

DANIEL (DARE TO BE GOD'S MESSENGER)
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SERIES: Daniel (Dare To Be God's Messenger)

TITLE: Program 41 – A Trustworthy Message

MONDAY

OPEN

Have you ever received a message that you knew was a trustworthy message? You knew that it was true and yet it brought such turmoil, it brought such conflict. What did you do? Where did you run? Did you think of going to God? Did you think of seeking God? Did you think of spending time at His feet until the conflict, the turmoil was resolved in your heart? Well that's what we're going to look at today.

PART ONE

Hello my friend. We have come to Daniel, chapter 10 and in Daniel, chapter 10, 11, & 12 we have the final message of Daniel. And it's so exciting because what it does is it ties everything together in this neat little package and it is awesome when you see it. So we've got a great adventure in front of us. I want us to look at Daniel, chapter 10. And Daniel, chapter 10 begins with a time phrase. So he sets us in time. It says 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, great turmoil, great distress, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. Now what he's going to tell us is what had been happening that led up to this vision. And this is important for us to see. Daniel, remember, was a man of God, who stood for God no matter the circumstances. Daniel did not compromise. He was great in that he was able to move through the rein of the kings of Babylon and then through the Medes and the Persians as they had conquered Babylon. And so he's saying it's the third year of Cyrus king of Persia. Well remember Darius was the one that actually came in and took Babylon. And so he served under Darius. It was Darius that called to him and wanted to know if his God has spared him from the lions. But now we're under the reign of Cyrus the Persian. And remember it was a Medo-Persian Empire. Babylon was conquered by the Medes and the Persians and so Darius was a Mede and Cyrus is a Persian. And so it's during this time that a message is revealed to him. So you want to mark that in the text. If you haven't done your homework ahead of time, if you haven't observed this chapter, this is very important. You're going to learn some interesting things about our enemy, about the devil as we go along. And you're going to get some fascinating insights. And I pray that what God will do is that He will take these and use them, drop them as a plumb line so that what you hear and what you believe and what you embrace will be, will be truth and you'll be able to discern truth from an error or someone's wrong interpretation of a scripture, and therefore wrong teaching maybe in the area of prayer. We're going to look at it. But he says in verse 2 in those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. So as you mark the time phrase in verse 1, in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, you would again put a time clock over three weeks. So he had been mourning for three weeks. His spirit was grieved. You know so many times when you are burdened, there's just a heaviness, and you can be walking

with the Lord and that heaviness can come. You say, but we're supposed to count it all joy. Yes, you count it all joy and you walk in the strength of the Lord, but it doesn't mean that God is not going to burden your spirit or that you're not going to have some heaviness because God wants to do something, because God wants to maybe lead you to prayer, to intercession for someone else. Or God may want to reveal something to you. Or God may want to cleanse you and in a greater depth of intimacy. And so, as He does that, remember it's those that are of pure of heart that see God. So He may see something in your life that needs to be corrected. He may see something in your life that He wants to prepare you for. It's no need to be afraid because God is God, because He never leaves His throne, because His sovereignty, as we saw when we studied Daniel 4, His sovereignty rules over all. But he was mourning. And he had been mourning for three weeks. He says 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. And again you have a time phrase. So for three weeks what we see is we see Daniel in sort of a partial fast. We see him not eating tasty food. In other words he put aside the cakes and the cookies and the pies. And not to lose weight, by the way. There's a difference of fasting to lose weight and calling it a spiritual fast and really fasting for the Lord, because you are seeking His face and because you want to hear from Him and you want to draw close to Him and you want to know what you should do or how you should be behaving. So he didn't eat meat. And he didn't taste wine. So he was just in this state for three weeks. And it says and on the twenty-fourth day of the first month while I was by the bank of the great river; that is the Tigris. So you here you have a geographical location. So let's double underline that and look at your map and see where the Tigris is. This is where he was. He was seeking the Lord and on the twenty-fourth day of the first month. Now what's the first month? Well the first month is the month of Passover. And so it is the month of Nissan. So he was seeking the Lord.

This was happening about 10 days after the Passover Feast was celebrated. It wasn't just the day of Passover, and if you'll look at this chart; it's a wonderful chart and it is a chart that shows you the feasts. And the first feast is the Feast of Passover and it happens in the first month, the month of Nissan. And what you have is you have the celebration of Passover, which is on the fourteenth day of Nissan and then you have the Feast of Unleavened Bread because they get rid of sin, so there's a cleansing of the house and then there's the Feast of First Fruits, when they take the wave offering and wave it before the door of the temple. Well this had all gone on, well, it hadn't really gone on because they really didn't have the temple completed. But the children of Israel had already returned from their seventy years of captivity. Daniel did not return. Daniel stayed in Babylon, now ruled by the Medes and the Persians. But a great many people had gone back, they estimate about 42,000 had returned. And they were in the process of rebuilding the temple. All right and that's the book of Ezra and rebuilding the walls is the book Nehemiah. So he says I, on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the river; that is the Tigris, 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. His body 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. In other words he was there and all of a sudden there was this man in this awesome array standing before him and when he opened his mouth it was like the sound of great, great noise and great rushing of water. And it says now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision. So you want to put a cloud around vision, because remember we're marking the visions. And this is Daniel's final vision. He says while the men who were with me did not see the vision. So when Daniel was down there he was not alone. He says nevertheless, a great dread fell on them and they ran away to hide themselves. So, although they didn't see what Daniel saw, they sensed

