

# Daniel 10:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

## Analysis

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The angelic messenger's opening words "Fear not, Daniel" address Daniel's overwhelming response to the glorious vision. Divine encounters regularly provoke fear, necessitating reassurance. The phrase "for from the first day" emphasizes the immediacy of God's response—prayer was heard the moment Daniel began seeking God, though the visible answer was delayed. "That thou didst set thine heart to understand" reveals Daniel's motivation—earnest desire for understanding God's purposes. "And to chasten thyself before thy God" describes Daniel's accompanying fasting and mourning, demonstrating humility and spiritual intensity.

"Thy words were heard" assures Daniel that prayer reached God's throne immediately, despite delayed manifestation. "And I am come for thy words" reveals the angel came specifically in response to Daniel's prayers. Verse 13 explains the delay: "the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days"—spiritual warfare in heavenly realms affected earthly timing. This passage reveals crucial truths:

1. God hears prayer immediately, though answers may be delayed
2. spiritual warfare can affect timing of answered prayer
3. persistent, humble prayer coupled with fasting demonstrates earnest faith

4. delays don't indicate God's indifference but often involve spiritual realities beyond our perception.

This teaches perseverance in prayer and trust in God's perfect timing despite apparent delays.

It demonstrates that prayer is genuine spiritual warfare influencing heavenly conflicts with earthly implications. Daniel's intercession contributed to Michael's victory over the prince of Persia, illustrating how human prayer participates in angelic conflict. This anticipates Christ's high priestly intercession and calls believers to persistent prayer with eternal perspective.

## Historical Context

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This vision occurred "in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia" (Daniel 10:1), approximately 536 BC, two years after Cyrus's decree allowing Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem. Daniel, now in his 80s, remained in Persia rather than returning to Judah. His three-week period of mourning and fasting coincided with Passover, suggesting Daniel mourned over the small number returning to rebuild Jerusalem and opposition they faced.

The reference to "the prince of the kingdom of Persia" reveals cosmic spiritual warfare—demonic powers exercise influence over earthly nations, opposing God's purposes. Michael, "one of the chief princes" and "your prince," is Israel's angelic protector. This passage provides rare insight into spiritual warfare behind political events.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does understanding that God hears prayer immediately, even when answers are delayed, affect your perseverance in prayer?
2. How does awareness of spiritual warfare behind earthly events change your approach to prayer for nations and leaders?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלַי	אֵל	תִּיבָא	דָּנִיֵּאל	כִּי	מִן	הַיּוֹם	
Then said	H413	H408	he unto me	Fear	not Daniel	H3588	H4480	day
H559			H3372	H1840			H3117	
הָרִאשׁוֹן	אֲשֶׁר	נָתַתָּ	אֶת	לִבְךָ	לְהִבֵּן			
for from the first	H834	that thou didst set	H853	thine heart	to understand			
H7223		H5414		H3820	H995			
וּלְהַתְּעַנּוֹת	לִפְנֵי	אֱלֹהֵי	נִשְׁמָעוּ	בְּדִבְרֶיךָ:	וְאֲנִי			
and to chasten	thyself before	thy God	were heard	for thy words	H589			
H6031	H6440	H430	H8085	H1697				
בָּאֲנִי	בְּדִבְרֶיךָ:							
and I am come	for thy words							
H935	H1697							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 10:19** (Parallel theme): And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

**Isaiah 58:9** (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

**Isaiah 65:24** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

**Isaiah 41:10** (References God): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

**Matthew 28:5** (Parallel theme): And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

**Isaiah 41:14** (Parallel theme): Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

**Isaiah 35:4** (References God): Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

**Luke 24:38** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

**Leviticus 16:31** (Parallel theme): It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.

**Leviticus 16:29** (Parallel theme): And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: