

Q – When did you have a time in your life where you just were not sure how you could keep up your strength?

This is the 3rd year of King Cyrus of Persia's reign. That means Daniel did not return to Jerusalem with the first group that were released to go rebuild the temple by King Cyrus. Daniel is now a very, very old man. We know he was around 90 when Darius the Mede was King and he was in the lion's den. God gives Daniel another revelation concerning the Hebrews, the people of the covenant.

The trouble had already started. The Samaritans tried to persuade King Cyrus that the Jews he allowed to return to Palestine were plotting treason against his rule. God tells Daniel that much more persecution and tribulation will come upon the Jews in their restoration before the Messiah comes.

READ DANIEL 10:1-9 (1-3; 4-6; 7-9)

- 1. What did Daniel's vision concern?** (*a great war that was to come*)
- 2. What did Daniel do upon experiencing this vision?** (*Daniel mourned for 3 weeks. He refused to eat the choice food he had been eating, no meat, no wine, and never used lotions, meaning he was a bit smelly and nasty. He is practicing various aspects of sincere mourning during times of extreme grief.*)

Q – What do you do when you are very concerned or even deeply depressed about the world's depravity and growing tendency toward a great war?

Q – Daniel is practicing his faith's way of being humble before God and crying to Him for help. As we see radical Islam growing around the entire world, Israel being abused, Russia becoming more aggressive and oppressive, atheism attacking Christianity's morals and ethics, and even churches within Christianity moving away from the inerrancy of God's Word, what do you think Daniel's example should be teaching us? (*We need to pray regularly, possibly fast for time to pray more deeply, however, please do not quit bathing!*)

Q – Why do you think God wants us to pray for the world's leaders? (*All of them were created by God the same as us. They have listened to Satan, the father of lies, and have left all love for their Creator behind. If they were to wake up, the world could be changed. Until then it will be in a state of war.*)

- 3. Describe what Daniel saw as he stood on the bank of the Tigris River.** (*A man dressed in linen, which symbolizes purity, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist, which symbolizes a high position. His body was like Chrysolite, which is associated with royalty, a face like lightning, symbolizing truth, eyes like flaming torches, symbolizing judgment, arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, also translated polished brass and symbolizes power, and a voice like the sound of a multitude, which means power or authority.*)

Have someone read Revelation 1:13-18 (*This seems to be the same person John saw, which was Jesus*)

READ DANIEL 10:10-14

4. **What did Daniel do when the Lord's hand touched him?** (*He got off his face and up onto his hands and knees and was trembling*)
5. **The Lord has Daniel stand and tells him that He has been sent to him. Why?** (*Daniel was highly esteemed, he had set his mind on gaining understanding and humbled himself before God. His prayers were heard and the Lord came in response to those prayers offered from the heart of a true and humble seeker of truth. Daniel has spent his life trusting God in the best and worst of times and still has not wavered. God is responding to such faith.*)

Q – How does the Lord's hand touch us? (*Through faithfulness, trust, humility, prayer, and through the Holy Spirit guiding us if we are deep into the Word of God and sensitive to His leading.*)

Q – How has the Holy Spirit of God touched your life? (*I can stand firm in my faith even when life throws me some very sad or hurtful times. Through the pain, my faith never goes away. I trust God will bring about something far better at some point down the road. At the point of suffering, it is an opportunity to show everyone around how the Holy Spirit fills us with joy even in the worst of times.*)

Q – On a scale of 1 (severely lacking) to 10 (fully surrendered) how would you rate your daily trust in the Lord at this point in your life? (*Trust that lasts must be developed within our nature, our character, and our hearts*)

6. **The Lord has been keeping the kingdom of Persia in check. Who comes to help stop this attack of evil that is taking place in Persia?** (*Michael the archangel. Apparently the evil was growing as Satan and his evil forces were applying some kind of pressure on Persia. Something bad was happening, but the Lord is always on the throne and the archangel, the protector of the people, comes and puts an end to it. No, we do not fully understand what was happening, but what we do know is that God protects those who love Him. It may very well had to do with some type of division happening among the Jews, knowing that some were not wanting to leave this land they've been in most or all their lives.*)
7. **What has Jesus come to explain?** (*What will happen to the Jews in the future. It is something that will take place later.*)

READ DANIEL 10:15-17

8. **After hearing those words, what happened to Daniel?** (*He bowed his face to the ground and became speechless.*)
9. **When the Lord touches Daniel's lips, he is able to speak. What does Daniel say?** (*This vision has so filled my with anguish I don't know what to say and I am weak and hardly even breath! Daniel had a vision of a great war taking place. He mourned for 3 weeks, did a type of fasting, didn't even clean himself while in this mourning period. Then Daniel has this overwhelming apocalyptic vision of the Lord that was virtually impossible to look upon. Now the Lord is talking to him, Daniel! He is on the verge of going into shock. This is more than Daniel's mind can digest! So the Lord gives Daniel the strength to pull it together.*)

Q – Why do you think we do not fully grasp the what it is like to be in the presence of the Lord?

READ DANIEL 10:18-21

10. **What does Jesus say to Daniel to encourage Him?** (*Reminds him he is highly esteemed, then says, "Peace! Be strong now; be strong."*)

11. What is the message the Lord brings to Daniel? (*He is basically told that Greece is going to be taking over Persia. Life will once again radically change. Obviously the Jews are not going to fight. The order of the universe will be kept in check God the one on the throne, the Lord and Michael the Archangel.*)

12. Where are the events that will take place to be written? (*In the book of Truth. This may very well be a reference to the divine record of the destinies of all human beings. Read Exodus 32:31-32; Psalm 9:5; Psalm 69:27-28; This seems to be the Book of Life.*)

Q – How should God's people be fighting alongside the Lord today? (*By standing firm on the Word of God, growing in it, teaching it, living it, sharing it, refusing to let it be destroyed or weakened!*)

Q – What do you think God wants us to take from this lesson?