

WARFARE BETWEEN ANGELS

Daniel 10

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

Introduction

The last revelation given to Daniel is recorded in chapters 10-12. This revelation covers the same period of history and prophecy as that given in chapter 8, but with much greater detail. Chapter 10 is the introduction to the revelation. It is a lengthy introduction, which indicates the importance of the message. It tells about Daniel's vision of Christ and his encounter with an angel that left him so weak that he could not stand up without help and could barely speak. The angel that brought this message from God in answer to Daniel's prayer, told him his purpose for coming and the difficulties he encountered in coming to him. His lengthy message is found in the next two chapters (11:2-12:4). One of the interesting things that the believer will learn in this lesson is the warfare that is being carried on between the good and evil angels, which affects the decisions and policies of political leaders throughout the world.

Aim of the Lesson

Learn some of the things that angels have done in ministering to believers.

Angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Heb 1:14).

Outline of the Lesson (Use the Study Notes to add to this lesson plan as the Spirit leads you.)

I. Concern of Daniel – 10:1-3

Daniel was deeply concerned for the welfare of his people. They were returning to their homeland after being in captivity for 70 years to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. However, he had received three revelations from God (Dan 7, 8 and 9) that indicated some powerful men were going to persecute his people in the future and desecrate the Temple. He was so concerned that he had fasted and prayed for three weeks seeking from God a better understanding about these times of trouble for his people. Fasting cleared his mind and made him dependent on God for strength. As a result he was ready to understand the message that God gave to him about Israel's future through a powerful Now he was ready to tell the truth of what he had learned and the dramatic way that the answer came to him. The answer will be given in the next lesson, (Dan 11:2-13:4) along with some other questions that Daniel had and the answers that he received (Dan 12:5-13). The next lesson will conclude the study of Daniel's revelations.

We are given an example by Daniel on how to approach God in prayer when we are deeply concerned about a problem that needs His answer.

II. Communication from God – 10:4-21

A. Vitality for His Mind – 10:4

Daniel began to seek God in earnest prayer during the first month of their year, which was Nisan (April). That was the month when the Jews celebrated the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread for one week. This was one of the three most holy celebrations of the Jewish year. When Daniel prayed and fasted for 21 days during the first month, he began to pray early in the month and continued through the holy week, which was in the middle of the month, and finally got his answer from God after the holy week had passed. No doubt, his remembrance of the original Passover kept his mind focused on the mighty power of God to save His people in the future as He did in past when He delivered Israel from the plague of the death angel. Since Daniel received this vision by the great river Hiddekel (Tigris River), he was

away from his home at a place about 35 miles east of Babylon. Maybe he wanted to be away from the political concerns of Babylon so he could concentrate on his communion with God.

We must seek God with a clear mind and a sincere heart. Then He will see that we are ready to receive His answer to our prayers.

B. Vision of Christ – 10:5-8

When God's answer was came to Daniel, "a certain man" preceded the answer. This could have been Gabriel or some other angel of equal rank, but it seems best to identify him as Son of Man, who later revealed Himself in a similar manner to the Apostle John on the island of Patmos (Rev 1:13-15). The appearance of Christ was impressive. His linen garments suggest the holiness of a priest; His golden girdle allude to His righteousness and faithfulness (Isa 11:5); His body had the beauty of a precious gem; His face shown with the brilliance of lightning; His eyes were like lamps of fire, His arms and feet had the splendor of polished bronze and His voice carried his words with authority like the sound of a great multitude. This great vision of Christ prepared Daniel for the great importance of God;s answer.

Although other men were with Daniel, he was the only one to see Christ; the others felt a great shaking and ran to hide themselves. In that respect it was like the appearance of Christ to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus. He saw Christ, while the men with him heard a voice, but did not see a man (Acts 9:6-7). This is proof that both Daniel and Saul actually saw Christ; it was not a dream. Daniel's personal encounter with Christ shows the importance of the message he was about to receive from the angel. His vision of Christ left him physically weak without enough strength to stand on his feet.

We may want to see Jesus while living on the earth, but that privilege is granted to a very few who have a special work to do for Him. But all believers will see Jesus when He shall appear in the Rapture and they shall be like Him for they shall see Him as He is (1 Jn 3:2). And if a believer dies before the Rapture he or she will be with Jesus (2 Cor 5:8).

C. Voice of Christ – 10:9

The powerful words of Christ overwhelmed Daniel and he fell on his face in a deep sleep. John had a similar experience when he saw Christ in His glorified body and fell on his face as dead (Rev 1:17). John had lived with Jesus on earth for more than three years, but he never had such an experience as he did when He saw Jesus in His glory.

We have a preview of what will happen to us when we hear Jesus. It will be an awesome experience. We will have glorified bodies at that time, so we will be stronger than Daniel, but we will fall on our faces and worship Him when we hear His voice.

D. Value of an angel – 10:10-21

While Daniel lay helpless on the ground from seeing the vision of Christ, the hand of an angel assisted him to stand on his feet and told him that he was greatly loved. He was not to be afraid of the awesome vision he had of Christ, but be encouraged by the message that God was sending to him. God loved Israel, even though troubles were still coming, He would bless Israel when His plan was completed.

We learn from Hebrews 1:14 that angels still help believers today. The Scripture says that they are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvaton." God uses angels to help us when we have physical needs for protection or for strength.

God sent His answer to Daniel by a faithful angel on the first day that Daniel prayed, but it took him 21 days to deliver his message to Daniel. The prince of the kingdome of Persia blocked him from reaching

Daniel until Michael, the prince of Israel, helped him and set him free. These princes were good and evil angels that fought against each other. Since Daniel was a powerful person in the Persian government and the evil angel was appointed by Satan to oppose the work of God in Persia, he did not want any messages from God to reach and help Daniel. But God's angels found a way to win in their battle against Satan's evil angel. They were quiet successful in making Persia a government that blessed Israel (see the Study Notes for details).

We also have God's angels warring against Satan's angels so we can successfully do the work that He has given us to do. But we must trust in the Lord for this to happen (Eph 6:10-20).

The angel told Daniel what would happen to his people in the latter days. The message basically concerned the plight of the Jews in connection with the events before the two comings of the Messiah, even though the people in the Old Testament believed that there would be only one coming of Christ. The first part of God's message refers to the days before the first coming of Christ (11:2-35) and the second part of God's message refers to the days before the second coming of Christ (11:36-12:4).

We now know that Christ came the first time to pay for our sins and become our Savior, and we know He will come the second time to preside over the nations and become our Sovereign.

The angel said three things to Daniel in these verses. First, he asked Daniel if he understood the reason for his coming. Since Daniel was very weak, he wanted to be sure that he was ready for God's message. Second, he told Daniel that he must once again return to strive with the prince of Persia, that is, the evil angel that Satan had assigned to corrupt the Persian government and turn it against God. After that he would strive against the prince of Greece. This angel had been commissioned to battle against Satan's angels in high government places for nearly 500 years. The only one helping him in this conflict was Michael, the prince for Israel. Third, he assured Daniel that he would reveal to him the truth of the existing plan of God called the "Scripture". The Scriptures are the thoughts and plans of God. The Old Testament is the Scripture (the writing) that God gave to the Jews, but there is more to the Scripture. The New Testament is the Scripture which God gave to the Church. If God so desires, He will give more Scripture to future generations.

We need to thank God for the Scriptures that He has given to us. Many people do not have any Scriptures in their language. They know nothing of God's plan of salvation unless someone goes to tell them what they have learned from the Scriptures in their language.

III. Confirmation of Darius the Mede – 11:1

This angel informed Daniel that he stood with Darius the Mede and strengthened him, when he became the king of Babylon. This was the time when Daniel was chosen to be one of three presidents to help Darius with the rule of Babylon. He stood with Darius when he wanted to make Daniel the first president of Babylon. He stood with Darius when he was deceived by men that plotted against Daniel and caused him to make a decree that put Daniel in the lion's den. He stood with Darius when the lion's mouths were shut so Daniel was not harmed by the lions. He stood with Darius when all the wicked men that plotted against Daniel were thrown into the lion's den and killed. He did his work well in defeating Satan's angel.

We need to thank God for His angels that protect us from the evil plots of Satan against us. We also need to do God's work well like this angel did his work.