



Silverdale Baptist

STAND. A STUDY IN DANIEL • STAND IN BATTLE • DANIEL 10:1-21 • 7/25-26/2020

MAIN POINT

God is at work, even when we can't see it.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Why does God seem to answer some prayers right away, but other answers seem to be so long in coming?

Discuss a time you spent in the waiting room, waiting for God to answer your prayer. What did you learn while you were waiting?

In times of uncertainty, trial, and chaos, we often find ourselves desperate to understand what God is up to—what His plans are and how the happenings of our lives fit into the "big picture." Yet many times, that desperation leads us to throw more of a spiritual temper tantrum than it does to lead us to fervently seek the Lord. We serve a gracious and kind God who desires for us to seek Him. He wants to open our eyes to see and our ears to hear. He has spoken through His Word, and He continues to speak to His children, but we must seek and listen and wait. The life of Daniel is one of the most beautiful pictures of faithful persistence in seeking the face of God.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 10:1-3.

When does this chapter take place?

What was Daniel doing?

How long had Daniel been in mourning?

Does the text tell us why Daniel was fasting?

The last three chapters of Daniel form a unit—chapter 10, giving a preface to the vision, chapter 11 describing the contents of the vision, and chapter 12 offering final instructions for Daniel.

The text doesn't tell us exactly why Daniel is fasting, but the timing of the chapter, the third year of Cyrus, gives us a hint. Cyrus had already given the edict allowing the Israelites to return to Jerusalem. But, many of the Jews were successful and comfortable in their captivity. They chose to stay in the land of their captors. It is as if they had fallen in love with the wrong world. Even today, there are Jewish communities in Iran dating back beyond the Persian empire to the Babylonian empire. Daniel had been in captivity for about 70 years by this point and was now a man in his mid-eighties. His age and his service to Cyrus probably kept him from returning home, but his heart was for his people and Jerusalem.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 10:4-9.

How did Daniel describe the messenger?

What happened to Daniel upon this encounter?

Daniel was met by a heavenly messenger. After describing the majesty of his messenger's appearance—one of human likeness—Daniel noted that he was left alone because his companions were terrified. Alone, drained of all his strength and energy, Daniel fainted at the sound of the messenger's words. Before any details of the message were conveyed, Daniel was already at the end of himself. While this may not have been a pleasant experience, it certainly was a holy one.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 10:10-14.

How does the angel describe Daniel? What does the angel say to him?

According to verse 2, how long had Daniel been praying?

According to verses 12-13, when was the angel sent with the answer to Daniel's prayer?

What does this teach us about spiritual warfare?

Daniel was favored by God. Daniel's prayers had been heard. Not only had they been heard, but also they would elicit a direct response. Having come to speak directly to God's servant, Daniel,

the angel explained what had prevented him from coming sooner. Here we are given a brief but rare glimpse into the workings of God's heavenly beings. For twenty-one days, the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" (who was likely a demonic presence) kept the messenger from getting to Daniel.. Ultimately, it was no match for the angel Michael. We know very little about angels and the supernatural forces at work, but we do know a few things from this passage. Angels are real. God uses and instructs angels to carry out His will and aid His people. Spiritual warfare is a reality that believers cannot ignore.

Ultimately, nothing would stop God's message to Daniel concerning what was to come for Israel.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JAMES 1:2-4

What does James teach us about waiting for God to answer?

What should we be learning while we are in the waiting room?

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 10:18-21

What does the angel say to Daniel?

How does he describe Daniel?

What more do you learn about spiritual warfare in this passage?

Daniel was rendered speechless after the messenger's first words. He could not fathom how he could find the strength and ability to talk with the heavenly being that stood before him. Just as before, the angel's touch—and now his words of encouragement—revived Daniel and strengthened him.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 6:11-12

According to this passage, who do we struggle against?

To ask the question another way, when you are in conflict, who are you really fighting?

The glimpse into the spiritual world Daniel 10 gives us helps us better understand Ephesians 6:11-12. The real war we face is not a conflict with people or organizations. Our conflict, our battle is spiritual.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How do you respond when you are waiting for God to answer?

How should we respond?

If the conflicts in life are spiritual:

- How should we respond?
- Who is the real enemy?
- Why do we get confused and think people are our problem?

How can we encourage each other to fight on our knees this week?

PRINCIPLES

You are loved more than you know. (Remember, Jesus died on the cross for you) Daniel 10:10 & 19

God is working even when you don't see it. Daniel 10:12

Life in the waiting room isn't easy, but it is necessary. James 1:2-4

The real battles are spiritual, and they are intense. Daniel 10:13, Ephesians 6:11-12.

Pray:

- Even when you don't see an answer.
- Even when you are exhausted.
- Even when it looks like the enemy is winning.

PRAYER

Father, open our eyes to see the work of the enemy in our world this week. Open our eyes to see Your hands at work around us. Remind us often who is the real enemy.

COMMENTARY

| DANIEL 10:1-21

10:1 Daniel received this vision in 536 BC. Assuming Daniel was about fifteen when taken captive, he was approximately eighty-four years old at the time. The vision was about a great

conflict in the future, recounted in 11:2–12:3. The last three chapters of Daniel are about the same vision.

10:2 Daniel may have been mourning because of the poor conditions of the returned captives. The Samaritans were opposing reconstruction of the temple, and the work had been stopped (Ezr 4:5, 24). The Hebrew text contains the words “weeks of days” in describing Daniel’s mourning period to distinguish it from the weeks of years in the previous chapter (Dn 9:24–27).

10:3 Daniel engaged in a semi-fast, not because the food had been offered to the gods but to give priority to prayer.

10:4 The Tigris River was some twenty miles from Babylon. At the advanced age of eighty-four, Daniel had not made the difficult and demanding journey to Israel with the other Jewish returnees, but he remained instead in government service in Babylon.

10:5–6 Despite his similarity to Christ’s appearance as described in Rv 1:12–16, the angel in the form of a man dressed in linen cannot have been the preincarnate Messiah because Christ would not need help from the angel Michael.

10:7 The Hebrew for only I, Daniel, saw the vision is emphatic: “I saw, I, Daniel, I alone.” His companions sensed a powerful and terrifying presence but saw nothing, so they ran and hid (cp. Ac 9:7).

10:8–11 In v. 11 the phrase treasured by God is used; that also occurs in 9:23.

10:12–13 The Persian prince had to be supernatural to oppose this angel, and he had to be evil to oppose God’s purposes. Therefore, we conclude that he was a demonic spirit seeking to influence the political affairs of Persia and oppose God’s purposes. Other Scriptures also teach that there are unseen spiritual forces influencing principalities and world powers (Ezk 28:11–19; 2Co 10:3–4; Eph 6:12). The unnamed angel was able to prevail over the demon associated with Persia only because the angel Michael ... came to help him. Michael (whose name means “who is like God”) is the guardian angel of Israel (cp. v. 21; 12:1; Rv 12:7), and he is designated an archangel in the NT (Jd 9).

10:14 The angel revealed that the first purpose of the vision was to reveal what would happen to Israel in the last days.

10:15–19 The angel not only came to reveal the future but to strengthen Daniel, first by his touch (v. 18) and secondly with his words of encouragement (v. 19).

10:20–21 The prince of Greece is an allusion to the prediction that Greece would follow Persia as the next major world power (8:4–8, 20–22). The angel’s final purpose was to reveal what is recorded in the book of truth (lit “the writings of truth”), a reference not to a particular earthly book but to God’s heavenly decrees about the future of all nations.[1]

[1] Michael Rydelnik, “Daniel,” in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 1343–1344.