

CONCERNING THE WAY

February 17, 2009

LESSON 48: PROPHECY SERIES — THE BOOK OF DANIEL



Chapter 10 - 536 BC

As we come to Daniel 10 we come to the last part of the book of Daniel, because Daniel 10, 11 and 12 all form one unit together. And this entire unit is the climax of the book. Now the way the book is normally taught in prophetic conferences you would think the climax of the book was the last three verses of Daniel 9, but that's not so; the climax of the book is Daniel 10, 11 and 12. Why? Because here for the first time in the history of man you have the human race clued in to the plot of history, the satanic details. This is an intelligence report, direct from God to the human race on why He is taking so long to end history. This is the answer, the answer that is even looked for in the Christian era—why does Jesus Christ not come again and end the whole thing? Why does this thing drag on and on and on? Why doesn't God give relief to the Christians that are being tortured in the pagan lands around the world? Why so long? Daniel 10-12 is the answer. This is the intelligence report direct from God as to why He is postponing the end of history, so it's obviously quite central in any philosophy of history and quite central in your daily life.

Daniel 10:1-3 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. (2) In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. (3) I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed.

Daniel is in his mid-eighties. This is going to be a sweeping prophetic vision of Israel's future history. Never think that you are too old to be used by the Lord, Daniel is a good example. John wrote Revelation when he was about 90.

Cyrus by this point has issued the decree (Ezra 1:1-4) allowing the Jews to return to their homeland. Daniel lived to see about 50,000 Jews return to their homeland, the end of the prophesied 70 years of captivity. These Israelites by this time have already begun to lay the foundation for the new temple in Jerusalem. Daniel stayed behind, however, possibly because the journey would have been too difficult at his age. Or, it could be that it was God's will that Daniel stay behind, because He still had important duties to perform.

Daniel restricted himself to bread and water for three weeks, being in mourning, and the text doesn't really say why. We can only speculate, but it could have been that Daniel was praying and fasting for the exiles that had returned home and begun work clearing the rubble and laying the foundation for the new temple, only to encounter stiff opposition from the non-Jews living in the land. Ezra 4:1-5, 19-24

Ezra 4:1-5 Now when the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the people of the exile were building a temple to the LORD God of Israel, (2) they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we, like you, seek your God; and we have been sacrificing to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here." (3) But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of fathers' households of Israel said to them, "You have nothing in common with us in building a house to our God; but we ourselves will together build to the LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia has

commanded us." (4) Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and frightened them from building, (5) and hired counselors against them to frustrate their counsel all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Ezra 4:19-24 "A decree has been issued by me, and a search has been made and it has been discovered that that city has risen up against the kings in past days, that rebellion and revolt have been perpetrated in it, (20) that mighty kings have ruled over Jerusalem, governing all the provinces beyond the River, and that tribute, custom and toll were paid to them. (21) "So, now issue a decree to make these men stop work, that this city may not be rebuilt until a decree is issued by me. (22) "Beware of being negligent in carrying out this matter; why should damage increase to the detriment of the kings?" (23) Then as soon as the copy of King Artaxerxes' document was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their colleagues, they went in haste to Jerusalem to the Jews and stopped them by force of arms. (24) Then work on the house of God in Jerusalem ceased, and it was stopped until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

So what has happened by the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia? The entire restoration movement has been stalled by legal proceedings. And this has frustrated Daniel and now we can understand why he mourns for three weeks in prayer; he says now God, You said it was going to be 70 years until the restoration, and You told me that we were going to have a long time of struggle, but God, do You really mean that we can't even get the building off the ground?

Why is it when we go to do something that You order us to do that we have all these obstacles? So obviously Daniel faces a position that we face in our Christian sanctification. Isn't this the same kind of thing? Why is it when we set out to do the work of God, that the opposition begins? We seek to be obedient and it seems like the more we are obedient the more we're opposed. Why is that? That's the question God is going to answer in this chapter. You're going to see the angelic conflict is taught in chapter 10. The entire unseen forces of history that operate behind the scenes, the great struggle, this is God's answer to why history goes on and on and on.

Back in Daniel 9, when it was purely a matter of information, God responded quickly to the prayer petition; within minutes. His petition there was for information; God gave Him information. Now here he starts to petition for information but in a different context and God doesn't answer. The angel is going to explain later on why it comes this way, but we can learn a valuable lesson about prayer and that is it's not what the answer is but how God answers your prayer that is also what He's trying to teach you.

