

Daniel 10:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz:

Analysis

Daniel describes the vision's central figure: "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz." This glorious being strongly resembles the glorified Christ in Revelation 1:12-16. "Clothed in linen" suggests priestly garments (Exodus 28:42, Leviticus 6:10)—linen symbolizes purity and holiness. "Loins...girded" indicates readiness for action and strength (Ephesians 6:14). "Fine gold of Uphaz" (possibly Ophir, source of finest gold) emphasizes splendor and value.

The identity of this figure is debated. Some scholars see an exalted angel (possibly Gabriel or Michael); others identify this as a Christophany—pre-incarnate appearance of Christ. The strong parallels with Revelation 1 support the Christophany interpretation. Similarities include: appearing in glorious light, having bronze-like appearance (verse 6), causing observers to fall in terror, requiring strengthening touch. Whether angel or Christ, this figure represents divine authority and holiness that overwhelms human capacity to endure.

The appearance of such glory to Daniel demonstrates that God prepares His servants for difficult revelations through encounters with His holiness. Before revealing extended prophecy of conflict and persecution (chapters 11-12), God manifests His glorious power, strengthening Daniel and assuring him of divine sovereignty over all coming events. This pattern appears throughout Scripture—Isaiah's temple vision precedes his prophetic commission (Isaiah 6), Paul's

Damascus road encounter precedes his apostolic ministry (Acts 9). Encountering God's glory prepares servants for demanding callings.

Historical Context

Daniel's vision occurred by the Tigris during Passover season (verse 4), after three weeks of fasting and prayer (verses 2-3). This extended spiritual preparation positioned him to receive this overwhelming revelation. Jewish tradition recognized the connection between Daniel's vision and John's Revelation vision, seeing continuity in how God reveals Himself to prophets. Early Christian interpreters often identified this figure as pre-incarnate Christ, understanding Old Testament theophanies as anticipating the incarnation. The vision's location by the Tigris, heart of Mesopotamian civilization, demonstrated God's universal sovereignty—He appears in glory even at centers of pagan power.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do the parallel descriptions in Daniel 10 and Revelation 1 support identifying this glorious figure as Christ in both pre-incarnate and glorified form?
2. What does the manifestation of such overwhelming glory before difficult prophecy teach about how God prepares servants for demanding callings?
3. In what ways does this vision's occurrence by the Tigris—heart of pagan civilization—demonstrate God's universal sovereignty beyond Israel's borders?

Interlinear Text

אָשַׁר	אָתָּה	עִינֵּי	אָרָא	וְהִנֵּה	אִישׁ	וְהִנֵּה	אָמַר
Then I lifted up	H853	mine eyes	and looked	H2009	man	and behold a certain	
H5375		H5869	H7200		H376		H259

וְעַל	לֵב	וְשָׁמֶן	סָגַר	תְּמִימָה	בְּכָל	אַוְפָּזָן
clothed	in linen	whose loins	were girded	with fine gold	of Uphaz	
H3847	H906	H4975	H2296	H3800	H210	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 9:2 (Parallel theme): And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.

Jeremiah 10:9 (Parallel theme): Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.

Joshua 5:13 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

Isaiah 11:5 (Parallel theme): And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Ephesians 6:14 (Parallel theme): Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Zechariah 1:8 (Parallel theme): I saw by night, and behold a man riding upon a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees that were in the bottom; and behind him were there red horses, speckled, and white.