And had Daniel just these pray he might have come to the conclusion that it was no use praying anymore because God was through with the people of Israel.

But his prayer, we learn, was heard by God. And the angel tells us that at the very beginning of his supplication the commandment went forth and he was sent from the very throne of God to make known to Daniel a (inaudible) which would set his mind at rest in regard to the future blessing of his people. But but twenty one days this angel had been fighting his way through the fiends of the upper air.

You know that he speaks about-, the angels speaks about the prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now my friends that prince of the kingdom of Persia was not Cyrus himself. Cyrus was the King of Persia but the prince of Persia was an evil angel evidently delegated by Satan to seek to

influence the hearts of the Persian Kings against the people of God. And that Angel had withstood the Holy Angel from God for one and twenty days. And nor could the divinely sent Messenger prevail until Michael the Archangel should come and help this angel that has been sent and enable him to cut his way through.

Now my friends all this is, is very very solemn. You know that God-, the Devil had sent an angel, one of his fallen angels to influence the heart of Cyrus. And you know that if you could look into the, into the unseen world you would find that the devil today has sent a-, has delegated a mighty and a powerful fallen angel to-, as-, over Russia and over Japan and over communistic China, and over Egypt and-, and all the countries in the world. Of course where there is the Gospel preached like in the United States of America that the devil would not have the leeway. And I am sure that the devil has an angel designated-, delegated here to influence Congress and our president against the things of God. But of course he would not have the leeway here in the United States because we have so much light and we have the word of God.

But you take Russia and you take the satellites of Russia and take communistic China and especially Africa and especially this man NASA and I want to tell you my dear friends he has a great deal of leeway there. And the only way that you can understand what is taking place in the middle east of the day is to read your newspapers under the light of this tenth chapter of Daniel.

My, my but what a statement-, what a-, an unveiling this is. I want to say my dear friends that we would know nothing whatever about the conflicts continuously being carried on in the uh-, in the unseen world if we did not have an open Bible. But this much is clear, let me just state in a

nutshell just what this 10th chapter is: here is a man who was praying earnestly on earth and God had heard that prayer in heaven, in answer to it He sent an angel but for three weeks there were some hindrance keeping the angel from reaching Daniel. Now that a hindrance was in the unseen world. And by such a power that the Archangel himself was sent to-, to overcome and to get the angel through.

Now my dear friends, you know that I would like this morning and then tomorrow morning to bring a few other passages of scripture that has to do with demonology and what is taking place in the unseen world as it affects you. For instance you take the first chapter of the Book of Job. And we find there that the sons of God presented themselves before the Lord and then we are told that Satan came along also. Now the sons of God, as mentioned in the opening chapters of the Book of-, of Job, were evidently an order of angelic ministers engaged in carrying out the will of God in connection with the world in- uh in in accordance with His Word.

You know that another passage of Scripture says that God maketh these angel spirits and He ministers a flame of fire are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister unto them that shall be heirs of salvation. And here are these sons of God coming into the presence of God. And then we read that among these sons of God that Satan, that (inaudible) leader of the, of the evil hosts. He walks in and he walks in on a (inaudible). He says may I say he says that he just comes in as one who has no fear of rebuke in that company. And he is there, my dear friends, as on all other occasions in Scripture. He is there as the great adversary and the accuser of the brethren. And when he comes into the presence of God with all the rest of the angels although the other angels were holy angels, the devil comes in there to accuse Job to the face of God.

I want to tell you my dear friends that that uh- that the devil is the accuser of the brethren and when he goes into the presence of God, my dear friends, he accuses God's people. You may not know it but but I'm sure that the devil has many conversations with Almighty God about you and about me. And when he went into the presence of God concerning Job, that God said that Job hast thou- God said to the devil "hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in all the Earth." And the devil said this, he says: "doth Job serve You for nought?"

He says Job is in this thing just because of what he can get out of it. You just think, says the devil, what You have given him. Look at his flocks and look at his camels. Look at his (inaudible), look at his wild- his (inaudible), look at the money that the fellow has. He is the wealthiest man in all the world why, who wouldn't serve You? This man Job is just in this thing for what he can get. And then the devil said to Job uh-, said to God concerning Job, he said that "You let me get my hands on him, by the time I'm through with him he'll curse You to Your face.

And you know that Job was unacquainted all together with that conversation. And you know that God, He could trust you. And He said to Satan, He said "Job is in your hands. You can do whatever you please with him, only don't take his life." And the devil went out from the presence of the Lord. And then you have that great testing. All of his property taken away and his ten children killed and then his own body was touched. And Job knew nothing about it, all that he could say was this "the Lord has given and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

My dear friends, listen. Whenever you go through financial reburst, whenever you go through trouble, whenever you go through possibly you stood in the-, in the presence of a-, in the presence of death, you've been in a death chamber, whenever anything happens no matter what it is or how it came, you watch how you behave. It may be that the devil has challenged God concerning you and God trusted you. And He's put you as it were in the devil's hands to show that you are not serving Him for what you get out of it.

Well my time is up. We'll continue this tomorrow my dear friends and go more fully into the subject of demonology as it is recorded in the word of God. Goodbye and God bless you all.

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