Now that fits the answer to the prayer, because the answer is that history is going to be delayed, there's going to be a great struggle in history, Daniel, before your final answer comes. So God says now Daniel, I'm going to put you through the wringer just a little bit here to give you a feeling for all history. In answer to this one prayer petition I'm going to hold up the answer and I'm going to let it come to you with great struggle, for three full weeks I'm going to make you struggle with it, then I'm going to give you the answer. Then when you've gone through the struggle with it, you'll appreciate the answer more, you'll see what I'm trying to communicate to you. So it's not just the "what" of answered prayer but the "how".

Daniel 10:4-9 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, (5) I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. (6) His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult. (7) Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while

the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. (8) So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. (9) But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

We're not completely sure who this being is that appears to Daniel, opinion is pretty much divided down the middle. Some say it is an angel, other say this is Jesus Christ who arrives here, because they compare it to the description of Jesus in Revelation 1:13-16. It also is a description unlike other descriptions of angels we've encountered before in Daniel.

Revelation 1:13-16 and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. (14) His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. (15) His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. (16) In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

You can see the obvious parallels in these two passages. It's very likely that this was the preincarnate Jesus. There's something else about this Theophany that's parallel to Revelation 1 that we ought to think about. Why did Jesus Christ appear to John on the island of Patmos? Well, many reasons but at least one of the reasons was to close off revelation and to give John the assurance that while the canon of Scripture was closed, God had His loved ones on His mind. And so in the last dramatic revelation of the New Testament era, John saw Christ face to face and then a group of angels gave John a read out on future history. Jesus Christ, before He shut the great doors of heaven and cut off direct revelation, personally appeared to a believer who was a leader to assure him that though the doors of heaven would be shut, and though God would speak no longer in a miraculous way, all of history was under his control.

Now why would Jesus Christ appear to Daniel? Isn't it for the same reason? This is one of the last encounters in the Old Testament chronologically speaking, one of the last visionary experiences of the text. Shortly the doors of heaven will close. For four hundred years God will not speak again to Israel; for four hundred years believers must live with a silent heaven, with no direct revelation and for four hundred years believers are going to have to learn to trust the Word, without the fireworks, without any prophets, without the additional revelation to help them out of this problem. But before heaven is locked Christ wants to assure believers, here is My plan, it's all under My control, you trust Me, here's what I can tell you about what's coming. So both in the Old Testament and New Testament, before historical revelation terminates Christ shows up.

Now this explains something else. The most remarkable thing about this was that Daniel heard and saw and understood the vision. In Daniel 7:28 he didn't understand what he had heard and seen. He didn't know quite what's gone on. Daniel 8:27, how does that vision end? "Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days. Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it." Now we come to Daniel 10:1, "he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision" That doesn't mean Daniel understood every little detail of history, but it suddenly clicked, all the revelations fell into place when Christ Himself appeared; He was the key to the whole thing. He's the author of the whole thing. And so as we go on in this passage keep this in mind, what a magnificent thing we're having here.

Daniel is about to receive the answer to his questions, and he starts with a principle, Proverbs 1:7. Proverbs is also a book of wisdom and all wisdom begins with a starting point.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.

The starting point for all knowledge, academic or non-academic is a trust in God. **All knowledge, all answers, all problems which are solved start at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, the author of all history, the author of our personal history.** Daniel, then, begins on his hands and on his knees at the feet of Jesus Christ, and when he gets to that spot, isn't it interesting, then he says he understands. Not until then.

The men with Daniel are terrified, again the typical reaction when heavenly beings appear to fallen men. Even though they couldn't see anything, they could sense something supernatural happening. Why is there fear? Because they're standing in the presence of holiness, and man in his sinful state cannot stand being in the presence of holy beings, and these holy beings have the right to execute judgment. People who pray to have visions like this need to pay attention to what happens to these great men like Daniel and John. It is not a pleasant experience. The apostle Paul had a similar experience while traveling on the road to Damascus, in which he saw Jesus, but none of those with him saw anything.

The Lord Jesus Christ is going to give Daniel a tremendous amount of information but He's going to do it through an intermediate agency as in all apocalyptic literature. If you noticed in verse 6, when he looked upon the Lord Jesus Christ, he heard a voice, "the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult." He couldn't make it out; he couldn't hear what the words were. Now he's going to have all the words explained to him by what I'll call an audiovisual angel. In all the apocalyptic visions of Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah and the book of Revelation you have these audiovisual angels; they run the video and teach the people what's going on.

