

Daniel

Ch.10



Spiritual Warfare

Basic and General Study of the Book of Daniel *compiled by Gaetan.*

Chapter 10 of Daniel is an introduction to the revelation given him in chapters 11 and 12. The original texts of the Bible were not divided into chapters and verses. Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1207–1228, is reputed to have been the first to put the chapter divisions into a Vulgate edition of the Bible in 1205. Robert Estienne, a Parisian printer, was the first to number the verses within each chapter, his verse numbers entering printed editions of the New Testament in 1565.

This bit of information is important background as to why some puzzling chapter divisions occur where they do in the Bible — notable among them, the division between this chapter and the next.



DAN.10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia (536 BC) a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and **the thing was true**, but the time appointed **was long**: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

DAN.10:2 In those days I Daniel was mourning **three full weeks.**

DAN.10:3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.



We are not told why, but Daniel was fasting and in mourning for three weeks prior to what is about to take place. We will offer a couple of possible reasons:

Some think it was because so few Jews had returned with Ezra from exile. Daniel knew the prophecies of Jeremiah (such as Jer.24:5-10, 25:11-12, & 29:10) and he understood that the Babylonian captivity would last 70-years. The time was up! It had been at least two

years since Cyrus issued his decree and only a few had returned.

We know from history that Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Judah in his first year as king of Persia. (*Ezra 1:1-3*) However, not everyone of influence in the Persian court was so accommodating toward the Jews. In chapter six we saw that Daniel had enemies in the Persian court. As the highest-ranking Jew in the empire, it is quite likely that personal animosity toward Daniel reflected general animosity toward the Jews. Although the decree to let the Jews go back to Judea was given in the first year of Cyrus's reign, which was 538 BC, the actual return migration didn't occur till 536 BC. This would correspond to the third year of Cyrus's reign, which would make it coincidental to the events in this chapter.

Could there have been events taking place to prevent the return? There were certainly some who opposed the return of the Jews, as can be seen in *Ezra chapter 4*, where the Samaritans appealed several times to the Persians to stop the Jews rebuilding the temple. Maybe Daniel was unable to exert enough personal influence at court on the matter, so he engaged in the one thing that he knew could turn the tide, and that was to fast and pray.



Others believe that this revelation was simply a response to his prayers as he sought understanding of the end time prophecy events given in previous chapters. (Maybe it was for both reasons?)

DAN.10:4 And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river ...

DAN.10:5 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a **certain man** clothed in linen, whose **loins were girded with fine gold** of Uphaz:

DAN.10:6 His body also was like the beryl, and **his face as the appearance of lightning**, and **his eyes as lamps of fire**, and his arms and **his feet like in colour to polished brass**, and **the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude**.





Commentators divide over the identity of this “*certain man*”. Some say this is Jesus, noting that the description is remarkably like what John saw in *Revelation 1:13-16*. Others say he is an unnamed angel of high rank, maybe Gabriel who had appeared to Daniel twice before, noting that Jesus would not need the assistance of Michael, mentioned in *Daniel 10:13*.

DAN.10:7 And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

DAN.10:8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

DAN.10:9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

DAN.10:10 And, behold, a hand **touched me**, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

DAN.10:11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for **unto thee am I now sent**. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

DAN.10:12 Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for **from the first day** that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, **thy words were heard**, and **I am come for thy words**.

*****Isaiah 65:24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.***

DAN.10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, **Michael**, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I **remained there with the kings of Persia**.

DAN.10:14 Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people **in the latter days**: for yet the vision is **for many days**.





Here in Daniel 10 we have a glimpse into that spirit world and the tremendous battle that took place between the demon prince of Persia and God's angel, who eventually broke through to Daniel with this important message. He tells Daniel of his struggle with the prince of the kingdom of Persia, that it had taken him 21 days to defeat him with the help of Michael the Archangel. It is believed by many Bible scholars that this prince of Persia was an evil spiritual entity who had been given spiritual dominion over Persia by his master, Satan. Since this prince is able to oppose the angelic messenger to Daniel, we know this is more than a man. This prince is some kind of angelic being, and we know he is an evil angelic being because he opposed the word of God coming to Daniel.

The word prince has the idea of a ruler or authority. This fits in well with the New Testament idea that angelic ranks - including demonic forces - are organized and have a hierarchy (*Ep.1:21; Col. 2:15*).

Apparently, this was a demon of high rank that opposed the answer to prayer. On three occasions, Jesus referred to Satan as the prince of this world (*John 12:31; John 14:30, and John 16:11*). The spiritual dimension is where the real world is and where the real battles are being fought.

***** EPH.6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.***

***** COL. 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers.***

***** JOH. 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.***





Some might say: *“You mean God's angels aren't absolutely almighty?”* This angel did win, but the Devil is the tester, the hinderer, the troubler, the *“tribulator”*, he just makes it difficult. We can't always get it done right away because the Devil gives us such trouble! He can't stop us, he can't keep us from it, but one of his main jobs is to accuse and hinder and slow down the work of God, and that's exactly what he does with some of these messengers of God.

There is another way to look at this, and that is to first ask why the demon prince of Persia would be trying to stop the message from getting through to Daniel. We will see that it was a very important message, especially for us now. Could it also be that he was defending his territory and that the angelic messenger had been sent to first sway decisions at the Persian court? Why would God be so interested in influencing a decision by the king of Persia that He sent the angel there? If that decision was to have an effect on the Jews being allowed to return to Judah, it would have a very great effect, because Jesus needed to be born there, in Bethlehem. To fulfill the Scriptures, the Jews needed to be allowed to return and stay in their homeland until Jesus was born. Certainly the Devil and all his demons would have wanted to defeat that plan. But the angel succeeded with help from Michael.



Also something important to note is that it says in the first verse,

"...but the time appointed was long."

and in this verse 14,

"... Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days."

In other words, that what is about to be told is something far off that is going to take a long time to come true. We have God sending His angel giving Daniel a vision, in the following chapters 11 and 12, that, for the most part, was not going to happen for centuries, until the last days.

Now, why do you think He would do something like that? He did it exactly because prophecy is God's mark of authenticity to a rebellious world, that His word is the truth.

****JOHN 13:19** Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

DAN.10:15 And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb.

DAN.10:16 And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.

DAN.10:17 For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? For as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.

DAN.10:18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,





DAN.10:19 And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, **be strong, yea, be strong.** And **when he had spoken** unto me, I was **strengthened**, and said, let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

DAN.10:20 Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? And now will I return **to fight with the prince of Persia:** and when I am gone forth, lo, the **prince of Grecia** shall come.

DAN.10:21 But **I will show thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth:** and there is none that holdeth with me (stood by me) in these things, but **Michael your prince.**

*****REV.12:7-9 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not...***

DAN.11:1 Also I in the first year of **Darius** the Mede, even I, stood to **confirm and to strengthen him.**

In the first verse of the next chapter, the angel tells Daniel that he had stood next to the king in the first year of his reign to confirm him. So the angel certainly was involved with the Persian court, no doubt in being a godly influence to the king. He also says that once he is done telling Daniel the message, he has to go back to contending with the prince of Persia, and that pretty soon he will have to do the same thing with the prince of Greece.

Whatever the reason for the battle in the spirit between the angel and the demon, this chapter clearly shows us that such conflicts do occur. And it also shows that fervent and determined prayer is integral to the triumph of the good guys.





The book of Revelation gives us a look into the always thrilling, sometimes frightening, and often jaw-dropping realm of the spirit. While relating the story primarily of the last years of Earth as we now know it, most of the action it talks about is not happening in the physical world, but rather in the spiritual realm that coexists with it. While there are many hideous beings from the netherworld stalking through its pages, there are far more mighty, beautiful, and amazing heavenly beings who fight and emerge victorious at its end.

Spiritual warfare is not just the stuff of fantasy comic books. It is a very real phenomenon that is happening right now. It is not something that you can see with your physical eyes, but sometimes its effects spill over into our realm. It is a life-and-death battle not for the lives of the combatants, but for our lives, primarily our spiritual lives, but even to a degree our physical lives as well.

Revelation goes into detail a number of times with regards to the entities that war in that arena. John, Revelation's author, wrote that he saw the Devil as a vicious infanticidal dragon, but then the great archangel Michael leads the good angels in war against the dragon and his demons and completely vanquishes them from the heavenly realm.

John is brief when he describes the great spiritual war that apparently occurs a little before the period of Great Tribulation. We don't know how long that war takes, but we do know that the Devil and his ilk are powerful enough to put up "*spirited*" resistance.





*“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).*

This had been preceded by the following information in verse 4 of the same chapter:

*And another sign appeared in heaven: **behold, a great, fiery red dragon** having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew **a third of the stars** of heaven and threw them to the Earth” (Revelation 12:3-4).*

This passage is where we come to an understanding that one third of the angels rebelled with Satan at the great rebellion against God and His authority in the heavenly realm. Angels have often been represented by stars both in the Bible and other writings. Since both the stars and the dragon's "angels" are cast down to the Earth, the conclusion can be drawn that they are one and the same.

Knowing that Heaven's forces defeated and then routed him and his demons gives us courage here on Earth that those same forces will be working effectively to continue the work they started and will be our unfailing aid during that tumultuous time.

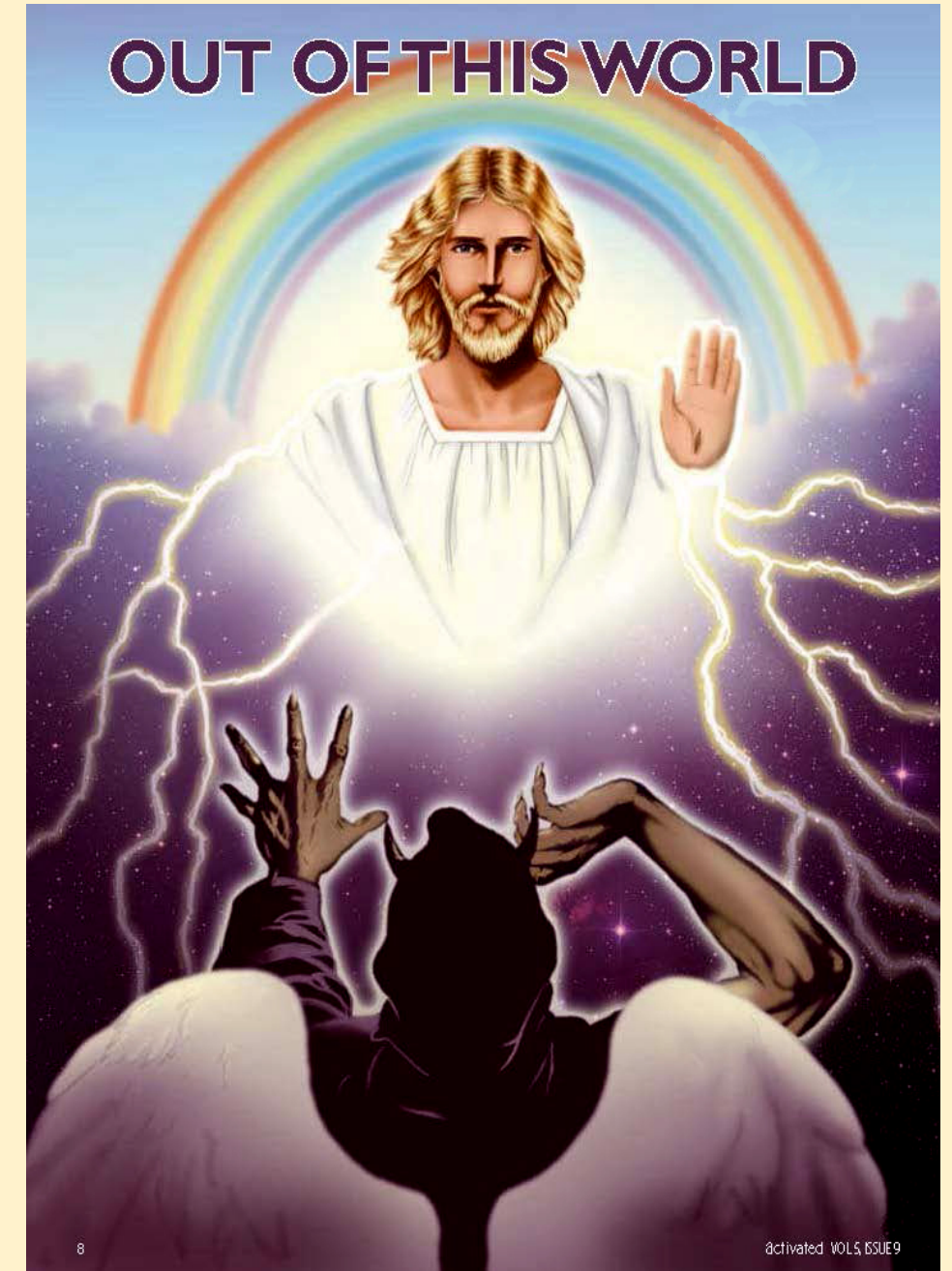
*****2 Co. 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ...***

If you haven't done it yet, please pray this simple prayer to receive Christ:

"Dear Jesus, I want to know You personally. Please forgive all my faults. I accept that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I invite You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

Compiled and edited by Gaetan from multiple sources.

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More verses about spiritual warfare:

*** 2CO.10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*

***EPH.6:13-18 Therefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

***HEB.4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

***1PE.5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

***EPH.4:27 Neither give place to the devil.*

***JAM.4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

***1JN.4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

***COL.1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

***COL.2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

***EPH.1:19-21 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:*

***2KI.6:14-17 Therefore (the king of Syria) sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto Elisha, Alas, my master! How shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.*