

The Divine Warrior
Daniel 10:1 – 21
The Laurel Center
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Main Idea: God uses visions to help us understand spiritual warfare on our behalf.

Introduction

We humans tend to be very interested in the spiritual realm. We are interested in the players, good vs. evil, and so many other aspects of spirituality. This is because we are by nature spiritual beings as well as physical ones. It does not surprise me that Daniel would get a taste of the spiritual realm in the warfare going on all around him. Princes of nations are involved as we will discuss. This is most likely not referring to human princes but to the forces that control those nations.

Rarely are we given a dose of the spiritual battles that are waged around us. These are the resources for fictional works and also books about spiritual forces. Usually much is made of the little evidence we receive in Scripture for the specifics of the spiritual forces. But we do get a glimpse here as God reveals some of the battling going on around Daniel. Let's take a look at what we can learn about the spiritual battles that are happening in his day.

Text – Daniel 10: 12-14

12 Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. **13** The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, **14** and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”

I. Godly visions place us in humble awe (vv. 1 – 10).

A God prepares us for his presence.

- 1** The context of this vision helps us to understand exactly what is happening to Daniel in this moment. First we are given the chronological context.
- 2** This vision happens in the third year of King Cyrus of Persia. This is most likely referring to the historical figure who was King over the city of Babylon in Persia.
- 3** This is the same Cyrus that Isaiah prophesied would set Israel free from its exile. In the very first year of his reign as noted in other scriptures like

Ezra, Cyrus sent out a decree allowing the Israelites to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem.

- 4 That first decree sent a small contingent of Israelites back to their homeland and there is a later decree concerning building up the walls and Jerusalem. These events happen closely together but not so closely historically.
- 5 This is the third year of Cyrus' reign when this vision occurs in Daniel's life. That places the date of the vision at around 536-535 BC. This is the political and chronological context of the vision.
- 6 The spiritual context has to do with what is transpiring in Daniel's life. At this point he is 90 years old and his ability to go back to Israel is impossible. He maintains an important role in the government.
- 7 Moreover, at his age travel is very unlikely. Daniel is more looking to the future of Israel for those around him than for himself. He reports that he has been fasting for three weeks concerning these matters of his nation's future.
- 8 This factor of fasting will be part of the reason he is so weak during the vision. But more than that some of this might've been brought on by the fact that Daniel is missing the first celebration of the Passover back in Jerusalem and the first sacrifices since the Temple was begun to be rebuilt.
- 9 It is this fasting that Daniel is willing to do, the searching of the Scriptures for answers to his questions about Israel's time in the exile and his time in devoted prayer and intercessory prayer that afforded him this vision that he received.

B God shows his awesome power.

- 1 After Daniel lays out the historical and spiritual contexts of his powerful vision, we're told the police that he is praying near the Tigris River. The people that are with him are privy to the power of the moment but not the conversation or the vision itself.
- 2 While they run for cover and hide, Daniel is exposed to an angelic presence at the very least and more likely the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ himself!
- 3 Reading the description of this angel or in front of Daniel produces a similarity with accounts that specifically refer to Jesus Christ. In Revelation 1 the apostle John has a vision of Christ that has very similar components and elements to this vision that Daniel shares.
- 4 Many people have a problem with the fact that Jesus would have then been deterred or held back for 21 days by a demonic presence or prince.

There seems to be that use of the word prince to describe these spiritual forces or principalities.

- 5 If this is the case that Daniel is meeting the pre-incarnate Christ and that there should be no problem with Christ being held up by these evil principalities because he is most likely fighting a spiritual battle with Satan himself.
- 6 Princes are mentioned, the Prince of Persia and the Prince of Greece specifically. These princes may be the spiritual powers that are representing these nations and empires spiritually.
- 7 Michael the Archangel is also mentioned as one who is on the side of the pre-incarnate Christ. There are very few angels mentioned in Scripture. The names may have more to deal with their departments or functional objectives. For instance, the name Michael means “who is like God?” And is a great name for one of God’s warriors.
- 8 No matter what the case here Daniel clearly has trouble standing in the presence of this man. The power of God is evident that in his presence Daniel must be given strength even to speak with Christ.
- 9 It is important to know that we should come to God humbly in every occasion and not think that we can stand equal with him on any occasion. We must know that God is powerful and great. If we do not come before him doing this we will learn it firsthand.

II. God strengthens us to hear from Him (vv. 11 – 21).

A God gives us strength to stand before Him.

- 1 Several times Daniel mentions that he needs strength simply to converse with Christ. At each time that he needs strength Jesus gives him the strength by touching it with his hand.
- 2 The vision that Jesus is going to describe in Daniel 11 cannot be heard if Daniel does not even have the strength to have the conversation with him. But Jesus is graceful and gives them strength.
- 3 We must remember that we rely upon God for all things, especially the strength that we need for everything we do throughout the day. Because the vision is going to be so important to answer Daniel’s questions, Jesus gives them strength. We must remember that Daniel is coming out of 21 days of fasting. He is most likely quite weak already.
- 4 Even without the touch of the man’s hand his very voice and words quicken Daniel to strength and vitality. Christ is then able to explain the situation in the spiritual realm.

- 5 It appears that Christ has been delayed from providing the answer to Daniel's questions and prayers and fasting because of the intervention of what he calls the Prince of Persia.
- 6 This Prince is most likely a principality or Satan himself. We must remember that Christ was not defeated but rather delayed. Some people even have problems with that kind of strength.
- 7 They asked the question, "how is it that the infinitely powerful Christ could have been delayed by a dark, evil angel?" The fact of the matter is that there is spiritual warfare in the spiritual realms. For some reason God has allowed with limited power the enemy to prosper for a time being.
- 8 But it will not always be this way. As much as God in his wisdom has allowed the spiritual battles to go on, he wins them all and wins in the end. He has plans that cannot be destroyed, manipulated or changed by the enemy.
- 9 We are given insight into these spiritual battles because God gave strength to Daniel to hear about them. Christ is ready to answer his questions and foretell the future of the Israelite people.

B God reveals heavenly truth to us.

- 1 Daniel continues to ask for strength during the vision because of the overwhelming power of God and his ability to proclaim the future before it happens.
- 2 Jesus in verse 20 prophetically tells Daniel what he has already seen in past visions that Greece will be the next Empire after Persia. We know from history that this was spot on prophecy.
- 3 And we should expect nothing less from the King of history and the universe. God calls the shots when he prophesies the future. It is nothing to him who knows all things. His foreknowledge of what is about to happen is part of the reason he is God.
- 4 Not only does he tell Daniel about the future and about the war that is coming in the sufferings of the nation of Israel in this vision as we will see, but he also pulls back the curtains on the spiritual realm itself in the warfare that goes on in that realm.
- 5 It gives us an understanding that may help us in our daily lives and in our prayers themselves. When our prayers seem to have delay or timing issues we may be able to understand in the spiritual realm what must happen to make those prayers answered reality.
- 6 While Daniel is finally getting some answers and prophecy to explain what is happening to Israel and what will happen in the future, he is also getting a front seat into spiritual warfare.

- 7 Daniel learns details about Michael the angel that fights for God and about Jesus and his fight with Satan. These spiritual battles have in their purview nations and empires as well as human beings in the physical realm.
- 8 Such visions by Daniel and others throughout the word of God teach us to not take lightly the spiritual realities in the spiritual realm around us. Although we are primarily attached to the physical world and feel more comfortable in it, there is a spiritual component to our makeup and we are curious also about spiritual things.
- 9 I believe God lets us in on these spiritual warfare happenings so that we can understand what goes on that we are curious about but cannot see. It also helps us to realize that there's so much more to reality than what we can see and feel. We must factor in spiritual realities and your faith and life and actions.

Conclusion

Our fascination with spirituality in the spiritual realm as well as spiritual evil and spiritual good is rarely obliged. Our imaginations often run wild with speculation and pure conjecture. But there are times that we are given a true look into the spiritual realm and spiritual warfare. Every once in a while the Bible gives us more teaching on spiritual forces and principalities. We should know that they are all around us and that we are usually the object of their fights. It is important for us to think about these things but to not put overly enthusiastic imaginations into them. Simply being aware and trusting that God is always the victor is helpful for us in our prayers and as we seek the Lord's will until he returns.