

# THE STORY OF DANIEL

by

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“Aunt Hattie’s Bible Stories” for Boys and Girls

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## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### FINAL VISIONS

IT was not long after Daniel’s vision that Cyrus the Persian, came to the throne in Babylon. God had especially touched his heart with kindness towards the Jewish captives.

“Now in the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the prophet Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord so stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it in writing saying,

**“Thus saith Cyrus, king of Persia, The Lord of heaven hath given me all of the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is Judah.**

**“Who is there among you of all his people? His God be with him and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (he is the God) which is in Jerusalem.”**

One would think that every Jew living in all of the Babylonian country would receive this word with joy and prepare at once to return to his native land, but this was not true.

We must remember that the oldest of the ones living there at this time had been brought into the land when they were young children as were Daniel and his three friends. Therefore most of them were a new generation, born in Babylon.

The Jew is naturally thrifty and prosperous and those living in Babylon were comfortable and satisfied. They were not interested in the land of their fathers and many of them had either forgotten or neglected the worship of Jehovah, God.

Instead of being thrilled with the king’s decree and anxious to return and rebuild the Temple, the majority of them were indifferent and careless.

However a few thousand, with Zerubbabel as leader, returned and in about two years, under great difficulties, rebuilt the Temple and established again the worship of Jehovah.

“Daniel, now about ninety-two years old and retired from active service in the palace, had been hearing reports of the progress of affairs in Jerusalem. Surely he must have been disappointed because more of his people had not been interested and willing to go. Anxiously he awaited every bit of news that came to him. Of his heavy burden he tells us in this way—

“In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia, a thing was revealed unto Daniel,

**“In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.**

**“I ate only coarse food, no meat or wine passed my lips, neither did I anoint myself for three whole weeks.**

**“Then one day as I was down by the river, I lifted up my eyes and saw a man clothed in linen standing by me.**

**“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 feet like in color to polished brass and his words like the voice of a multitude.**

**“And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they ran away to hide themselves.**

**“So I was left alone, and because of this vision my strength left me, and I heard the voice of his words.”**

Several hundred years after this vision of Daniel, Saul of Tarsus, on his way to Damascus, met One who in appearance was much like this One who came to Daniel. Then later to John, on Patmos, came One whose head and hairs were **“white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, and as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as of many waters.”**

I believe the One in all of these visions was none other than our Lord Jesus Christ. That is, Daniel at the time of this story and Paul and John, later, were each honored by a visit from the Lord, Himself.

After the vision of the Lord from the glory, an angel touched Daniel and told him to stand upon his feet.

He had been praying for three weeks and no answer had come.

Then when Gabriel arrived at last, he explained the delay, saying,

*“Fear not, Daniel; for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before God, your words were heard and I was sent to come to you. But I had trouble getting through for I met Satan in the air and he hindered me so much that Michael, the archangel, had to come down to help me. Now I am here to make you to understand what shall come to your people in the latter days, for this vision is to be fulfilled many years from now.”*

Here we have a window open to us of the world of evil spirits which surround this earth on which we live.

**“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”**

Satan is the prince of the power of the air, and his demon armies are on guard every hour of the day and night. Gabriel met them on his way to Daniel and had to call upon Michael to come down from heaven to help him.

I do not know why Gabriel seems to have gotten through without trouble on his other visits. Neither do I know why we receive our answers to prayer directly, sometimes, and then again the answers are delayed.

But wasn't Daniel wonderful not to give up? He held right on until Gabriel arrived. I think we often give up too quickly and miss many blessings God has for us.

As we have said, Gabriel came to make Daniel understand many things about his people. Many of the things that he now tells Daniel he had told him on his previous visits but he went more into detail this time, especially regarding the years just ahead.

Finally he spoke of the Great Tribulation which begins in the midst of the last week of year periods.

He said in that time Michael, the archangel, the prince from heaven whose mission it is to stand up and defend Israel, will come and deliver them, that is, everyone whose name is in the book. You see, as we have learned, in that awful time of Jacob's trouble, the Great Tribulation, many Jews will accept Christ as their Saviour and Messiah and it is to them that Michael will be sent.

**“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.”**

To tell you all about this would take us into many chapters of the book of Revelation. During this time of trouble the Jews who turn to the Lord will go out as messengers to proclaim salvation to the lost and that is why the angel said to Daniel—

**“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever.”**

The vision was finished. The things God has planned for His people had been revealed to His beloved servant, Daniel, who said, **“O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?”**

And Gabriel answered, **“Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end;**

**“But go your way till the end be; for you shall rest, and stand in your lot at the end of the days.”**

Every Jew had a certain place assigned to him in Palestine. Daniel is here told that he would go to his rest but arise again and stand in his lot, that is, actually stand in his place in Palestine in the end-time.

But what are the great promises for His chosen race when the Tribulation is over and the Lord comes to reign over the earth?

It is the remnant of Jews who accept the Lord Jesus Christ in the Tribulation period who will become heirs of the new kingdom over which their Messiah, the Son of David, will reign.

This is the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world.

**“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

**“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

**“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years . . .**

**“Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

**“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”**

~ end of chapter 11 ~

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