

DANIEL

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Daniel chapter 10 as we continue our study through the Word of God. For many, they know very little of Daniel chapters 10 through 12. They don't see them as important. In fact, many commentaries have very little on this portion of Scripture. And yet, as you look at what Daniel tells us, the details of events that he gives us regarding prophecy, spiritual warfare, they are amazing. So we will be covering these chapters individually because there is so much in them for us to learn from and apply to our lives, so much encouragement regarding prophetic events as we will see.

Now before we actually begin this evening we need to understand that this is the last of the four visions that were given to Daniel by God. And this last vision covers the last 3 chapters of Daniel, chapters 10-12 and they cover a time frame from Cyrus through the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Let me break these three chapters down for you so you can get a better picture of what we will be looking at. First of all in Daniel chapter 10 through Daniel 11:1 we see an introduction to the vision. We get a behind the scenes look at spiritual warfare that went on back then and continues today!

Then in Daniel 11:2 through Daniel 12:4 we see two major divisions. Daniel 11:2-35 deals with the immediate future from the time of Cyrus through the Persian Empire and into the Grecian Empire, to Antiochus.

Then, from Daniel 11:36 to Daniel 12:4 we see Daniel being informed of the distant future, the latter days. That is the time period of the Great Tribulation up to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

And from Daniel 12:5-13 we see the final message of comfort to Daniel, the judgment of the nations and on into the establishing of the Millennial Reign of Christ! So these three chapters are filled with things for us to learn and as I have said, many ignore these chapters or just skim over them.

Now regarding these final 3 prophetic chapters of Daniel, Leupold said this, “There is hardly anything in the Bible that is just like these chapters, especially like chapter 11. The word, the vision, the minute prediction are combined in a manner that is found nowhere else in [the] Scriptures.” And we will see that unfold over the next few weeks.

So with that as our background, let’s begin reading in Daniel chapter 10 beginning in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

DANIEL 10

VERSES 1-3

1. Keep in mind that at this point in Daniel’s life he has been in captivity for some seventy years and thus, he is in his eighties and maybe older. And yet he is still serving in the Medo-Persian Kingdom. I like the fact that even in his advanced age Daniel continued to serve. He could have said, “Hey, I have been doing this for seventy some years now, it is time for me to retire!” Not Daniel, he serves until the end for when that last breath was taken, the work stopped!

Now the timeframe here is that this took place “**In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia . . .**” and thus, it places the date of this vision around 536 B. C. a few years after the vision of the seventy weeks which we read about in Daniel chapter 9.

And in Daniel chapter 9 we saw Daniel praying for the Jewish people and for the city of Jerusalem, knowing the time of their captivity was about over. Now, by this time, the first wave of exiles had returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel. (Ezra 1-2)

Now many of the Jews remained in Babylon, in fact, only 49,897 people returned home under the leadership of Zerubbabel in 538 B. C. out of the 2 to 3 million Jews who were living in Babylon at this time. (Ezra 2:64) This too must have weighed heavy upon the heart of Daniel and it must have been a big disappointment to him to only see a handful go back home.

In fact, this whole situation was so disturbing to Daniel that he fasted and mourned for 3 full weeks, twenty-one days! Daniel ate just what was necessary to stay alive and thus avoided fancy foods. Neither did he take in meat or wine during this time. He also refrained from using skin oils that were used to protect ones skin from the sun and also added fragrance to the body. And just in case anyone doubts that this is the same Daniel that was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 606 B. C., he gives his Babylonian name, Belteshazzar, to make this point clear to us.

2. Not only was the lackadaisical or apathetic attitude of the Jews returning home troubling Daniel, but this vision troubled him as well. And as you read this in the English you might not see why Daniel was so impacted by it and the reason for his mourning.

The phrase, “**... the appointed time was long ...**” in the Hebrew it is TSABA GADOWL, (tsaw-baw’ gaw-dole’) and it carries with it the idea of “great warfare” and it implies that the period that is in view here speaks of a long and strenuous time which involves great conflict and trouble for the people of God. This is why Daniel was mourning for he was told of the coming trouble upon the nation of Israel and he saw the apathetic attitude of the people of God, his Jewish brethren.

VERSES 4-6

1. Daniel, at this time, was away from the city of Babylon, by the Tigris River or the Hiddekel River in the Hebrew, which is about 35 miles away from the Euphrates River. This is where God gave Daniel this vision.

As Daniel fasted and prayed he became overwhelmed by what he saw as the future for the Jewish people, the battles they would face we see what is called “**a certain man**” appear before him. Now the big question is, “Who is this man that appeared to Daniel by the Tigris River? Was it an angel?” Many believe it was an angel, but I will show you why I believe this was the Lord Jesus Christ, a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus or a Theophany, a Christophany!

Why do I think this is Jesus? Because of the description that is given here and it does parallel what we read in Revelation 1:12-17, **“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.”**

Then, in Revelation 2:18 we are told, **“... These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass.”**

And as you look at the description of Him here in Daniel chapter 10 you see that this has to be the Lord, it can't be an angel, not even Gabriel. He wore this garment that was not a short tunic which the common people would wear, but a long garment as the priest would wear. We are told in Hebrews 3:1 Jesus is our High Priest.

The gold belt spoke of His Kingship, His sovereignty. His body was like a transparent flashing jewel, which speaks of His glory. His eyes were like lightning which can see through you, for nothing is hidden from God. His arms and feet are of brass which speaks of His righteous judgment. And His voice is thundering loud and strong.

And in verses 8 and 9 of Daniel chapter 10 we are told of Daniel's response with his encounter with the Lord, "**Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.**" That is the response that John had when he encountered the Lord, "**I fell at His feet as dead.**"

Now in saying that this is Jesus, it is not without controversy. Let me show you what I mean. First of all we see in Daniel 10:13, "**But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.**"

If this was Jesus then why does He need help from Michael the Archangel? That would make no sense. No angel would have the power to do that. Some, to try and make this fit say that Jesus allowed it but again we don't see that and demons or fallen angels are fearful of Jesus because He is Almighty God.

The second point is related to Michael the Archangel and why would he have to help Jesus as I have said, that would make no sense. No fallen angel or any angel can overpower Jesus and Jesus does not need help from anyone!

Then what in the world is going on here? Is this Jesus or is this just an angel who looks like Jesus? I believe it is Jesus and I believe that in verse 10, the hand that reaches out and touches Daniel is an angel now. It is not the same person as we have been reading about. That seems to fit. Thus, we are now reading of the pre-incarnate Christ in these verses!

2. Now if you are still struggling with this being Jesus or an angel, you are not alone. Lehman Strauss wrote in his commentary on Daniel,

In 1948 I wrote a brief exposition of the book of Daniel in which I said, "This glorious person set forth in verses 5-9 is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ." Then in 1958, when I was a pastor in Detroit, I wrote another exposition of Daniel in which I said, "Some attempts have been made to identify him as the angel of the LORD, the eternal Word, thus a theophany or preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ. It is true that the description of him here does call to mind the vision John saw of the ascended Christ in Revelation 1:13-16. But Daniel 10:13 pretty much settles it for me that we have here a created angel. He was not the Lord of all angels, but merely one of the Lord's angels." Now I have let you in on a secret: In 1948 I was very sure; in 1958 I had reversed my former conclusion; now in 1968 I am not certain that I know just who this certain man is.

- Lehman Strauss, *The Prophecies of Daniel*, p. 296

For me, when I read of the description of this person and I see how Daniel responded to this person, it has to be the Lord as I have said. But again, there are many who say it was an angel and many others who just are not sure, they go either way depending what day it is. Not a huge deal but you pray about it and search the Scriptures if you are unsure or even if you are sure!

3. One more point before we move on and that is regarding Daniel's condition. He is overwhelmed by what he sees and who comes to his aid? Jesus does and make no mistake about it, Jesus is here with us no matter what we are going through. He will never leave us or forsake us and that should bring great comfort to our lives.