Daniel 10:10 Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

Now we have what appears to be an angel prepare him for some instruction. He's on the ground, with his face toward the ground because he fainted physically from the awesomeness of the Theophany of Jesus Christ. And having fainted he is not in a position to learn much. The angel here just grabbed him, and actually the word "touch" here means to hit, it's the word to slug somebody.

Angels seem to have a great deal of joy in smacking human beings because we see this in at least two other places. Gabriel, in Daniel 8:18 when he came, he smacked him. And then Peter's in the jail in Acts 12:7 and the angel comes in and it says "he struck Peter's side," it means he punched him right in the rib cage to wake him up. So the angels probably have a good time about this and they're very strong beings so it's a pretty healthy blow, and this blow was so strong that it knocked Daniel up off the ground, set him on his hands and knees. In other words, he hit Daniel so hard that Daniel literally couldn't get up to his feet. He was kind of half knocked out wobbling around on his hands and knees.

Daniel 10:11 He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

In the Hebrew it's "a man of treasures" or "treasuries." Why is Daniel called the man of treasures? Because from God's divine viewpoint He's looking down at Daniel's soul and he sees the soul of a mature believer; he sees that there is positive volition to the Word of God. He doesn't look down and see Daniel's high IQ or his low IQ, or his education or lack of it. He sees something else; the enlightening ministry of the

Holy Spirit in Daniel's soul. He sees that Daniel, constantly over seventy years is a believer taking in the Word, learning, learning, learning. Another treasury that God sees in Daniel's soul is that He sees the fact that this man has begun to understand, he has begun to pull the whole thing together. Daniel prays over his major decisions, he asks for the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit to enlighten his mind to doctrinal principles that can be applied on the job, off the job, in society, by himself, wherever he is. God looks down at Daniel and He sees Daniel having a tremendous capacity for love because Daniel has taken in the Word of God and therefore has the capacity to love God, people, and his neighbor.

So this angel says now Daniel, I want to report to you. This is not the Lord Jesus Christ, by the way, the vision of Christ fades out in verse 9 and in verse 10, the hand is one of these lesser angels that comes to him, and the lesser angel now explains what Daniel has seen before. When he saw Christ he couldn't hear the words, now the angel is going to play it back and tell him. God is attentive to you, Daniel, even though He hasn't answered your petition, God is well aware of your trials. So the second thing the angel does before he begins to teach is he encourages.

Daniel 10:12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.

So the angel says now Daniel, I know what you're thinking; you made a petition back here some twenty-one days ago. You think that because you haven't had an answer to this prayer, because the answer to that prayer has been long delayed that God hasn't paid attention, that God is inattentive.

And that's our tendency. The whole idea behind this passage is don't reason backwards, from delayed prayer petitions to God's inattentiveness. He's saying God was attentive, your prayer broke through the moment you opened your mouth twenty-one days ago; your words were heard and, like in Daniel 8, I was sent at that moment, so God instantly set in motion the means of fulfilling this prayer petition.

Now beginning at verse 13 we have one of the most difficult doctrines in Scripture, but a doctrine that has been revealed here and is necessary for us to understand. This doctrine will give some of you a hard time because you are so ingrained in your human viewpoint idea of history, your idea of man, and your idea of social forces. You have, although you won't admit it, basically a materialist view of society, in which you argue that all things that you observe around you, various movements and so on, can be explained totally in terms of material, social factors. The explanation you're about to get should blow your mind because God is going to totally challenge that entire human viewpoint concept.

Daniel 10:13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

Daniel had been praying for 21 days, and the angel tells Daniel he has been delayed for 21 days by the prince of Persia. Daniel's prayer was heard on the first day, but the answer was delayed. Who is the prince of Persia? Well, some would like to think he's just fictional or allegorical, but a normal reading of the text does not allow this. It can't be a human leader, because no man could withstand an angel. This has to be another angel, and it must be a fallen one, since it is opposing a messenger from God.

It is the fallen angelic being in charge of Persia. Gentile kingdoms apparently have a fallen angel hierarchy governing them, they are really the ones in charge behind the scenes. This is why the political powers of these kingdoms are so wicked. Have you ever wondered why sometimes political figures in government act so irrationally? They do things that make no sense at all! They may have evil entities influencing their

minds. This may be one reason, and it may be why we're instructed to pray for them.

So there was a cosmic battle in the heavenlies that went on for three weeks! Finally Michael was sent from heaven to help. This gives support for the identity of the prince of Persia being an elite fallen angel. What else would need two angels sent from God to overpower it? The presence of evil angels in different hierarchies and ranks is well supported in the Bible (Ephesians 6:10-18, Romans 8:38, 1 Peter 3:22).

This is one of those chapters that give us a peek into the heavenly realm, a look at spiritual warfare. Other chapters that do this are Job 1 & 2, Revelation 12, Ephesians 6. As Christians we are involved in this spiritual conflict (Ephesians 6:12). ***If you've ever wondered why your prayers aren't answered right away, it may be because there is a spiritual conflict taking place.*** But the most exciting message here is that ***our prayers actually have an impact on another dimension of reality – the angelic realm.*** As we have studied before, the reality is that what goes on in this world is not just visible human activity, but includes powerful, angelic forces. There are forces which promote God's agenda in the world and forces which resist it.

And somehow the fallen angels were aware of the importance of the message God was sending Daniel, a message that foretold the eventual coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom, which will one day eliminate all the forces of evil in this world. It's no wonder Satan sent one of his strongest to try to stop God's messenger.

It is an angel who's a commander of all the fallen angels over this kingdom. His job is to prevent answers to prayer; his job is to keep these people in the Medo-Persian Empire in darkness, to frustrate every attempt to comfort believers. His entire network is to knock out believers, to keep them out of fellowship, keep them from growing and he'll use all sorts of subterfuge to do it.

And the angel that is coming in to Daniel; within minutes he got to the edge of the Persian Empire from the throne room of God. At that point he began a tremendous war, and he eventually had to call for reinforcements; he had to send for Michael, for reasons which we'll see in a moment. The Bible is consistent within itself. Angelic conflict delayed the prayer because the fallen angels did not want Daniel to get the kind of information he was about to get. You see, Satan has a whole scheme that he's going to turn the Medo-Persian Empire loose and move off to the west. And certain things are going to happen between the king of Persia and the kings of Greece. And as a result of the interaction between the Persians and the Greeks you're going to have tremendous developments culminating in Antiochus Epiphanes, the man who is the forerunner of antichrist.

This is a whole satanic plot and the angels that are in charge of the Medo-Persian Empire don't want the whistle blown on their little game. They don't want the believers to see the big picture in the game plan. So let's talk about the angelic conflict and certain passages that have to do with this.

First, the doctrine of evil. We've got to start with the doctrine of evil, because it is the basis for the doctrine of the angelic conflict. The doctrine of evil says this: evil did not begin with creation but by the fall. Evil was NOT created by God. If you do not hold to this your only alternative is to argue that evil is inherent to existence; it'd be like the Hindu's in India. Or you can ignore it like Christian Science does, but apart from those solutions the only solution that is truly viable is the Christian one, and that is evil began, not by God's creation but by man's moral responsibility. Man chose to fall, so that's the start of it.

But behind this is the angelic conflict. So turn to Ezekiel 28:11, this is the classic passage on the fall of Satan. We want to study what's going on in this unseen realm.

Ezekiel 28:11-19 Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, (12) "Son of man, take

up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (13) "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. (14) "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. (15) "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. (16) "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. (17) "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. (18) "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you. (19) "All who know you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become terrified And you will cease to be forever.'"

The "king of Tyre" was a literal king of a real place, the kingdom of Tyre, north of Israel in present day Lebanon. He was a literal person just like King David was a literal person, but King David pictured the Lord Jesus Christ and the king of Tyre pictures Satan. Certain things are said about this king that don't fit the earthly king, like certain things are said about David that don't fit David. Why? Because both men are types of a greater figure. Notice that Satan is the most wise creation of God.

When God speaks to/about Satan in the Bible he sometimes speaks to him indirectly, through a man or even an animal (Genesis 3:14,15, Isaiah 14:12-20, Matthew 16:23) Here God is speaking about Satan through the man he is apparently indwelling, the king of Tyre.

Satan is not some character with horns that runs around with a pitchfork. Satan is always pictured in Scripture as brilliant, absolutely brilliant, from his first appearance in Genesis 3 to this appearance here, "full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." Satan is absolutely evil, and he is the quintessence of rejection and rebellion. But in himself he has what appears to us as wisdom, as beauty, as things are good. So there's relative good in Satan, and relative good in all of Satan's promotions. You cannot spot satanically oriented means, people, movements or organizations on the basis of the absence of good or presence of good; Satan can put forward good.

