

Karl Buchan - Smith / General

Daniel / Daniel 10:10–11:1

Introduction

The first thing we have to realize is that the Christian life is a warfare, that we are strangers in an alien land, that we are in the enemy's territory. This is a warfare that you and I have to wage.

The Christian Warfare, 20

David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)

CS Lewis stated there are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about devils. One is to disbelieve their existence. The other is to believe and feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors.

Daniel ch 10 prepared Daniel and you the reader for the vision in ch 11.

But it also highlights to you that behind the battles of life, behind this material world, behind the conflict we see is a spiritual realm.

In a sense you introduced to Paul's statement.

Ephesians 6:12 ESV

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

You introduced to the fact that behind this physical realm are real spiritual conflicts taking place that we are often not thinking about.

As believers we are to be aware that there is such a realm, but we should focus our minds on Christ and seek to do what he has called us to do.

Jesus did call you to be:

- a demon hunter
- involved in deliverance ministry.

Jesus called us to make disciples of all nations, to occupy our minds on the things above.

But Had has allowed us to get a glimpse of what is going on in the spiritual arena. Our passage gives us a glimpse, but also reveals to us what God provides to assist his children in spiritual conflict.

Historical Background

Ch10-12 provide the reader with the fourth and final and longest vision God gave Daniel.

It covers the atrocities the Jews experienced under the Greek empire, under the Seleucid period especially under Antiochus IV Ephiaphanes until finally under the hands of the anti Christ.

CH 10 reveals God's assistance to Daniel to prepare him for the vision given in ch 11-12 and what God provides to deal with life, its trials and spiritual conflict.

We finish the 2nd part of this 2 part sermon.

Passage

Dan 10

Proposition

3 ways God assists His people in spiritual conflict

1. His word vs 1-3
2. His Son vs 4-9
3. His angels vs 10-11:13

1. His word vs 1-3

In vs 1-3 we learned that the Jews had returned to Jerusalem, and had Begin the work of rebuilding the temple, but due to hostilities the work had been stopped.

Daniel had heard about this grieved Daniel and created within Daniel the desire to understand what is God doing.

This was time of great distress and essentially a time of spiritual conflict and as he ran to God, God provided his word, that was trustworthy to Daniel.

In Spiritual conflict God assists his people through His **word**.

2.His Son vs 4-9

In Dan 10:4-9 Daniel saw the vision of the Christ that helped him understand that Jesus was still in control.

Despite the trials , despite the setback, despite the delays, see Christ reminded him that

- Behind the vision,
- Behind the message
- Behind the Scriptures was the most powerful, glorious, trustworthy God, Jesus Christ 100% faithful to His own word.

The great I am is always ready to assist His people.

The all powerful God more than able to accomplish His word

He could trust Gods word because this was the word of Jesus.

In Spiritual conflict we need to remember who were serving, **Jesus**, to whom belongs all authority in heaven and earth, Jesus who defeated Satan on the cross, Jesus who defeated death, Jesus who is both your Savior and Lord if you have repented and trusted in Him.

So as believers, in Christ Kingdom, its good to know who is in charge.

We continue to the third way God assists his children in spiritual conflict.

3.His angels vs 10-11:1

| Daniel 10:10–11:1 (ESV)

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

Were introduced to a different figure than the pre-incarnate Christ.

We know its not Christ because vs 13 indicates that this being needed help from another angel.

This may be Gabriel or another angel in league with Michael the arch angel.

Jude 9 tells us Michael is an arch angel.

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.

We notice first a few things about this angel.

- It had been sent by God
- It had traveled from heaven to earth to minister to Daniel
- It has intelligence
- It spoke
- It served God.

Studying the wider Scriptures you learn some truths concerning that angels are:

- wise (2 Sam 14:20)
- speak
- sing and worship Job 38:7, Heb 1:6
- show emotions and express joy Luk 15:10
- fear God Heb 1:6 and praise Him Ps 148:2
- are messengers, ambassadors for God.
 - Delivered the law (Acts 7:38,53)
 - gave God's word (Dan 8:16, Luk 1:19)
 - Announced messages concerning Christ (Luk 1:26-38)
- are ministers and servants of God (Ps 103:20-21)
- bring about judgment (Gen 19:1,12-13)
- exhibit super human strength 2Chron 32:21,
- will be involved in the trumpet judgments Rev 8:6-11:9 and judgment upon the world Rev 16:1-21)
- protected Jesus as an infant (Mt 2:13-15, 19-21)
- minister to believers (Heb 1:14)
- rejoice at a believers salvation (Luk 15:10)
- protect believers (Ps 34:7, 35:5-6,91:11-12, Mt 18:10)
- Involved in the church with regard:
 - the worship Eph 3:10, 1Pet 1:12 as they seek to understand salvation
 - the leadership 1Cor 4:9
 - women 1Cor 11:10

- the purity of pastors (1Tim 5:21)
- will separate the weeds(unbelievers) from the wheat(believers)(Mt 13:27-30)
- will proclaim the gospel to the world in the tribulation period (Rev 14:6-7)
- will serve God's purposes for the nations in general and Israel specifically Dan 10:13,20, 21, 12:1, Rev 7:1-3)
- will be with God and will guard the 12 gates of the new Jerusalem in God's eternal kingdom. Rev 21:12
- are organized in a heavenly hierarchy to do the work of God. One reads of words like powers, rulers, authorities. (Rom 8:38, 1Cor 15:24, Eph 1:21, Col 1:16, 1 Pet 3:22)

The Scripture does not elaborate on the details of these Hierarchies.

Various terms are used to refer to angels.

- Cherubim
- Living creatures
- Seraphim
- Holy Angels

Back to our passage.

Notice How the angel addressed him.

O Daniel, Man greatly beloved = Beloved = hamudot = desirable pleasant, fine valuable, Halot = precious

things, treasure, Niddotte = something costly, precious.

This is similar to the way Gabriel greeted Daniel in

| Daniel 9:23 (ESV)

| ²³ At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, **for you are greatly loved**. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

It means God takes delight in Daniel

Daniel's privileged status is highlighted, the result of Him completely absorbed in doing God's will and seeking to glorify God in all he did.

Even though the Scriptures state God loves the world, certain individuals because of their special relationship with God are objects of unusual love.

- Abraham was called **friend** of God (2Chron 20:7, Is 41:8)
- David was called **man after his own heart** (1Sam 13:14)

- Mary was called one whom found favor with God(Luk 1:28)
- John was called the disciple **whom Jesus loved** (John 13:23)

Gods heart responds especially to those who whole heartedly love and obey him.

An application for you and I

Are you doing everything in your life for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Does your life adorn the doctrines of God

Titus 2:10 ESV

¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Are you living a holy life?

Are you giving God glory in your words?

1 Chronicles 16:24 ESV

²⁴ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

Are you praising God and declaring His greatness?

1 Chronicles 29:11 ESV

¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

Are you glorifying God with your body?

1 Corinthians 6:20 ESV

²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Are you prioritizing God and His church with your time and talents?

Ephesians 5:16 ESV

¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Would God look at you and call you oh man or oh women greatly loved?

We carry on

The angel exhorted Daniel with the command.

Understand.= byn = discern, realize, be discerning, look closely at

Understand the words, the vision he would reveal to him.

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.

The angel went on to encourage Daniel not to be afraid, which the standard way heavenly visitors introduced themselves to God’s people.

Even though Daniel had been mourning and praying for three weeks, his prayers had been heard from the very first day.

The angel then revealed why there had been a delay for the angel to come to Daniel.

13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days,

God has arranged the angelic realm in different ranks referred to rule, authority, power and dominion.

Ephesians 1:21 ESV

²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 6:12 ESV

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Your introduced to a being called **the prince of the kingdom of Persia**

The term prince =sar=Captain, Halot = commander of an army, Niddotte= official, leader, prince, Vines = prince, chief, ruler.

This ruler of the kingdom of Persia is a demonic being(fallen angel), that hindered God’s angel from coming to Daniel.

This is not a territorial spirit, rather a demonic spirit targeting the empire and the human authorities behind that empire, (its a sociopolitical structure)

It was likely aimed at manipulating decisions coming from the Persian court that would affect the whole empire.

This was relevant to Daniel because the Jews were under the authority of the Persians.

