

## Daniel 10:1-13

### “Understanding Spiritual Warfare – Part I”

1. There is a lot to spiritual warfare that we don't understand but also a lot that we do.
  - **And** Daniel chapter 10 is going to give us a greater understanding.
2. We all know Ephesian 6 and how to put on the full armor of God so that we might stand in the day of battle.
  - **But** what does it look like in the spiritual realm?
  - **We** will get a glimpse of that today.
3. We will also get a better understanding of why Paul says we “wrestle” against these principalities and powers rather than simply knock them out most of the time.
  - **It** is because it takes perseverance and often a struggle in prayer to get the victory.
4. The Bible also points out the fact that it is not flesh and blood or “people” that we wrestle against but spiritual forces in the heavens.
  - **But** what does that “wrestling” look like?
5. It is just that – a “locking up” with the enemy in what can be a very tiring struggle.
  - Sometimes God gives the victory right away.

- **But** today we will see the “struggle” side of things.
6. Daniel is now at an age where you might think the battle would be over and he could take it easy the rest of his days.
- **But** that is never the case with the believer because Satan doesn't recognize “retirement.”
7. The setting is that the 70 years of captivity in Babylon is now over, and Jews have been back in Israel for two years at this point.
- **Yet** Daniel is still heavy in prayer and fasting.
  - **Why?**
8. Even though the remnant has returned, the building of the temple has been stalled and is still unfinished.
- **And** why the delay?
  - **Spiritual** warfare.
9. And all of us as Christians will face it.
- **Especially** if we step out to do God's Work.
10. You know just because we see victory in one area does not mean it will now be easy from that point on.
- Remember, Satan's desire is to interfere and stall the work of God from the beginning to the end.

- And hence we will see continual opposition.
11. That is why understanding spiritual warfare and how to fight the battle is so important if we are going to see victory.
- **And** why understanding Daniel chapter 10 is so important.

- v.3** 1. Daniel wasn't on a complete fast but had removed anything "pleasant" so as to diminish his fleshly or human side and magnify the spiritual.
- **And** this had been going on for 3 weeks!
  - **No** Krispy Kreme for 3 weeks!
2. And this sums up what a fast is supposed to do.
- **Weaken** our earthly or fleshly side and strengthen our spiritual side.
3. There are different types of fasts.
- **Complete** or partial, short term or long, but the goal is the same.
  - **To** get us more in tune with the spiritual realm.
4. Notice also He didn't put on any lotion/oil the entire time which would have also been uncomfortable in the desert climate.
- **He** was allowing inward AND outward physical discomfort to focus on the spiritual.

**v.6** 1. While Daniel was at the Tigris River with some other men, he gets a supernatural visitation.

- **This** doesn't always happen with fasting but sometimes there are great spiritual rewards in fasting and prayer!
- **And** while maybe scary, it's exciting!

2. Notice the description of this angel.

- Clothed in linen, girded in gold of uphaz, a body like beryl in color, a face like lightning, eyes like fire, arms and feet of burnished bronze in color, and a voice like a multitude.

5. Some believe this was simply an angel.

- **But** this description has led some to believe that this was none other than Jesus Himself because it so closely matches His description in the book of Revelation.

6. I guess we can't be 100% sure, but if it is Jesus, there must be another angel as well because the one Daniel talks to is slowed down by a demon.

- **And** no demon could hold up Jesus.

**v.8** 1. Fear causes us to miss so much when it comes to God.

- **Notice** it freaked out Daniel's friends so much that they all ran; he is the only one who got to see it!

2. And I still see this today with the gifts of the Spirit.

- **And** maybe you are one of these people.

3. Rather than being open to seeing the supernatural in your life, you feel better saying it is not for today or you simply ignore it altogether.

- **And** I can understand this for some who have seen abuses and unbiblical practices when it comes to such things.

4. But just because some misuse and misrepresent the gifts does not mean they are null and void.

- **It** simply means you have seen them improperly used.
- **And** how sad to allow those abusing the gifts to steal such a blessing and gift of God from **YOU**.

5. It is important that you know that nowhere does the Bible say God has stopped giving or using the gifts of the Spirit in His Church.

- **As** a matter of fact, **Hebrews 13:8** says Jesus is the **SAME** yesterday, today, and forever.
- **And** since God has given us the gifts, He must know that we need them.

6. Because they were afraid of the supernatural, they missed this great vision!

- I don't want to miss anything God has for me.
7. And why was Daniel able to experience it?
- **Because** he was spiritually in tune and prepared.
8. Oh, how much we miss when we are not walking in the Spirit nor in tune with God!
- I honestly feel sorry for those who deny the gifts today. The gifts have so enhanced my life in the Spirit I can't imagine my relationship with God without them.
9. Don't be afraid.
- **Believe** and receive.
10. It is also interesting to me that Daniel's contact with the spiritual realm, whether good or bad, seems to wear him out.
- **Notice** Daniel says my vigor became frailty and I retained no strength.
11. Granted Daniel was doing a partial fast...
- **But** that alone can't explain it because he WAS eating.
12. And as we noted last week, while I believe weakness/exhaustion is not always connected to spiritual warfare, it most certainly is sometimes.