Now what is verse 13 talking about? The breastplate of the high priest. This appears to suggest some priestly role that Satan originally had. We don't know what but these valuable stones and the way they're handled here suggests that Satan had some sort of priestly role originally. So this is the fall of Satan, when Satan rebelled against his tremendous position that he had before God. Now turn to Isaiah 14:12, the other central passage on the fall of Satan.

Isaiah 14:12-17 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! (13) "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. (14) 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' (15) "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. (16) "Those

who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, (17) Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?'

Why go over these passages? The reason is that these passages show what is most satanic about us. For example, notice in all of these illustrations, both in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 you have the essence of sin itself. Ask yourself, what is the most satanic type attitude? And you'll see very quickly that what the world calls evil is not what the Bible calls evil. Evil basically goes back to this rebellious autonomous attitude, it could also be called pride, and it couldn't be expressed better than in Isaiah 14:13-14. These are the five "I wills" of Satan. Here is the essence of evil. "I will be like the Most High." I will assume to myself the divine prerogative; I am but a creature but I will act like the Creator, I will become like God. That is evil.

This is the fall of Satan, the beginning, but only the beginning of a long battle. We want to go through some verses that deal with sections of that battle. We can't study the whole doctrine but I want to acquaint you with the fall of Satan and what has happened in the background. We sit here and yet the Bible would testify that flowing within this room, right at the moment, are both good and evil angels, that there are forces competing for your attention right at the very moment, and to the degree that you are mature, to that degree you respond to the Word. To the degree that you're kind of spiritually lethargic, to that degree you can be a sucker for these kinds of influences that are literally in the air around us. I'll try to arrange them so we can just go on through the Bible starting here without flip-flopping back and forth.

1 Kings 22:19-23 Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left. (20) "The LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that. (21) "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.' (22) "The LORD said to him, 'How?' And he said, 'I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You are to entice him and also prevail. Go and do so.' (23) "Now therefore, behold, the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; and the LORD has proclaimed disaster against you."

1 Kings 22:19 is a verse we have read a couple of times before. This shows us that there is an angelic council that runs the universe at this time. This angelic council still functions and has both good and evil angels in the council, kind of like a United Nations organization. God the Father presides, yet there is evil in the council. This is a meeting, one of the rare glimpses in the history of man that man saw the meeting of the divine council. So in this council on the right hand, presumably, are the elect angels; on the left hand the fallen ones.

Now if this doesn't twist your mind about how history goes I don't know what will. But this passage is arguing, as well as many other passages, that what makes history, these events that happen around us are actually results of this spiritual interference that's going on constantly in society. A ruler of a nation is going to make a very bad decision, and do you know who's behind it? Angelic powers! An army is going to lose a battle and do you know who's in back of it? Angelic powers!

Is this God as evil? No, God is using evil means to punish wicked men, turning evil back upon themselves that they may reap the results of their own rebellion. Ahab was a liar from the word go, and so how ironic that he's misled by a lying spirit. God, then, has this tremendous angelic force in operation.

Job 1:6-8 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. (7) The LORD said to Satan, "From where

do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." (8) The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

See, Satan still occupies a seat in the divine council. He's not going to be thrown out until the tribulation after the Church is caught up. Some theologians think, and it's a matter of discussion, that the whole purpose of the body of Christ is to replace the evil ones on the left side of the Lord in the angelic council that runs the universe. Where is Satan, he's not in hell, he's walking to and fro on the earth. He brings up the matter of a believer and you know the story. My point is just see the angelic council, see its interference in history.

You saw it in 1 Kings 22, interference in the life of a nation; you see it in Job 1, interference in the life of an individual, and there's more testimony to this. Turn to Isaiah 24, God talking about the nations on the face of the earth, talking about the ultimate judgment that will come before world peace can be brought about, these forces must be dealt with. Do you see now why we're premillennialist; do you see why we argue that the one thousand years of perfect peace cannot come to pass until the unseen forces are dealt with. You can't just get world peace by dealing with man; you've got to also deal with the angelic powers behind man and no UN is qualified to deal with the unseen powers behind man.

Isaiah 24:21 So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth.

Two spheres of judgment, the angelic powers that interfere with history and men upon the face of the earth. So there are two parts to world history, not just one part, not just the human role but also the angelic role.

Revelation 12:3-4 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. (4) And his tail *swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

This tells us what a vast horde Satan has. The Apostle John, in a way very similar to Daniel, gets a vision, and it's a vision of that moment in history when Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary, and in this vision John the Apostle is going to be told what no shepherd in the field saw that Christmas, what no wise man from the East saw. What is that story a picture of? That Satan has access to one-third of the stars of heaven, which is another synonym in Scripture for angels. And from that passage we deduce that Satan has at least one third of the angelic kingdom on side. One out of every three angels is a fallen angel and one of Satan's messengers. So when you say to somebody, oh isn't he just an angel, you'd better be careful which kind.

