

Daniel 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.

Analysis

Daniel's preparation for the vision involved intense spiritual discipline: "In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks." The Hebrew *avel* (אָבֶל, "mourning") indicates deep grief, not mere sadness. This three-week period of mourning preceded the vision, suggesting intentional spiritual preparation. Daniel's grief likely concerned Jerusalem's situation—though exiles returned, opposition hindered temple rebuilding (Ezra 4). Faithful intercession often precedes divine revelation; spiritual receptivity requires self-denial and focused prayer.

The three-week period is significant—verse 13 reveals angelic warfare occurring during this time. Daniel's prayers triggered spiritual battle in heavenly realms. His perseverance in prayer despite delayed answer demonstrates faith that continues seeking God when immediate response doesn't come. Many quit praying after days or weeks; Daniel prayed through despite three weeks of apparent silence. Persistent prayer isn't manipulating God but aligning ourselves with His purposes, demonstrating faith that trusts even when answers delay.

This models Christ's intercession, who "always lives to intercede" (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus spent nights in prayer, agonized in Gethsemane, and maintains eternal intercession for His people. Daniel's mourning and prayer points to Christ's superior ministry—His perfect intercession accomplishes what our flawed prayers cannot. Yet Christ invites believers to join His intercessory work, partnering with Him in prayer that moves heaven and changes earth.

Historical Context

This mourning occurred during Passover season (verse 4 mentions first month), making Daniel's fasting more significant—he abstained from Passover celebration to mourn Jerusalem's situation. Temple foundation was laid (Ezra 3:8-13) but opposition halted construction. Daniel, elderly and distant in Persia, interceded for his people. His example encouraged later Jewish communities facing opposition—faithful prayer persists despite obstacles, delayed answers, and geographic separation from problems. God hears and responds to persistent intercession.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Daniel's three-week mourning teach us about the spiritual preparation often required before receiving divine revelation?
2. How should understanding that prayer triggers unseen spiritual warfare encourage persistent intercession despite delayed answers?
3. In what ways does Daniel's intercessory mourning prefigure Christ's ongoing intercession for His people?

Interlinear Text

שָׁלַשׁ	הַ	מִתְאָבָּה	לְ	בְּ	יְהִי	לְנִיאָלָה	אֵת	בְּהָה	יְמִים
In those days	H1992	H589	I Daniel	H1961		was mourning		three	
	H3117			H1840			H56		H7969

שְׁבַע	יְמִים
weeks	In those days

וְ	יְמִים
	H7620

וְ	יְמִים
	H3117

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 1:4 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

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