

“FAITH UNDER PRESSURE”
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL
Daniel 10:1-21
“OPENING YOUR EYES TO THE INVISIBLE WAR”

INTRODUCTION: The Lord used Daniel’s prayers to teach us what could never be learned through human intellect or observation. The Lord has said: “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3) “ There are things that are “fenced In and hidden” that can only be discovered by a revelation from our Lord. One of those things is the invisible spiritual warfare that takes place in the heavenlies, and why it is so important to pray for those persons who have leadership influence.

BACKGROUND: Daniel had lived to see many of his Jewish brothers and sisters return to Israel, yet he was not one of them. His advanced age (90?) may have been a factor, and perhaps he had heard of the difficulties the people were facing back in the land. His consistent prayer life was the gateway for our learning about God using angels in answer to our prayers. We also learn how they are empowering or controlling human leaders.

I. THOSE WHO CARE THE MOST ABOUT OTHERS POSITION THEMSELVES TO SEE WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN. (Daniel 10:1-9)

A. Daniel received a revelation during the third year of Cyrus king of Persia. He may have heard about the problems faced by the relatively small group of people (49, 000+) that had returned to Israel. He was fasting and praying during the time of Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.

B. Daniel saw and heard what no one else could see or hear. Others may have a sense of something unusual going on around them, but they will not understand what the believer hears clearly. Similar manifestations happened to Elisha, (2nd Kings 6) Saul of Tarsus during his conversion, (Acts 9:7; Acts 22) and Jesus whenever the Father spoke to Him. (John 12) The “certain man” Daniel saw was described in nearly the same way as the glorified Jesus in Revelation 1:12-16, but his struggles indicate he was an angel. The glory of the vision and sound of his voice caused Daniel to pass out!

II. THE LORD COMMUNICATES WITH THOSE HE LOVES. HE WANTS US TO KNOW THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR WORDS AND HIS RESPONSE. (Daniel 10:10-12)

A. Whenever the Lord says “fear not,” He will let us know why we should not be fearful. He loves us beyond our capacity to understand! He speaks to us because He loves us! We fear Him out of reverence, but He does not want us to be afraid of Him. He is our Father!

B. Do not pass by this passage so quickly that you fail to enter into what Daniel was feeling and experiencing. The old man who had been faithful and influential for decades, who had suffered and endured persecutions on many levels, and was once again in the presence of a supernatural visitor. The result was he had no physical strength in his body. Notice how often in Scripture the Lord uses angels to give strength to our weakened humanity. (Daniel 10:10-11) (Matthew 4:1-11) (Luke 22:41-42)

C. As you “wait on answers to your prayers,” remember the promises God makes and how His perspective on time is different from ours. Daniel learned that his posture for prayer (heart set on understanding God’s will and remaining humble) caused his words to be heard and guaranteed God’s response. (Daniel 10:12) (1st John 5:14-15) Words are powerful and God moved in response to Daniel’s words. *Do you believe your words reach God’s heart?* (John 11:40-44)

III. YOU ARE LIVING IN A WAR ZONE, AND THE ONE TAKING SHOTS AT YOU IS USUALLY INVISIBLE. LEARN HOW TO FIGHT AND PROTECT YOURSELF! (Daniel 10:13-20)

A. God created different kinds of angels (the archangel, seraphim, cherubim, death angel, messengers, etc.) with varying degrees of power to serve His purposes and minister to humans. Satan's army of fallen angels have various levels of power and authority, and they are waging war against the human race. Some are specifically assigned to influence governmental leaders.

“ When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the “sons of God” (angels; children of Israel). For the Lord's portion is His people, Jacob is the place of His inheritance. “Sons of God” is another expression sometimes used to refer to angels and persons who are born again, both being directly created by the hand of God. (Genesis 6) (Job 1:6; 38:7). The usage of the term appears in some translations of Deuteronomy 32:8, perhaps to indicate angelic oversight of nations like Israel. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY BEGOTTEN (unique by relationship) SON OF GOD BECAUSE THAT IS HIS POSITION IN THE TRINITY, the “Triune” nature OF GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT.

B. The “prince of Persia” was not a human ruler, but the demon assigned by Satan to influence the leaders of Persia. Spiritual warfare is a reality because of this army of fallen angels. We learn from Ephesians 6:12 there are;

1. **Principalities** (“Arche”) are chief rulers or magistrates. They focus on leaders of nations (Daniel 10)
2. **Powers** (“Exousia”) delegated authorities with executive power
3. **Rulers of this world** (“kosmokrators”) Cosmocrats are world rulers with great authority, highly prosperous individuals, or false gods
4. **Spiritual Wickedness** in high places: Evil that is expressly designed to harm others, rather than self-contained.

PRAISE THE LORD FOR THE TRUTH OF COLOSSIANS 2:15 AND ROMANS 8:37-39!

C. The warfare in the heavenlies that hindered the answer to Daniel's prayer occurred for 21 days, the same amount of time that Daniel was fasting and praying. We would never know about this level of warfare if Scripture did not reveal it. If we could see everything that goes on around us, we would be paralyzed with fear as Daniel was! (Daniel 10:13) (1ST Chronicles 21:14-17)

D. Michael is the only archangel and is frequently identified as defending the nation of Israel. (Daniel 10:13; 21) (Jude 9) (Revelation 12:7-9) He came to help the angel that appeared to Daniel.

E. The angel informed Daniel that he would be given an understanding of what would happen to the Jewish people in the distant future. Daniel was still overwhelmed by his encounter with angelic beings. For the fifth time in his story, we read about a touch that gave him strength. *Have you ever experienced that touch of God that gives you strength?* (Exodus 15:2) (Ezra 7:28) (Psalm 27:1) (Psalm 29:11) (Psalm 46:1) (Psalm 73:26)

F. Daniel heard again the precious words that reassured him of how much God loved him, that he should not be fearful, that the peace of God would be his gift, and that he had been strengthened for whatever the future held. The warfare would continue as the angel would fight against the demonic leaders of Persia and then Greece. The holy angel would still have the support from Michael, and the angel would still reveal the truth of Scripture to Daniel.

AS YOU EMBRACE THE REALITIES OF THE INVISIBLE WAR, MAKE SURE YOU ARE STANDING IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD. PRAY FOR THOSE PERSONS IN POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP. BE CONFIDENT OF THE FACT THAT YOU ARE LOVED, AND BELIEVE THAT GOD CHOOSES TO ACT WHEN WE PRAY HIS WORDS BACK TO HIM.

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