Now back to Daniel and tie this together; we'll look at Daniel and then one New Testament verse to apply it. Daniel 10:5, when Christ first appears to Daniel in this vision, "I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen." The linen is a priestly garment and here is a mind-blowing point about how Christ appears in this vision. Jesus Christ appears as the great priest, the priest-king. What is the role of the priest? We know the role of a prophet; the role of a prophet is to bring God's Word down to men, but what is the role of a priest? To bring men to God. So therefore Christ in His priestly role does what? Brings men to God. What is the subject of Daniel 10? History. Can you put it together and figure out what Jesus Christ is trying to say by the way he appears to Daniel? He is saying I am the priest who is working through every realm of history to bring men back to God. That is the divine viewpoint of all history;

history is His story, Jesus Christ is the great king-priest who is working every event together for good, bringing men back to God, replacing Satan in his priestly role. Jesus Christ knocks Satan out and takes over.

Now do you see why in verse 13, “the prince of the kingdom of Persia,” the fallen angel, didn’t want to get this information to believers? Why, if believers got hold of this information they’d realize that God can’t answer right away, that there has to be delays because God is not just working with men, He’s working with the angels too. And so if there’s a delayed prayer petition it’s not God’s inattention to you; it’s the fact that to get the answer to your prayer He may have to go through 8,900 other things before he gets down to that point. There is a rational and loving reason why God’s prayer answers do not come fast, because of all this delay. Here it was three weeks.

Now if Jesus Christ is the priest, and His role in history is to bring men to God; Satan defected from his role, and now takes men away from God, where do we stand in the whole thing? What is our response to this revelation that Jesus Christ is the great king-priest of all history and the fact that we are locked into a deadly, deadly battle? We are locked in a fierce combat that requires the same kind of soul that Daniel had; thou art “a man of treasure.” How do we get that? Romans 12:1, that’s our response. Still in the darkness, still with delayed prayer answers, but now we can love God because we understand well, yes God, I see now there’s more to history than I ever thought before; I was blind before, now I understand that there has to be delays in this because You’ve got other purposes to work out. It’s not just me, it’s the whole of all creation and all of history.

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

This is the way we take part in the angelic conflict. You can be a victim of the conflict, be a casualty, be knocked out, fall apart and be so thick spiritually that you don’t even know why, or you can take a passage like this and go home and say yeah, I see there are a lot more factors operating than I ever dreamed of.

Michael, one of the chief princes...the phrase “chief prince” in Daniel 10:13 refers to the chief or “arch,” “the archangel.” Now this should really shock a lot of people who have been brought up to think of history as just a naturalistic thing. What verse 13 is saying is that the archangel had resistance, had to crash through a barrier of resistance that was angelic in nature that assembled around the old Medo-Persian Empire. This angel could not come into the air space, so to speak, around Medo-Persia without penetrating this demonic shield.

Let’s summarize the angelic conflict in five points.

1. The first point is that angels were created in Genesis 1 along with physical creation and they are considered in the Bible as being part of nature. Angels were created with nature in Genesis 1 and are considered to be part of nature throughout the Bible. Verses/references: Job 38:4-7, Psalm 104:4; Psalm 148:2.
2. Since man was to subdue nature, therefore man was also destined to subdue angels. Genesis 1:28-30; Psalm 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3.
3. Satan sought to be his own king over creation in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19.
4. Satan tempted man to keep him from being ruler over nature; Satan tempted man to keep him from becoming the ruler over all nature. Genesis 3:1-5.
5. God’s response to this whole thing was the plan of salvation directed toward man, under the Second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, who would successfully subdue all nature. Jesus Christ was to subdue all nature, including Satan and his angels, so Jesus Christ becomes the head of the human race.

Through Jesus Christ the mandate of Genesis 1 is now carried out against Satan and against the resistance and rebellious kingdom he has. Genesis 3:15-19, Romans 5:12-21, 1 Corinthians 15:10-28; Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 2:15, Revelation 5:9-10. These verses if you study them go along and develop the angelic conflict.

