

# Daniel 10:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.

## Analysis

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More divine assistance comes: 'And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.' The touch on Daniel's lips parallels Isaiah 6:6-7—divine enabling for speech. The description 'like the similitude of the sons of men' suggests human-like appearance (possibly the Angel of the LORD or another angel in human form). Daniel's restored speech immediately confesses continued weakness: 'my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.' The vision's weight produces sorrow (possibly from foreseeing Israel's future suffering) and physical depletion. This honest confession of weakness characterizes true spirituality—not pretending strength but acknowledging dependence on divine grace.

## Historical Context

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The touch on lips recalls Isaiah's commission (Isaiah 6:6-7) where a seraph touched Isaiah's mouth with hot coal, cleansing and enabling prophetic speech. This establishes biblical pattern: prophetic speech requires divine enablement, not natural eloquence. Moses claimed speech impediment (Exodus 4:10), yet God promised, 'I will be with thy mouth' (Exodus 4:12). Jeremiah protested youth and

inability (Jeremiah 1:6), yet God touched his mouth (Jeremiah 1:9). The pattern emphasizes that prophetic authority comes from God, not the prophet. Daniel's confession of sorrows and weakness demonstrates that even enabling doesn't remove the burden of revelation—prophecy is weighty ministry producing grief over sin and suffering. True prophets bear emotional and physical cost.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What does the touch on lips before speech teach about prophetic words requiring divine enabling?
2. How does Daniel's confession of sorrow and weakness demonstrate genuine spiritual maturity?
3. Why does revelation produce grief and burden rather than merely empowerment or confidence?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהִנֵּה הָ	כְּדָמוֹת	בָּתִים	עַל
H2009	And behold one like the similitude	of the sons	of men
	H1823	H1121	H120
			touched
			H5921
שְׁפָתִים	וְאָפַתְחַ	וְאָדַבְרָה	אֵל
my lips	then I opened	my mouth	and spoke
H8193	H6605	H6310	H1696
			and said
			H413
בְּעֵמֶת	לְנִזְכָּר	אֲדֹנָי	גָּבָרִים
unto him that stood	H5048	before me O my lord	by the vision
H5975		H113	H4759
			are turned
			H2015
צִיּוֹן	עַלְתִּי	עַלְתִּי	פָּנִים
my sorrows	H5921	H3808	upon me and I have retained
H6735			no strength
		H6113	H3581

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 6:7** (Parallel theme): And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

**Daniel 8:15** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.

**Jeremiah 1:9** (References Lord): Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

**Daniel 7:15** (Parallel theme): I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

**Daniel 8:17** (Parallel theme): So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.

**Daniel 7:28** (Parallel theme): Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

**Daniel 8:27** (Parallel theme): And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

**Revelation 1:13** (Parallel theme): And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

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