VERSES 7-9

1. During this time Daniel was with some other men but they do not see this vision of Christ but they do sense that something is going on and it scarred them so much that they fled away and hid themselves.

Paul's friends had a similar experience on the road to Damascus when Paul had an encounter with Christ, they too were afraid. Remember the bright light, brighter than the sun was shining down upon them and we are told in Acts 9:7, "**And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.**"

Paul also recants this story in Acts 22:9 where he said, "**And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me.**"

Now I do realize for some this is confusing because these two verses in Acts describing what happened to the men who with Saul seem to contradict each other. One verse seems to be saying that they were hearing the voice and the other verse speaks of them not hearing? Not at all, there is no contradiction! In the Greek it speaks of hearing a sound, phonics, but not understanding what was being said. You see, yes they did hear the voice but they did not understand the voice, a very simple explanation.

And it is possible that is what was going on with the men who were there with Daniel, they heard a voice but did not understand it and they were terrified and fled for their lives, hiding who knows where!

So Daniel is left alone with Christ and we see all his strength leave him as he falls into a posture of weakness. For Daniel this encounter has drained him physically, emotionally and spiritually. Wood says of this word “**frailty**” that “The word suggests a death-like paleness, combined with a grotesque wrenching of facial features.”

Why did this happen to Daniel when he encountered the Lord? Because that is what happens when sinful man has an encounter with the living God! Remember in Isaiah as he saw the Lord high and lifted up, had this encounter with God and then he cried out, “**... ‘Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.’**” Isaiah 6:5.

It is the realization that in our own righteousness we can’t stand before a holy and righteous God. Our righteousness is like filthy rags before Him. Thus, we can’t do it on our own and all we can do is humbly come before God asking Him to cleanse us of our sins through Jesus Christ! It is then and only then that the Lord takes our righteousness, which is like filthy rags and gives to us His righteousness.

And maybe the picture here of these men running away and hiding is a picture of sinful man who can’t stand before God! Daniel, on the other hand falls down before Him!

2. Now as we move into verse 10 I believe we see the Lord depart from Daniel and we will see an angel come alongside Daniel to assist him, to strengthen him, and this angel is probably Gabriel, who is the messenger angel of Israel and the one we saw in Daniel chapter 9 give Daniel the Seventy Weeks vision for God's People and God's holy city Jerusalem!

VERSES 10-11

1. Like I have said, I don't believe that this is Jesus but the angel Gabriel who comes to the aid of Daniel. And again, as we read on we will see this angel hindered from coming to Daniel for twenty-one days! Now there are some who feel that this is still Jesus and they explain it like this,

Noting that Daniel continued to tremble with fear, Christ reassured him by telling him not to be afraid. The reason for not fearing was the following special favor that God had already exercised toward Daniel: on the very first day of Daniel's mourning, God had heard his prayer and had responded to it by sending Christ to him. Daniel had been asking for understanding of the vision in chapter eight.

Although Christ had been sent on the day of Daniel's mourning, He did not reach Daniel until after the period of mourning had ended. The reason for Christ's delay was this: ***a high ranking evil angel, whom Satan had assigned to influence Medo-Persia against Israel, had detained Him for twenty-one days.*** Since Daniel was a Jew and could benefit Israel through his high position in the Medo-Persian government, this angel did not want Christ to deliver the new revelation about Israel's future to him. ***Because this opposition by this angelic prince left Christ occupied with the policies of the Medo-Persian kings (Cyrus and his subkings, Michael, one of God's chief angelic princes, came to take up the battle against this evil angel.***

- Renald E. Showers, A Commentary on the Book of Daniel – The Most High God, pp.144-145

First of all no one is going to detain the Lord, He is Almighty God! And the end of the Millennial Reign there is no real battle between Jesus and Satan, the rebellion is put down and Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire with all those who have sided with him, those who have rejected Jesus.