Now the application of the angelic conflict to this passage: we understand there is this background of war. All human conflict and war is but a physical reflection of something unseen in the background, violence and war and strife in the invisible realm. Satan's overall strategy remains the same from age to age, and that is to prevent man from reaching his God-given destiny. Satan desperately wants to short-circuit man from ever attaining his position in the universe as ruler, under God of course. So Satan's long-term strategy is to delay, to frustrate, to cause men to misunderstand the plan of God, to do everything he can to confuse you to keep you from your destiny.

But, although Satan's strategy is the same, his tactics vary from age to age. In the dispensation of Israel, which lasted from the Exodus to Pentecost, Satan's tactic was to physically destroy Israel so Messiah could not be born. He knew that Messiah had to be physically born of a Jew, and Satan didn't know which Jew, he knew some of the lineage but that's all. He could never know which Jewish family would ultimately be the right family God would use to bring His Messiah into existence. And so Satan tried tactics of destruction against Israel; and anti-Semitism in ancient history was always to destroy the Jew. Anti-Semitism and the destruction of the Jew figure in this passage of Daniel, this is what it's all about.

So the Persian kingdom apparently has some demonic control over it. If we were to scope this out on an organization chart we would have demon X, he's not named, and under him he has lesser demons, and under them they have lesser demons and so on, and down further you have the Medo-Persian Empire with thousands and thousands of people, and you have a demonic organization that is at work, trying to take over this kingdom.

This message that comes is going to, through Daniel, be distributed to the believers of his day. Those believers see that doctrine and they begin to believe, they begin to respond to the Word of God, and they have long-range faith, which is hope, and that is what Satan doesn't want believers to have. He doesn't want them to have hope; Satan wants the Jewish believers to give up; he wants to discourage, he wants to frustrate because his tactic is if you can defeat someone in their mind, you can defeat them in their body. Defeat a person's mental attitude and you will always defeat the person.

So the angel goes on to describe that Michael came to help. We don't exactly know how Michael helps him; we have a hint later in the passage, and this gets back to what you can do as a believer to promote victory in the angelic conflict.

Daniel 10:14-15 "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future." (15) When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

There is a shock to Daniel's body, this is the second time we see it. In verse 9 Daniel caved in physically when he saw God the Son in his preincarnate form. And now in verse 15 he caves in again. Let's not be too hard on Daniel, remember Daniel is almost 90 years of age here; he is an old, old man, his body isn't up to this kind of thing and if you look carefully at the symptoms he finds himself unable to hold his body erect, he can't speak, later on he says he can't breathe. If you connect all those physical symptoms they all talk about one thing; whatever this spiritual something is that's going on in this vision, Daniel is having trouble with his central nervous system; it's affecting that part of his body.

Daniel 10:16 And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, "O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength.

Angels seem to be able to appear out of nowhere, we see it throughout the Bible. Demons, however, seem to be different than the angels in that they can't materialize in a body. They seem to always be looking for a body to possess, human preferably, but they'll even possess the body of an animal if they can.

One theory is that demons are not fallen angels at all, but the spirits of dead Nephilim (the offspring of fallen angels and humans who proliferated the earth in Genesis 6 before the flood). Since they don't have souls like humans do, they are doomed to roam the earth looking for a body to inhabit. This may seem very strange, but it actually makes sense in some ways.

This could be the same angel or a different one, we don't know. What did he look like? He just looked like anybody else; he looked like a person. He doesn't go into any details, but he says he reached out and he touched my lips and then I spoke, so whatever it was that was impairing the ability of his mouth to make words was solved by this touch of the angel.

And you'll notice something here, just a side point, and that is that you will find over and over and over in Scripture angels do not minister to you spiritually. Angels minister to you physically; it is the Holy Spirit that administers to people spiritually. When you find angels, what do you find them doing? Do you ever find angels ministering to believers spiritually? No, you find angels providing Elijah with food, you find angels providing Jesus Christ with food, you see angels getting Peter out of physical jail, you always find angels providing physically but never spiritually. And so here, these angels aren't helping Daniel's human spirit, they're just helping his body.

Daniel 10:17-18 "For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me." (18) Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me.

These angels are having a time keeping Daniel going physically. This is one of those remarkable things where it really appeared that these angels were trying to hurry up, as though they're looking for enemy interference. They are in enemy territory, so the angel is trying to hurry up, let's get this message across. And then Daniel faints, and they say get him up, and then he starts talking again and he faints, and then they had to give him first-aid again. There's a rush to the text; you want to catch the rush because later on there's a verse that's going to be said that you won't understand unless you understand this thing is rushed here. It seems like these angels are in a hurry.

