

Introduction

Many years ago, I was sharing the gospel with a student when I was in the free state ministry. This student told me how every time he prays, he experiences something pressing him down on the bed. I assumed it was demonic and so I chatted with an older missionary how to deal with this matter.

We live in a world where we tend to just look at that which is visible.

Paul warned believers.

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.

Our passage this morning and next week opens your and my minds to realize that there is spiritual battle.

It makes you aware that behind great battles in the past are also angels and demons in conflict.

Yes Jesus defeated Satan on the Cross.

Yes there is no battle between God and Satan as Satan cannot do anything unless God allows that.

The book of Job teaches us this.

But even though there is no battle between the ultimate power, God and Satan, it would appear that Satan and his angels are at times in conflict with God's angels and secondly that they are at times in conflict with people, seeking to influence them towards evil in some way or another.

CS Lewis in the book *The Screwtape Letters* is an allegory of two demons (Wormwood & Screwtape) discussing how they would influence people towards wickedness.

It's a passage revealing who God provides his children to assist them in spiritual conflict.

Historical Background

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

It's the longest vision.

Its scope 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.

Its the history of Israel told in such precision before it happened that Liberals want to attribute the author of Daniel to some author during the Maccabean revolt time period.

Its a chapter revealing Gods assistance to Daniel to prepare him for the great vision in ch 11-12

As the reader is prepared for the vision in Dan 10, the reader sees how God assisted Daniel, but the reader also learns how God assists his people in great unseen spiritual conflict.

You get a sneak peek into the spiritual realm and raging battles that happen there. Were reading only the first half of the chapter due to time constraints, but the main spiritual conflict we see is only from vs 10-11:1, which we will cover next week.

Passage

Daniel 10:1-9 ESV

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.

Proposition

3 ways God assists His people in spiritual conflict

1. His word vs 1-3
2. His Son vs 4-9 (week 1)
3. His angels vs 10-11:1 (week 2)

1. His word vs 1-3

| Daniel 10:1–3 (ESV)

¹ In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia

The vision in the third year of Cyrus meant that the vision he received was two years after Dan 9's vision(538BC).

Cyrus had conquered Babylon in Oct 539 BC.

Cyrus's cylinder recounts the conquest of Babylon in 539 BC

This was his third year, which means it was 536BC after the Babylonian conquest.

The Persian empire was much larger than the Babylonian empire.

According to Dan 10:4 the vision happened in the first month, which would have been the month of Nissan(March /April)

Cyrus had in 538 BC issued a proclamation permitting the return of the Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.

Ezra 1:2–3 ESV

² "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

³ Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem.

When the exiles had returned to the various towns, the first thing they did was to gather in Jerusalem and built an altar to God, restoring worship to God.(Ezra3:1-6)

Ezra 3:2 ESV

² Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.

In late spring 537BC the Jews had begun the work of building the foundations for what is called Zerubbabel's temple. Ezra 3:7-13 ,

| Ezra 3:8 (ESV)

| ⁸ Now in the second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the **house of the LORD**.

| Ezra 3:10 (ESV)

| ¹⁰ And when the builders **laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD**, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

But sadly due to hostilities the work was stopped. (Ezra4:1-5)

Ezra 4:4 ESV

⁴ Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build

Daniel had heard of the difficulties facing the returning exiles and his heart must have been heavy, because the temple rebuilding effort had been hindered.

Dan 10 reveals how God prepared Daniel for the final vision(message) in Dan 11:2-12:4,.

The vision would be concerning a protracted state of warfare and conflicts that bear upon Israel.

So we see that the vision came in the context in which the rebuilding of Zerubbables temple was hindered.

Adversaries had arisen to hinder the God's peoples to worship of Yahweh in the temple.

Its in this context God unveils the future, and the battles that Israel would face.

a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar.

And the word was true, and it was a great conflict.

Notice two things.

The word given to Daniel is described as true,

true= Heb = emet= faithful, reliable, trustworthy, conforming to reality, its dependable

Its in times of struggle, in times of battle the hearts of God's people tend to wander away from God's word.

But its especially in times of trouble you need Gods word.

As you use God's word to address your heart.

IT is the only dependable thing, why because its God's word.

He knows the beginning from the end.

He is all powerful.

He controls history.

if you are His child, you are to depend upon His word.

2ndly we notice , the word Daniel received was concerning a **great conflict**.

The term saba= army, or war, a host,.

Here it refers to a protracted conflict and would refer to a series of conflicts that effected Israel.

These would be the conflicts that awaited Israel in the **later days**.

| Daniel 10:14 (ESV)

| 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."

And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision.