Secondly, Jesus is Omniscient, Omnipotent and thus, no one or no situation is going to occupy His time. He can take care of everything, He is in control and He is not too busy to come to our aid or help us. So again, I don't believe this could be speaking of Jesus beginning here in verse 10; this is most likely the angel Gabriel as I have said. The prior verses are speaking of Jesus.

One more point here and that is found in verse 11 where we are told, “**... for I have now been sent to you ...**” You see, this is not the Lord we see here but this angelic being is now coming to Daniel. And as Daniel comes to, he hears words of comfort and love from this angel.

2. So we see this angel tell Daniel that he doesn't have to fear because he is greatly loved by God! What a comfort those words are. Don't be jealous; listen to what Jesus says to those who love Him. In John 15:14-15 we read, “**You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**”

We are called the friends of God! Now don't bring God down to our level, He is holy and righteous, He is God. What God has done is He has brought us up to Him! Honor Him, respect Him, worship Him as He is worthy of, don't make Him our equal because He is not! Now as comforting as this angel tried to be, Daniel stood there trembling! These were heavy things that were given to Daniel and it broke him, it scared or frightened him.

3. One more point and that is this. Doesn't Jesus bring us comfort? You bet He does but don't forget what Paul said in Hebrews 1:14 about angels, "**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**" God uses angels to minister to us, protect us, to watch over us. And I think that is what we see here in Daniel!

4. Now, as we read on we are going to see spiritual warfare, what goes on in nations, who is pulling their strings you might say. What is going on in people's lives, who is really controlling them if it is not God! And for some of you, this may be shocking. Let's read on and see what takes place.

VERSES 12-14

1. Here again we see words of comfort and an explanation for the delay in his coming to Daniel that might not be too comforting for us. Look at what transpired here. First of all God sent this angel to Daniel from the first day that Daniel began to pray. Then why in the world did it take him twenty-one days to get to Daniel?

Because there was a spiritual battle going on preventing him from getting to Daniel. Demonic forces kept him from completing his mission for twenty-one days! In fact, it wasn't until Michael came and assisted in this battle that he then was able to complete his mission! Michael is the warrior angel you might say, watching over Israel!

Now think about this for a minute because sometimes we just give up praying because we don't see things happening, prayer being answered. I wonder what would have happened if Daniel gave up at day twenty? This should encourage us to keep on praying, no matter how long we have been at it; you may only be a day away from answered prayer!

2. I don't know if this troubles you or not but it does me. What we see here is God lifting up the curtain and giving to us a glimpse of the spiritual warfare that is taking place around us. And specifically here it has to do with demons controlling nations, like the Persian Empire.

John Calvin wrote, "Whenever the ungodly cause us trouble, they are fighting under the banner of Satan, and are his instruments for harassing us." And I will add to that, that we as Christians can also be pawns in his games, we must be wise of his schemes and resist him steadfast in the faith.

Look at our nation and how immoral, wicked we have become over the years. Good is evil and evil is good! And our government sanctions these things! We must have many demons involved in our government, Washington DC must have an unusual number of demonic forces pulling the strings of those politicians, getting them to do and pass all kinds of evil laws!

Leupold summarizes this by saying, “Bad angels, called demons in the New Testament, are, without a doubt, referred to here. In the course of time, these demonic powers gained a very strong influence over certain nations and the government of these nations. They became the controlling power. They used whatever resources they could muster to hamper God’s work and to thwart his purposes . . . We get a rare glimpse behind the scene of world history. There are spiritual forces at work that are far in excess of what men who disregard revelation would suppose. They struggle behind the struggles that are written in the pages of history.”

Yes there are demonic forces over nations, cities and-so-on. And they attempt to destroy the lives of men and women and to hinder the work of God. First of all they cannot do anything without God allowing them to. Before Satan could even touch Job he had to go to God for permission and God allowed it for the strengthening of Job.

Secondly, as strong as these demonic forces are, there are a host of heavenly angels that are there to watch over us and protect us. If you remember the story of Elisha in II Kings chapter 6 you will see another glimpse into the spirit world. It was during the time when the Syrian’s were at war with Israel. And Ben-Hadad was making surprise raids into Israel but God was informing Elisha of what was going to happen and he passed that information on to the King of Israel, Joram.