Daniel 10:19-20 He said, "O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!" Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, "May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." (20) Then he said, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come.

See, by this time the teacher is asking a question; do you understand me, so we can get on with this thing. I've only got a short time, do you understand so far why I've come to you? So again the speed here. Now this has fantastic implications in history. It can read, the Hebrew is vague here; it can be "I will" or "I must return."

This angel who was fighting has left the battlefield to come to report to Daniel something and he has to hurry up and get the message to Daniel so he can get back to the battlefield, that's the point. He cannot relax his vigil on the battlefield. So there's something that's going to happen here if he doesn't get back to the battlefield; "I must return to fight with the prince of Persia;" this is why he's in a hurry.

And "the prince of Greece is about to come," now what's that mean? In other words, I'm going to fight with the prince of the kingdom of Persia and when I finish fighting that guy, the kingdom of Greece is coming.

The prince of Greece is not Alexander, he is going to be mentioned later in the text, in Daniel 11, but the "prince of Greece" in verse 20 is not Alexander the Great, but he is another demon that headed the entire Hellenization of the ancient world. All of Greece and its expansion under King Alexander was actually superintended in the unseen realm by some sort of an archangel demon. And he controlled that part of Greece, so Greece was under this demonic leadership. So he's warning Daniel about the change from the second kingdom to the third kingdom.

Daniel 10:21 "However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince."

He's saying, though this is God's sovereign decreed will, to get to that point involves a fantastic struggle and only Michael and myself currently are operating in history to carry that decree out. The blueprint is not the plan itself. Just because I have a blueprint doesn't mean I have the house. And this is what the text is arguing, yes, it's all written in God's book, of course it is, and history is surely going to go that way, says the angel, but it's going to be accomplished by a fierce struggle. And we don't know why, but there's no help for this angel apart from Michael.

The angel will give Daniel a vision that will go all the way through chapters 11-12, with a future historical span from 536 BC all the way to the final millennial kingdom, the time period when Israel's covenants will be fulfilled. If Satan worked so hard to prevent this message from getting through to Daniel, this should tell us how important it is, not just to Israel, but to you and me, and should make us sit up and pay careful attention to it.

Daniel 11:1 "In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him."

Verse 1 of chapter 11 actually belongs with chapter 10. The "I" is the angel speaking, and the "him" is Michael. Back in verse 13 we had a mystery, it said that Michael came to help me when I was in trouble. How did Michael help this person? Let's look at it again; twenty-one days went by, three weeks. During these three weeks you have the messenger angel in trouble. How did Michael help him? Michael is identified with Jews. What particular Jew is doing what particular thing for those three weeks? Praying, Daniel is praying. And Michael is helping. Now we can't be dogmatic but the Scripture strongly suggests that the intercessory prayers of believers activate angelic powers in the unseen realms of history and this is why Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 2:

1 Timothy 2:1-2 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

How is the Christian in Satan's world ever going to live a life that is quiet and peaceable? Well, Satan tries to destroy the church; or at least frustrate it, limit it's effectiveness. Where do you frustrate Satan's plots and his plan to destroy Christians? Either intellectually, culturally, physical or otherwise; how do you do

that? How are Christians being destroyed in parts of the world today? Isn't it by government decree?

What stops that kind of thing? Can one lone Christian over here in the United States thousands and thousands of miles away stop a Chinese policeman from arresting a believer? Yes, says the Bible, because this argues that if prayers are made, constant intercessory prayers, this activates the angelic beings in the unseen realm to give. How would that happen? We don't know, perhaps the angel would just put another thought in that policeman's mind at the right time so he'd forget to arrest this person. Or he'd look at the person and just not see him for some reason, walk right past him. All sorts of peculiar things can happen. Or major policy changes can happen at high levels of administration in a country. How are these triggered? By believers marching in the streets? No, by believers praying; it all fits together if you have the divine viewpoint of history.

And you'll notice, then, that in this chapter we've come full circle. We started off with prayer. We saw that what was to come was written in the book of truth; it looks like fatalistic decrees, and yet how are God's decrees carried out? By agonizing prayer in our realm and agonizing battle in the unseen realm on the part of angelic powers.

Chapter 10 questions:

1. What does this chapter teach us about prayer and answers to prayer?
2. What does it teach us about political leaders and their nations?
3. How might it help us in our understanding of spiritual warfare?
4. What do you believe about the activity of angels and demons in the world today? Do you think that there is greater or lesser activity today compared to when Jesus was on the earth? Will there be more in the end times?