If demon could turn the heart of the Persian ruler against Judah, pass laws detrimental to them, would that not thwart God’s program.

That’s why it was appropriate for Michael as guardian of the Jewish people to come

and assist in the battle.

but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me,

Michael the arch angel(Jude 9) is assigned to look after the affairs of the nation of Israel.

| Daniel 10:21 (ESV)

| 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**.

| Daniel 12:1 (ESV)

| ¹ "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince **who has charge of your people**. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

It would appear that Satan imitated God's structure , and assigned a high ranking demon to positions of authority to target the leaders of the Persian empire.

This satanic representative did its work as it opposed God's Holy angel for a period of 21 days.

It was only when Michael the chief angels came to relieve this holy angel , that the angel was able to come to Daniel.

This implies:

that there is some kind of of angelic conflict between God's holy angels and unholy angels in the spiritual realm.

God permits this, yet God limits this according to his purposes and plans.(Job1:12, 2:6)

It reveals:

- something of Satan's power.
- that behind the earthly battles, demonic forces are in conflict with God's angels.

Looking at the wider context of the Scriptures one learns that Demons can:

- indwell humans and animals. (Mark 5:1-16)(man with the unclean spirit, when Jesus sent these unclean spirits into some pigs)
- physically afflict people (Mark 9:17)(spirit made man mute and cast him in the fire)
- terrorizes people (1Sam 16:14 harmful spirit tortured Saul, caused him to rave 1Sam 18:10)
- initiate false worship (1Cor 10:20-21)

- promoted false doctrines (1Tim 4:1)
- deceived prophets(1Kings 22:19-23) We see fascinating interaction when God allowed a lying spirit to deceive the prophets.
- encourage idolatry Dt 32:17
- engineer death (Judges 9:23 , 56-57)
- are in war with holy angels (Dan 10:13,20-21)

But in this passage we learned that they may at times hinder the work of God through spiritual conflict with the holy angels.

We continue, the holy angel said

for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

The Holy angel stated he was left with the kings of Persia.

The plural term kings indicate that the kings of Persia is different to the prince of the kingdom of Persia.

Kings likely refers to Cyrus and his son Cambyses who likely was coregent with his father prior to his accession in 530BC when Cyrus was killed.

The holy angel had been left with the kings of Persian.

He had been opposed by this demonic prince.

Vs 14 explains why the holy angel came to Daniel...the purpose.

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."

He would help him comprehend a vision that was concerning events in the future concerning the nation of Israel.

This vision would give Daniel greater clarity concerning the future of his people and some of it was concerning the climax of history, the return of the Messiah.

Deuteronomy 4:30 ESV

³⁰ When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice.

Isaiah 2:2 ESV

² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,

Daniel's response to the angel was to be speechless and powerless.

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."

When you read Isaiah encounter with Christ, he became aware of his own depravity.

In this encounter with both Christ and the then the angel Daniel becomes aware of his own inability to speak or act.

His own powerless ness.

Addressing the angel as my lord does not indicate deity, but here is used as an address of respect...(sir) understanding this angels superior role.

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

This is the second time the angel touched Daniel. The first was in vs 10.

This touch gave Daniel strength and encouragement to listen to the angel.

19 And he said, "O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you;

The angels greeting was not so much a salutation as it was a phrase indicating you are Safe Daniel. 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."

Daniel is able to speak again , and now indicated his willingness to hear the message.

20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you?"

This question is rhetorical, meaning he is asking it to make a point, not needing an answer.

The angel then informed Daniel.

But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come.

He was informing Daniel that he would return to continue the spiritual warfare.

Satan's agenda was to continue assaulting the Persian courts seeking to influence the earthly rulers in ways hostile to God's plans and people.

We see an example of this when Haman's influenced the king Ahasuerus (Xerxes) to have the Jews exterminated in the book of Ester.

The angel also informed Daniel that once the Greeks would overthrow the Persians, Satan would appoint another demonic angel (the prince of Greece) to influence the new political empire.

You and I should realize that the conflicts happening on the world arena even now, have demonic forces behind the scenes seeking to influence country leaders to attack Israel.

When you see the murderous intent of the radical Muslims, like Hamas, Hezbollah, the Huti's and you see how the world countries rally in opposition to Israel, its not hard to put two and two together.

The angel continued.

²¹ But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth:

The angel referred to what was inscribed in the book of truth.

This would be the message that he was sent to give to Daniel in response to Daniels prayers.

What is this book of truth.

God controls History and God controls the future

God has a full written plan detailing the whole history of the world.

The Angel was about to reveal the specifics concerning the course of the history of the Hebrew people before it would happen.

The angels focus then shifted again to the spiritual battle that he was involved in.

there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

In the 2nd part of the verse the angel affirmed that no one strongly supported him except Michael.

The grammar indicates that your is plural, indicating that Michael is not Daniels personal protective angel, but rather that of Daniel and his people, the Jews.

This may have encouraged Daniel , knowing that even though the enemies of Daniel and his people had demonic powers, they too had supernatural protectors, namely Michael.

¹ “And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.

Scholars point out that this section should actually finish only in Dan 11:1.

The Hebrew reads

And I in the year first of Darius the Mede to stand to support and to protect for him

The I refers to the angel who had spoken with Daniel.

He arose to strengthen and protect Michael.

The antecedent to him is Michael as that was the subject in the previous sentence.

The implication was that these two angels had arisen to mutually help and strengthen one another.

They were fellow soldiers in God’s angelic army, supporting one another against the enemies of God and His people.

And so here we see a whole chapter dedicate dto preparing Daniel for this vision in ch 11.

Your reminded of human weakness, and Divine enablement.

God provided :

- His Word
- His Son
- And even His angels to assist Daniel to prepare him for the coming vision.

Its a chapter preparing you for the truth that God is sovereign over world history

Its a chapter preparing you for the fact that even behind the physical battles in life, there is spiritual battles, and Gods provision of His word, His Son and His angels are more than able to assist the believer in this path in life.

Application

You must understand:

- There is a spiritual realm that has Angels and demons.
- there is a spiritual conflict happening not only towards believers, but also targeting sociopolitical realms.
 - Ruling Demons tasked to influencing empires and political leaders who hold positions of power.

You are taught here that earthly battles have two levels of reality.

The physical battle in the physical dimension.

The spiritual battle in the spiritual dimension between holy angels and demons.

An example:

IN the future the anti Christ who will set himself against God and against his people, which will be seen on the physical dimension

| Daniel 11:36 (ESV)

| ³⁶ "And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done.

But in the spiritual dimension you read of Michael the archangel who will fight and the people of Israel.

Daniel 12:1 ESV

¹ "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

John provides further insight, mentioning a great angelic battle that will take place in heaven.

Revelation 12:7–9 ESV

⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,

⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

You and I need to understand how important prayer is in spiritual conflict as in prayer your tap into God's resources.

Daniels prayed and great amount of angelic warfare happened.

James said

James 5:16 ESV

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Daniels example of persistent prayer should encourage you to keep on praying even when there seems to be a delay in God's answers.

Jesus taught this principle.

Luke 18:1 ESV

¹ And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

Then you need to realize how weak you are and how powerful God is in answering prayer.

Even a weak old man like Daniel, posed a massive threat to the demonic realm as God unleashed his angelic servants.

You must remember that Gods assists to his saints :

- not only by His Word,
- not only by His Son who defeated Satan, and is thee most powerful being in this universe
- but also through ministering angels.

Hebrews 1:14 ESV

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

So be strong:

In the word

In the Lord

In prayer

Remember Paul's words

Ephesians 6:10–18 ESV

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the

authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

We must get rid of the notion that we are only wrestling against 'flesh and blood' on earth. Our wrestling is essentially in the spiritual realm, the realm of the heavenlies. It is simply another way of emphasising ... that we must always think of the enemy who is fighting against us as one who is not only personal, with his personal agents, but also as one who lives in the realm of the spirit.

The Christian Warfare, 64

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Finally if you have **not** trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Then you are still an enemy of God.

You are on the side destined to lose.

You are destined to spend eternity in Hell.

Jesus commands you:

to repent,

to trust Him, to trust in His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

If you do so, Jesus will deliver you and transfer you to the winning side.

Colossians 1:13 ESV

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