Ben-Hadad was furious with his continual failure and he thought there was an informer with-in his troops who were tipping off their enemy. One of the officers spoke up and said that Elisha was the one who had supernatural powers and revealed these things. In fact, we read of this servant saying in regards to a secret informer that there are, “**... ‘None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.’**” II Kings 6:12. In other words, there are no secrets that you can keep from God!

So Ben-Hadad ordered Elisha to be captured and thus sent his troops to Dothan, which was 12 miles north of Samaria, where Elisha was staying, so they can sneak up and take him into custody. If you think about it this is kind of funny, they were trying to sneak up and take Elisha by surprise!

Early in the morning Elisha’s servant awakened and became terrified at what he saw. The whole city was surrounded by the Syrian’s and he nervously asks Elisha, “**... What shall we do?**” Elisha’s response was, “**... ‘Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’**” II Kings 6:16. Now I don’t think this calmed this man down, for no matter how many times you counted, there were only 2 of them against the whole Syrian army.

But Elisha’s eyes had seen something that his servant did not see. We are told what Elisha saw in II Kings 6:17, “**And Elisha prayed, and said, ‘LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**” And now the servant of Elisha saw this as well!

You see, God's angelic agents were there ready and waiting. They were there to protect the servant of God. That is why Elisha could be calm when the enemy surrounded him. And I love the way God took care of this enemy. He blinded them, then they were led by Elisha to Samaria, and he brought them before King Joram. But instead of destroying them he laid out a feast which was symbolic of a peace covenant which lasted for a time with the Syrian's.

3. Make no mistake about it, spiritual warfare is real and we must be prepared for it. I know many mock at the idea of spiritual warfare but the Bible is very clear on it. In fact, Paul tells us what we need to do to stand against these powers of darkness. In Ephesians chapter 6 beginning in verse 10 Paul said, **“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”** Ephesians 6:10-13.

You see, our fight is against the spiritual realm and we can't play Rambo and blow away the enemy with guns or bombs, not with carnal or human weapons. Listen to the words that Paul said in regards to this battle we are in. We are told in II Corinthians 10:3-5, **“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”**

So if we want to stand strong in the Lord and in the power of His might we need to utilize the spiritual weapons that He has given to us. What are these weapons that Paul is talking about and are they available for us? Absolutely they are here for us to use today as Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God to protect us from the attacks of the enemy. He then goes on to tell us what the armor of God is all about in Ephesians chapter 6, which again is definitely available for us today and we are instructed to put on and use these things. We are to ***BE READY FOR THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE!***

Let's look at these pieces of armor that we are told to put on.

A. GIRD YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH - THE BELT OF TRUTH

This speaks of the believer's integrity and faithfulness. Just as a soldier's belt gave ease and freedom of movement, as you girded your loins, so too does truth in our lives. God wants us to show integrity in the things we do and not to be entangled in lies. These demonic forces will use lies to destroy us, bring us down, break us! Don't let them!

B. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Just as the soldier's breastplate protected his chest from the attacks of the enemy, so does righteous living in that it guards our hearts against the assaults of the Devil. It is the practical righteousness of daily living. In I John 2:28-29 we are told, "**And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.**" If you get involved in things that are wrong, unrighteous you are leaving a big hole in your breastplate for these demonic forces to get at your heart, your emotions, your feelings!

C. FEET SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

This speaks of the soldier being sure-footed in the heat of battle just as our feet should be firmly planted on the Gospel of Jesus Christ which will give us peace in times of warfare. If you place your feet upon sand your life, your walk will be unstable and that is where the enemy wants you!

D. SHIELD OF FAITH

Our faith in the Lord will be able to put out all the fiery darts of doubt, despair that the Devil can fire at us just as the soldier's shield would protect him from the flaming arrows shot at him. We must rest our whole weight upon God - that is faith!

E. HELMET OF SALVATION

The helmet protected the soldier's head and as we put on our helmet we have the hope of salvation, thus the enemy can't take that away. John MacArthur puts it this way, "The helmet of salvation is that great hope of final salvation that gives us confidence and assurance that our present struggle with Satan will not last forever and we will be victorious in the end." Too many Christians allow these demonic forces to sow doubt in their minds about their salvation and they become incapacitated in their walk with the Lord!

F. SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

There are only two offensive weapons that we have, and one of them is this short sword that was used in hand-to-hand combat. Thus, we must have the knowledge of the Word of God and use it in hand-to-hand combat against the enemy, for the sword of the spirit is the Word of God!

G. HEAVY ARTILLERY - PRAYER

This is something that the soldier may not have used but we as Christians should use, and it is our second offensive weapon. It is not listed in the armor usually, but it is vital in our life. Prayer loosens the power of God and binds the power of Satan. It is the weapon that is launched into the enemy camp before the military marches in. Thus, "Prayer is not getting man's will done in heaven; it is getting God's will done on earth." Too often we try to win battles through earthly means, through protests and this and that but the reality is, prayer is the heavy artillery that will destroy the enemy and allow us to go in and take the spoil of these victories!

One more point regarding these implements of war. The first 3 pieces of armor; the belt, the breastplate and the sandals should be put on and they should never be taken off.

The next 3 pieces of armor; the shield, the helmet and the sword should be kept ready to take up at a moment's notice!

God has given them to us to use, may we use them in the battle we are in! Don't be a soldier that is unprepared for the battle for we all are soldiers in the army of the Lord and thus involved in the fight against the enemy. Stand strong in the Lord and in the power of His might!

4. Now back to Daniel, the message that was going to be given to Daniel deals with the entire history of Israel which concludes with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and we will see that as we deal with chapters 11 and 12 of Daniel.

VERSES 15-19

1. Daniel started on the ground (Daniel 10:9), then stood up (Daniel 10:11), and now was back on his face again. You see, Daniel is overwhelmed by what he is told. This vision took his remaining strength. He saw what was going to happen to Israel and it overwhelmed him. But the angel again strengthened him.

Have you ever had that before, where you were told something and it took your breath away, it was like a punch in the gut? I remember when I was told that my dad had terminal cancer, that there was nothing more they could do for him. I felt that way, it was like someone hit me in the gut, it took my breath away! And I remember telling my dad that he had only a few months to live, I could see it in his eyes as well!

That was Daniel, overwhelmed by all that will take place with his people and then he received this touch of God by the hands of this angel and it strengthened him. If you ever feel that way, bring it to the Lord and He will lift you up, His peace that surpasses all understanding will guard your heart and your mind! It is what we see here with Daniel and God wants to do no less with us!

VERSES 20-21 to 11:1

1. Not only was Michael the Archangel fighting against the demonic forces of Persia but already we are seeing the demonic forces of Greece at work and we are some 200 years before Greece actually came to power! There are strong demonic powers influencing nations around the world including our own. May we be in prayer for them and especially for our nation that is becoming darker and darker in regards to the morality they are legislating!

And as this nation gets darker and darker they embrace these demonic spirits or they don't believe that they exist, they laugh at us for believing in them. One writer put it like this,

Modern man no longer scoffs at microbes. But demons? Evil spirits? Fallen angels ruling the nations from an unseen world and delighting in the miseries of mankind? In wars and famines, earthquakes and persecutions? Nonsense. It is considered incredible by most people that behind our destructive ideologies, foolish "scientific" hypotheses, and false religions, there are vast intelligences, organized principalities, who are working to a master plan, who are implacable [merciless] in their hatred of the human race, and who feast their diabolical appetites on human sufferings and souls. No wonder the world cannot achieve peace, when it not only rejects the prince of peace, but denies the existence of Satan and his minions.

