

Daniel 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

Analysis

Daniel describes the glorious figure he sees: 'His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.' This description closely parallels Revelation 1:13-16's vision of Christ, suggesting this may be a Christophany (pre-incarnate Christ appearance) or a high-ranking angel. The details emphasize glory, power, and majesty: beryl (precious stone), lightning (brilliant, overwhelming), fire (holy, penetrating), brass (strong, refined), multitude's voice (authoritative, overwhelming). This theophanic vision overwhelms Daniel (v.8), demonstrating that encountering divine glory exceeds human capacity without divine enablement. The description establishes the message's authority—this isn't ordinary angelic visitation but direct divine revelation.

Historical Context

Daniel was approximately 85-90 years old at this point (c. 536 BC, third year of Cyrus). The vision occurred by the Tigris River, possibly during a time of prayer and fasting (v.2-3). Theophanic visions—God or His representative appearing in glorious, overwhelming form—occur throughout Scripture: Exodus 3 (burning bush), Exodus 19-20 (Sinai), Isaiah 6 (throne room), Ezekiel 1 (cherubim),

Revelation 1 (glorified Christ). Such visions typically produce fear, falling, and inability to stand (Isaiah 6:5, Ezekiel 1:28, Revelation 1:17)—human response to encountering transcendent holiness. Daniel's detailed description emphasizes the vision's reality—not metaphorical poetry but actual supernatural encounter. For Jewish exiles and early church, such visions confirmed God's continued revelatory activity and sovereign oversight of history.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the vision's glorious description establish the coming message's authority and importance?
2. What does human inability to stand in divine presence teach about God's transcendent holiness?
3. Why do theophanies consistently overwhelm even faithful, mature believers like Daniel?

Interlinear Text

בָּרָק כְּמָרָא הַ וְפָנָן יְשָׁאָנָה וְגִיאָתָה
His body also was like the beryl and his face as the appearance of lightning
H1472 H8658 H6440 H4758 H1300

כְּעֵינָיו וּמְרָגְלָתָיו אֲשֶׁר כְּלָפָידִי וְזָרָעָתִי
and his eyes as lamps of fire and his arms and his feet and his eyes
H5869 H3940 H784 H2220 H4772 H5869

כְּקָרְבָּן וְלִבְנָה נְחַשְּׁתָן כְּקָרְבָּן וְלִבְנָה
brass to polished and the voice of his words and the voice of a multitude
H5178 H7044 H6963 H1697 H6963 H1995

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:12 (Parallel theme): His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Matthew 17:2 (Light): And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Ezekiel 10:9 (Parallel theme): And when I looked, behold the four wheels by the cherubims, one wheel by one cherub, and another wheel by another cherub: and the appearance of the wheels was as the colour of a beryl stone.

Ezekiel 1:16 (Parallel theme): The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

Ezekiel 1:14 (Light): And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

Ezekiel 1:24 (Parallel theme): And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

Revelation 21:20 (Parallel theme): The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

Revelation 10:1 (Parallel theme): And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: