

THE MAN DRESSED IN LINEN

The Persian Empire



(Daniel 10)

I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, whose **loins** were girded with pure **gold** of Uphaz. His body also was like **beryl**, His **face** had the **appearance of lightning**, His **eyes were like flaming torches**, His **arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze**, and the sound of His words like the **sound of a tumult** (vs. 5-6).

Now in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, Daniel was visited by not just angels, but by the Lord Himself. The significance of this visitation from the Son of God before His incarnation is prophetic in meaning. Dressed in His complete outfit of a high priest, He is distinguished from all angels. He was taking His position of our high priest forever, and in time to come, He would offer Himself as the ultimate

sacrifice to buy men for God and become the Author and the Source of eternal salvation to all those who give heed and obey Him (Heb. 5:9b). He came to Daniel when Daniel was in mourning for three whole weeks. Daniel ate no pleasant or desired food, nor did any meat or wine come into his mouth; and he did not anoint himself at all for the full three weeks (vs. 3). Earlier, in chapters eight and nine Daniel had visions related to the future events of the tribulation, which now caused him to mourn for three weeks, for he understood the word and had understanding of the vision (vs.1). In chapter nine he was given the time frame of when Messiah would come, die, the destruction of Jerusalem and of the temple, and the prophecy of the antichrist in the period of seventy weeks of years given to Daniel's people- the Jewish people. Now in chapter ten he takes to heart the reality of the visions he saw and the words he heard, although, the angel told him, The vision of the evening and the mornings which had been told him is true. But seal up the vision, for it has to do with and belongs to the distant future. And Daniel said, I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for [several] days (8:26-27a).

The effect of the vision in the lives of Daniel and those with him, although they did not see it, was one that indicated he had seen God, for which no man can live after that happens. Those with him suffered a great trembling causing them to flee. Daniel was left alone seeing this great vision. His strength was turned to pallor, he grew weak and faint; and when he heard the sound of His words, he fell on his face in a deep sleep, with his face to the ground (vs.7-9). Daniel's body was lifeless as dead; he looked pale as death, as a result. But while the vision of the Son of God terrified Daniel, His voice calmed him as to put him to sleep. That was for sure the vision of God's Son, for no angel will ever carry such effect on a human's life. After that, a hand touched him. Since the article is indefinite, that hand could have been that of Gabriel, who had come to him earlier in chapter nine. Daniel so relates what happened then: while I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord, my God for the holy hill of my God- yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the former vision, being caused to fly swiftly, came to me and touched me about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and made me understand; he talked with me and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give you skill and wisdom and understanding... for you are greatly beloved... The language in chapter ten is similar when he directed to Daniel the same way he did on chapter ten: O Daniel, you greatly beloved man, understand the words that I speak to you and stand upright, for to you I am now

sent. And while he was saying this word to me, I stood up trembling. ((10: 10). In chapter eight a man's voice told Gabriel to make Daniel understand the vision he had come to tell him about the future events concerning kingdoms, his people and the antichrist.

Many Bible teachers are teaching that "the man dressed in linen" in Daniel 10 is an angel because of the outcome of the verses that follow. But in verse sixteenth of Daniel 10 Daniel identifies the man as "one in the likeness of the sons of men." I do believe him to be referring to Gabriel, who had come to him in a previous vision in chapter eight of Daniel, verse 15, which he says, "there stood before me one[Gabriel] with the appearance of a man." However, in verse five of chapter 10 of Daniel, he says "a man clothed in linen. Here, Daniel describes Him in detail as being different from an angel. He says **His loins were girded with pure gold of Uphaz, His body also was like beryl, His face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, His arms and His feet like glowing burning bronze, and the sound of His words was like the noise of a multitude** (10:5-6). After the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land, Joshua looked up, and behold, a Man stood near him with His drawn sword in His hand. And Joshua went to him and said to Him, are you for us or for our adversaries? The Lord came to him as "the Prince of the Lord's host. Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, What says my Lord to His servant? And the Prince of the Lord's host said to Joshua, Loose your shoes from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy (Joshua 5:13-15). The Lord came to Joshua as the Prince of the Lord's host; He came to Daniel as the future High priest, one Who was going to atone for the sins of men with His own life and take His position as their High priest.

YAHSHUA appeared to John on the island of Patmos, where John was held as a prisoner many years later, after YAHSHUA'S death and resurrection; His appearance was similar to that of Daniel, except that He identified Himself as the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. John describes Him as **One like a Son of Man, clothed with a robe which reached to His feet and with a girdle of gold about His breast, His head and His hair were white like white wool, as snow and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet glowed like burnished bronze as it is refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters; in His right hand He held seven stars, and from His mouth there and forth a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full power of midday** (Rev.1:14).

John's reaction was like that of Daniel, for he too fell at His feet as if dead (vs.17a). Here we have YAHSHUA coming as a Judge, as the Prince of the Lord's host, to take His rightful position as king over it; His white hair is a symbol of His eternity- with no beginning and no end; His eyes penetrating the soul of man, burning all evil in men; His glowing feet, a symbol of purity. He held a sharp two-edged sword, representing the infallible Word of God- YAHSHUA Himself. For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Heb. 4:12).

As there is no doubt in my mind that the Man John that saw was the Son of God, so there is no doubt that the Man dressed in linen was the pre-incarnate Son of God representing His priesthood position in years to come.