But equally, destructive is modern man's inquisitiveness. Madame Curie in her day explored the mysterious world of x-rays, but she did so without full knowledge of the dangers of radioactivity. She took no precautions – but what precautions could she have taken to protect herself from the forces of nature, the existence of which she knew little? In the end she perished, a victim of forces she could not control.

But there is also danger in tampering with the occult world. Through the ages, evil spirits have induced people to investigate psychic mysteries. They produce certain phenomena, they materialize apparitions, they rap and mutter and chant. They bestow certain powers on those who obey their rules. . . .

The only safeguard we have to these things is the Bible. The scriptures make no attempt to hide that fact that evil spirits exist. . . . They are all dangerous, and the Bible tells us all we need to know about them. The Bible warns us against them; it forbids witchcraft, astrology, necromancy, and all such attempts to make contact with them. The Bible tells how we can break free of their influence, pray against them, and be protected from them.

. . . The world's best protection against these extraterrestrials is a praying believer, Bible in hand, indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God.

- John Phillips; Jerry Vines, Exploring the Book of Daniel, pp. 166-167

2. And notice what this angel, probably Gabriel is going to tell Daniel, “**But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. . . .**” That is what we will see as we move along into Daniel chapters 11 and 12, the things that will come to pass during the Persian and Grecian Empires, from Cyrus to Antiochus up through the Great Tribulation and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

This is recorded in the Scripture of Truth or God's record of Truth which we call the Bible. Thus, all that this messenger is going to tell Daniel is going to come to pass and it will not contradict what God has already said. May we understand that God will not contradict Himself!

If there is any new revelation that is contradicting the Scriptures it is not from God but a doctrine of demons! Notice what David says about the Word of God and how God feels about it. In Psalm 138:2 we read, "**I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.**"

Don't water down God's Word or try to explain it away, for God holds it in high esteem, above His name, and so should we. The Bible has been given to us by the inspiration of God, or God has breathed these words to us. They are important and they are truth in a world that is filled with the lies of the Devil!

3. Now in verse 21 of Daniel chapter 10 we see these words, "**Michael your prince.**" That tells me that Michael has a special relationship with the nation of Israel. He is their warrior as I have said.

In Daniel 12:1 we read, "**At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.**" You see, he stands up for Israel against the world powers that are coming against them!

We also see this in Revelation chapter 12 as we see a war break out in heaven at the half-way mark of the seven-year Tribulation Period. And we are told beginning in verse 7, **“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”** Revelation 12:7-9.

4. This was kind of the introduction to the last 2 chapters of the book of Daniel and we will see next time a very detailed history lesson that was written before the events even took place! As I close this study this evening, listen to this story. We are told,

“Marco Polo, the famous medieval traveler, tells of a great desert near the town of Lop, where evil spirits lured travelers to destruction by means of an extraordinary delusion. If a traveler had fallen behind the caravan and was by himself, he would hear his name called in a familiar tone of voice. Thinking it was the voice of a companion and friend, he would leave the road and follow the voice, and so perish.”

Today Satan and his demonic forces are still up to his old tricks. He hasn't changed his tactics at all. He has millions of religious people heading down the road of destruction who think they are on their way to heaven. He leads people down the road of drug abuse, adultery, fornication, murder and-so-on. The only way not to be taken by this deceiver is by focusing on the truth, Jesus Christ and His Word. It will never lead you down the wrong path but only into a deeper relationship with Him if you apply His Word to your life.

It is as Gabriel told Daniel in verse 21 of Daniel chapter 10, **“But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. . . .”** We need to allow God’s Word to minister to our hearts and lives. We need to allow God’s Word to guide us through the direction of the Holy Spirit.

And if you do, you don’t have to worry about the enemy. You don’t have to go looking for him behind every rock, every door, every tree, and-so-on. You see, if you are serving the Lord, if you are bearing fruit in your life, then he will come looking for you. I am not saying that to scare you, it is just the reality. If you are making an impact for Christ you have the attention of the demonic forces and they will try to stop you!

What should we do? This is all you have to do, **“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. . . .”** James 4:7-8a. May we not forget that! Greater is He that is in you than he that is in this world!