

# Daniel 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

## Analysis

Chapter 10 introduces Daniel's final and longest vision: "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar." Dating to 536 BC, this occurs after the first return of Jewish exiles under Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-2). Daniel, now about 85 years old, remained in Persia rather than returning to Jerusalem, continuing governmental service while maintaining prophetic ministry. The mention of both names—Hebrew (Daniel, "God is my judge") and Babylonian (Belteshazzar)—emphasizes his dual identity: covenant faithful yet politically engaged.

"The thing was true, but the time appointed was long" warns that the vision concerns distant future events. "True" (Hebrew: emet, אֶמֶת) emphasizes absolute reliability; "time appointed was long" (Hebrew: tsaba gadol, תָּסָבָא גָּדוֹל, literally "great warfare/conflict") indicates prolonged struggle. This vision spans from Persian period through Greek, culminating in Antiochus Epiphanes and beyond. The scope overwhelms—Daniel sees centuries of conflict affecting God's people.

"He understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision" indicates Daniel grasped its meaning through divine illumination. Unlike chapter 8 where understanding came gradually, here Daniel receives comprehensive comprehension. This teaches that God gives understanding proportional to need—sometimes immediately, sometimes progressively. The Holy Spirit's illumination

ministry enables believers to understand Scripture according to God's timing and their spiritual maturity. Full understanding awaits glorification, but God provides sufficient light for present faithfulness.

## Historical Context

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Cyrus's decree (Ezra 1:1-4) permitted Jewish return in 538 BC. By 536 BC (this vision's date), about 50,000 had returned under Zerubbabel and Joshua. Daniel, elderly and influential in Persian court, remained in Persia, possibly training younger Jews for government service or unable to travel. His continued presence demonstrates that not all faithful Jews returned immediately—some maintained diaspora influence. Daniel's prayers for Jerusalem (9:3-19) show his heart aligned with homeland despite physical distance, modeling faithfulness in exile.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does Daniel's dual Hebrew-Babylonian identity teach us about maintaining covenant faithfulness while engaging secular culture?
2. How should knowing that God's purposes often involve 'long' fulfillment periods shape our expectations and perseverance?
3. In what ways does Daniel's remaining in Persia rather than returning to Jerusalem demonstrate that faithful service can occur in multiple contexts?

## Interlinear Text

בָּשָׁנָה תְּשִׁיבָה	בְּשִׁנְתְּ	שֶׁל וְשֶׁ	לְכָ וּרְשָׁ	מֶלֶךְ	פָּקָד	פָּקָדְךָ רְ	גָּדוֹלָה
year	In the third	of Cyrus	king	of Persia	a thing	was revealed	
H8141	H7969	H3566	H4428	H6539	H1697	H1540	
לְדִנִי אֶל	אָשֶׁר	אֶחָד	נָקַר אֶ	שָׁם וְ	בְּלֵטְשָׁאָצָר	וְאָמָת	הָפָקָדְךָ רְ
unto Daniel	H834	was called	whose name	Belteshazzar	was true	a thing	
H1840	H7121	H8034	H1095	H571	H1697		
אָצַב אֶל	גָּד וְלָ	בֵּין	אָתָה	פָּקָדְךָ רְ			
but the time appointed	was long	and he understood	H853	a thing			
H6635	H1419	H995	H1697				
וְבָיְנָה	לְזִ	בְּמִרְאָה:					
and had understanding	H0	of the vision					
H998	H4758						

## Additional Cross-References

**Daniel 1:21** (Kingdom): And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

**Daniel 6:28** (Kingdom): So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

**Daniel 8:26** (Truth): And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days.

**Daniel 1:7** (Parallel theme): Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abed-negeo.

**Daniel 1:17** (Parallel theme): As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

**Revelation 19:9** (Truth): And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

**Genesis 41:32** (Parallel theme): And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

**Daniel 12:9** (Parallel theme): And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

**Daniel 5:17** (Kingdom): Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

**Daniel 2:21** (Kingdom): And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: