

A Spiritual Battle Daniel 10

Daniel's eyes are opened to a spiritual reality that most people in their day-to-day life are immune from seeing. He is visited by a supernatural being who talks about massive cosmic battle raging in the spiritual realm amongst the angels and demonic forces who influence the earthly human realm.

Daniel 10

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks.

3 I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.

4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris)

5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.

6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.

7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves.

8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength.

9 Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.

10 And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

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."

15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute.

16 And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength.

17 How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me."

18 Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me.

19 And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come.

21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

The story spoken by the supernatural man reminds the reader of a story in the life of an earlier prophet named Elisha. Elisha had a bounty put on his head by the King of Syria because Elisha's visions were helping the King of Israel to thwart the King of Syria. When the King of Syria's forces came to take Elisha, Elisha's servants were understandably startled. But Elisha saw a spiritual real that gave him confidence that he would be saved.

2 Kings 6:14-17

14 So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So 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.

While many Christians spend vast amounts of time and energy trying to figure out the intricacies of the angelic realm, others totally ignore it. These extremes are both wrong. Daniel, Elisha, and the other prophets were well aware that there were spiritual battles taking place that influenced the events of life in the human, but even these men did not seem to understand everything about how these forces operated. All they knew was that God would ultimately prevail, and that they needed to spend their time seeking HIS face.

Austin's sermon on Daniel 10 focuses on how these spiritual battles accentuate the truth of the Gospel of Jesus. After all, if God used his angels to battle on behalf of the good of His people in Old Testament, how much more will his own Son prevail in securing the salvation of the Church?

We should gain confidence in our salvation as we read stories of God working in the supernatural realm.

Discussion Questions

- **How does Daniel 10 give you a greater understanding of the workings of angels?**
- **Have you ever become aware of a spiritual battle taking place that affected your life, but which you could not see?**
- **What was the outcome of that spiritual battle?**
- **Which 4 Gospel truths does Austin say that the angel accentuated in his message to Daniel?**
- **Is there a Gospel truth that most speaks to you in Daniel 10?**
- **How can discussion of spiritual warfare sometimes be distracting from what God is actually doing in our lives?**
- **How can a proper understanding of spiritual warfare build our faith?**
- **What might you change about your daily or weekly life in light of Daniel 10?**