



Cyrus (the Messiah of the Old Testament)



Isaiah 45:1

"Thus says the Lord to Cyrus His anointed, whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him . . ."

2 Chronicles 36:23

"Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up!'"

Daniel 10

"¹ In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; 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."

✓ **Daniel hears of the great conflict in Palestine and connects it with the vision he had seen (ch.9).**

✓ **What does a person do when hopes are really shattered? We don't get angry, anxious, depressed or complain. We mourn.**

This is Daniel's Good Friday and his Sunday is coming

"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. ¹⁰ Then behold, a hand **touched me** and set me trembling on my hands and knees."

"¹¹ **He said to me**, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, **understand** the words that I am about to tell you and **stand** upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. ¹² Then he said to me, "**Do not be afraid**, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words."

Daniel's life gets divine attention when:

- 1. He seeks to understand**
- 2. He is humble before God**

**Ignorance
is not a sin
but arrogant
presumption is.**

“¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to give you an understanding of **what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.**”

**This is the closest reference
to anything suggesting a “gap”
in God’s timetable for Israel.**

“¹⁵ When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. ¹⁶ And behold, one who resembled a human being was **touching** my lips; ¹⁸ Then *this* one with human appearance **touched** me again and strengthened me. ¹⁹ He said, “O man of high esteem, **do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!**” Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.””

Consider

- ✓ **Daniel expects** that Israel’s troubles are now over.
- ✓ **Daniel is mourning** - Israel’s troubles continue.
- ✓ **Just when he must be wondering if God is there and does He care** - A powerful angelic being appears and leaves Daniel weak and in awe.
- ✓ **This mysterious being encourages Daniel** - He is to be courageous and not lose heart.

Lessons

- ✓ **God encourages His people**
- ✓ Not by removing them from harm’s way
- ✓ but by revealing a vision of Himself
- ✓ and assuring them of a happy landing.



**What causes
us to ask
why?**



**Unless there is first
a vision and hope
there can be no
disillusionment
and mourning.**



The problem of “**theodicy**” (Shattered hopes)



If God is all powerful, loving, and active in the world



why is there “unjustified suffering” in the world?

- ✓ Proverbs / Ecclesiastes / Job.
- ✓ John the Baptist Matt.11:1-6
- ✓ Apocalyptic literature



A Christophany is a sense experience of Christ before or after his incarnation.

vs.8

“I say this great vision”

vs.9

“I heard the sound of his voice”

vs.16

“he touched my lips”

How should we face shattered expectations?

- ✓ Life in this age will often be discouraging and confusing for Christians.
- ✓ We are not to be surprised by this in that the people of God in Scripture faced similar circumstances.
- ✓ Our courage comes from a vision of God and from hearing His Word.
- ✓ Our worship should facilitate that kind of contact with God.



Larry
Hatfield



Blaise Pascal

“There is pleasure to be on board a ship battered by a storm, when we are certain that it will not perish: the persecutions buffeting the Church are of this kind.”