the presence of this majestic one. And sensing his presence, it brought fear in their hearts and they wanted to run away and hide. You know, I think sometimes, when our heart is not tuned to God when we are not really seeking Him, then when there's a revelation or something we want to run and hide. But because Daniel had been mourning, because he had been in this partial fast for three weeks, seeking God, what was happening? Well, this was culmination of the fact that he was seeking God, so he didn't run away. He didn't hide. Now it doesn't mean that he was not just stricken, because listen to what it says. He says so I was left alone and I 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. He wasn't going to run away, but he was absolutely sapped, absolutely sapped, absolutely drained of everything. And he says 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. Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. I was down. I was prostrate and then all of a sudden that hand touched me and I got up, but I got up and I was on my hands and on my knees because I was still weak. And then it says and he said to me, O Daniel, Daniel, man of high esteem. Can you imagine having a heavenly being calling you for the very first time, O man of high esteem? Awesome, isn't it? It means, O precious, precious one. We'll talk about it when we come back after this break.

PART TWO

Welcome back precious one. Do you realize that when God was speaking to Daniel through this heavenly being He was saying you are a man who is precious? Now, I told you the first time really, that they referred to him, they said that you are highly esteemed. But here, this angelic being is speaking to him and the first words out of his mouth is man of high esteem, man of great treasure, man of preciousness. You are precious to God. Now I believe that

out of his peers and out of these men and these other Jews that were there and that had stayed in Babylon, I believe that when God looked at Daniel he was a notch higher in His eyes because of the lifestyle that Daniel lived, because of the commitment of Daniel. He had been mourning. He had been in this partial fast for three weeks. God saw his heart. God saw his earnestness. God saw that this man had been faithful all these years and that this man still was not riding on the crest of what he knew in his past experiences and his past visions. But this man continued to seek God all of his days. So what I want you to see is that, that, that to be precious to God, to be a person that God would just come down, so to speak, and pat on the shoulder and say O man of high esteem, O woman of high esteem, O teenager or child of high esteem. It's a person who seeks God, who continually develops and deepens that relationship. Watch what this being said. He said O Daniel, man of high esteem and I would underline it and mark it like I marked it in Daniel, chapter 9. It says understand the words that I am about to tell you. Now we know that Daniel said that the message was one of great conflict, but he understood it. And so this being was saying I want you to understand the words that I'm about to tell you. And stand upright, for I have been sent to you. Who was he sent to? He was sent to a man who was seeking God, a man who wanted to understand God. And he says do not be afraid. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. And 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. So now when you look at it what do you see? He got a message and then he has this vision of this being. And so he says from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and humbling yourself before God. Three weeks ago Daniel, you started trying to understand this message that was revealed to you. And I have come in response to your words. Now, what you need to do is you need to mark the time phrase, from the first day

that you set your heart. So what it does it explains to you the chronology of events. He hears a message, he has been seeking God for three weeks. His message was heard and now this man has come to him. All right now, why three weeks? Well watch what it says. He says I have come in response to your words. He says verse 13. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days. How long is twenty-one days? It's three weeks. And then behold Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. This is so interesting. There is no other scripture in all the Word of God that gives us this insight. God gives him a message. Daniel wants to know and Daniel wants to understand that message. In those three weeks he is mourning. He is seeking God. He is fasting in this partial fast, he's crying out to God because he wants to understand. I want to ask you a question. Do you want to understand truth? Do you want to understand this Book? Do you want to know God? Do you want to know Him intimately? Are you willing to pay the price to, to knowing God? Do you know what it is to open the Word of God and to grapple with the text and to study the text and to cry out to God, God I do not understand? Do you know what it is to be in prayer and God is telling you I want to show you something, I want to do something in your life and He lays certain passages on your heart or He'll lay a book of the Bible on your heart? He'll take you to the Psalms or He may have some wisdom and take you to the Proverbs and you begin reading and you're still not fully understanding, but you know that there's something that God wants. Maybe He wants to change the direction in your life. Maybe He wants to change your job. Maybe He wants to give you a new avenue of ministering. Maybe He's going to take you through a trial and He wants to prepare you. I could tell you story after story after story of people that have been through incidences like this. You can get my book *As Silver Refined, Learning to Embrace Life's Disappointments* and you'll see how God takes people through certain avenues in order to prepare them for the days ahead.

And this is what God was doing with Daniel. And he says I have come. He said I was sent, I was sent three weeks ago and I wanted to get here, but I couldn't get here. Why? Because there was a conflict going on. He said there was a conflict with the kings of Persia. Now where was this conflict? Well, this was not an earthly conflict. This was a heavenly conflict. It was a heavenly conflict, but it had to do with what was going on, on earth. And they didn't want Daniel to get the message and the understanding, so there was a warfare. Beloved, listen, God does not exempt us from warfare, but God does promise us that we can be more than conquerors through Him who loved us. So listen to His voice. Seek out His Word. Spend time in it. Shut off that television. Turn off those CD players. Listen to God; listen to God. In that silence seek Him and let Him speak to you, pour over the Word. Get to know the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah and Joel and Amos and Obadiah and let God speak to your heart and let Him work in your life so that you are a woman of high esteem, so that you are a man of high esteem, so that you are a teenager that walks in the midst of that crooked and perverse generation and lives at another level, so that God can look at you and say, you are so precious to Me.