- **And** I believe this pertains to some types of depression and even **SICKNESS** in some cases as well.

12. So how do we deal with it?

- **We** will see today by perseverance through prayer, allowing God to strengthen us.

**v.9** “Yet I heard the sound of his words.”

- **Although** fasting and spiritual warfare may drain us physically, it always opens our ears spiritually to hear the Word of the Lord.

**v.11** Notice Daniel gains strength from being touched by this angel, and he is told once again that he is greatly beloved and that the Lord wants him to understand what is going on.

- **Which** now gives him the strength to rise.
- **And** it is when we learn to collapse in prayer that we gain the strength to stand in battle.

**v.12** 1. Notice that from the “first day” he began to pray God, dispatched an angel to help him.

- **And** we too need to understand that God hears us and responds the moment we cry out to Him.

- **The** problem is sometimes it takes a while before we get the answer.
2. And as we noted last week, there are multiple reasons we don't get our prayers answered right away.
- **But** it not because God doesn't hear us or care.
  - **It's** because He knows what is best.
3. What are these multiple reasons we don't see prayer immediately answered?
- **First**, sometimes God simply says no because He knows it's not best for us.
  - **Second**, sometimes God says "wait" because He knows it is not the right time.
  - **And** last, it is for the reason we see here today and that is there is "spiritual warfare" going on that is holding things up.
4. And what do we do in that situation?
- **We** don't stop praying until we get an answer one way or another.
5. And notice he got his answer it says because he "set his heart" to understand and he "humbled" himself.
- **And** that will always be the way our prayers are answered as well.



**v.13** 1. Now we get some amazing behind the scenes insight into prayer and spiritual warfare and that is this.

- **As I said**, sometimes the reason our prayers are delayed is because the demonic realm is fighting against us and holding things up.
- **And** that may be why some of us here today have not received an answer.

2. So if that's the case, what are we supposed to do?

- **Don't** give up and pray until you get and answer!

3. Although God heard and responded immediately, it took 21 extra days for Gabriel to arrive due to spiritual opposition.

- **And** notice where it came from.
- **The** "prince of Persia."

4. Who was the prince of Persia?

- **We** know it is not a man because no man can withstand an angel.
- **Which** means it is none other than a fallen angel or demonic being.

5. We see here that demonic beings preside over different regions of the earth to prevent the work of God and the prayers of saints from getting through.

- **This** is no ordinary "flight delay!"

6. And it wasn't until another angel, Michael, came to help him break through that Gabriel was victorious.

- **It** says it wasn't just the "prince" of Persia but the "kings" of Persia as well.
- **More** demons or fallen angels.

7. This is what is described in Ephesians 6 as the "powers and principalities" in the heavenlies that we battle against.

- **Remember**, Paul said we do not fight against flesh and blood or "people" but against powers and principalities.
- **And** understanding this helps us know when and how to pray.

8. And the fact that it took 21 days to break through is why Jesus told us to "**keep**" asking, "**keep**" seeking, and "**keep**" knocking.

- **How** many times have we quit praying too soon!?
- **Colossians 4:2 says**, "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;"

9. By the way, I believe that the prince of Persia, (modern-day Iran) and these other spiritual entities are still there battling God and His people today.

- **Just** look at the spiritual oppression in Iran today under Islam.
10. I also believe the same demon or “prince” is over Syria today as they are doing the same things they did in Biblical times.
- I believe this is why historically we see the same regions experiencing the same atrocities.
11. Ever wonder why the same trouble and disturbances always happen in the Gaza strip?
- **It’s** the same demons who have been doing the same things for thousands of years in these same regions.
12. There is no doubt an evil “prince of America” as well who is causing many of our troubles today.
- **And** while he used to be kept in check by all the believers, churches, and prayer, he can now reek more havoc as we have turned from God in recent years.
  - **Which** means it is not so much our government leaders we should be fighting as it is these spiritual beings.
13. This doesn’t mean we don’t stand against those doing evil.

- **It** simply means our greatest and truest battle is in the heavenlies and hence, will only be totally won in prayer.
14. Even Hitler understood where his power came from; it is recorded that before his major war campaigns, he would spend most of the night in communion with the demonic spiritual realm.
- **Isn't** it amazing to realize that Hitler was a prayer warrior.
15. It was just to the wrong entities.
- **And** if people like that are seeking spiritual help, how much more should we be!