Daniel stated he understood the vision, which may mean he understood the general gist of the message, but not everything fully as Dan 12:8 implies some aspects he did not understand.

Daniel 12:8 ESV

⁸ I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?"

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.

Daniel was in a condition of mourning, grief, a sense of sadness.

The grammar indicates he was intensively grieving.

He was also fasting.

In Jewish apocalyptic literature, fasting was a preparation to receive a revelation.

Not anointing himself refers to not using certain oils. Perfumed oils were the ancient equivalent of deodorants and was associated with gladness and feasting.(Ecc9:8)

Daniel's grieving happened during the Passover and the feast of unleavened bread and the fact that Daniel mourned during this time suggests what was happening in Jerusalem strongly influenced his actions.

The fact that the temple program had been stopped may have confused Daniel, grieved Him and his fast of meat, wine and oils most likely indicated his desire to understand what God was doing.

But behind these scenes something else was lurking, something else was seeking to hinder God's people from worshipping God.

Just like we all face trials and difficulties.

But often behind these things there are other forces at play. (Eph 6:12)

It's in times of great distress, one seeks greater clarity from God.

In Times of spiritual conflict you run to God.

God's solution:

God gave Daniel His word.

His trustworthy word.

Application

When you have been knocked down by the struggles in life.

When changes take place that is out of your control

When your heart is grieving over some loss

Where do you turn.

You turn to God's word.

You turn to where God's word is preached

You don't stay away from Church, you don't stay away from Biblestudy , you dont stay away from God's people

You gather, why... to hear Gods word.

You come because you love Jesus and love his people and are encouraged by God's word shared among His people.

If you don't feel like coming, don't listen to your feelings, use God's word and preach to your heart.

Preach theology to your heart, don't be mastered by your feelings.

be mastered by Christ.

I recall many a time where I faced major decisions in troubling times.

Its in those times I would extend my quiet times and even call other believers to hear from them if there any passages that would come to mind to address a particular issue.

Its in those times through Gods word that Ive received direction and great comfort.

May I encourage each of you to stop using your feelings to dictate how you act.

To put of the manner of life in which your comforts, or your trials cause you to avoid being with God's people to here his Word.

And especially in spiritual conflict, when dealing with Satan , His demons and temptations, God's word should be the first place you consult, memorize and quote.

The 2nd way God assisted his people in spiritual conflict, is through Jesus.

2.His Son vs 4-9

| Daniel 10:4-9 (ESV)

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)

Daniel was not in Babylon, but along the banks of the Tigris.

Implying Daniel had not returned to Jerusalem with the exiles.

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.

The description of this man's:

Clothing

eyes

face

legs

is profoundly like Jesus's description in

Revelation 1:13–15 ESV

¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,

¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.

The clothing: clothed in the clothing of a priest, anticipating a priestly ministry.

The golden sash around his waste made of the finest gold distinguishes him from all high priests.

The description of his body like beryl, or golden topaz

The description of his face radiating glory like lightning is also similar to Christ transfiguration in the future

Matthew 17:2 ESV

² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

The description of his eyes flaming torches reflecting the incredible piercing vision of the man able to see in the hearts of man similar to Christ described in

Revelation 2:18 ESV

¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

These descriptions of this man portrays him to be too majestic just to be a man or even an angel.

The fact that he is called a man reminds you of Daniels description of Jesus to who

was promised dominion, glory and a kingdom which is eternal.

| Daniel 7:13–14 (ESV)

| ¹³ "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one **like a son of man**, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

| ¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

What we have here is an encounter with the pre-incarnate Christ

His voice like the sound of a multitude, great crowd of people speaks of Christ authority and power when he speaks and acts.

Its this voice that called forth creation.

John 1:3 ESV

³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Its this voice that upholds everything.

Hebrews 1:3 ESV

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

The question remains, why did Daniel see this vision of Jesus.

1. Daniel had been mourning because the temple construction was halted
2. Daniel was perplexed and maybe even discouraged by the suffering of God's people.
3. Daniel's mind would soon be opened to understand that behind the scenes was a raging spiritual conflict.(Dan 10:11-13,20-21)

Daniel needed encouragement.

He needed to know that Jesus still in charge.

He needed to know that despite the trials, despite the setbacks, that despite the delays, Jesus would keep His word, and Jesus would answer Daniels prayers.

Seeing Christ helped him understand:

- The authority of Christ
- The the reliability of the vision

- The trustworthiness of His word.

But more than that,

It reminded him that behind God's Word is God.

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

You may be powerless Daniel, but God is all powerful

You may not be able to control History, But God controls every millisecond of
History

In your trouble, God is there.

Psalm 23:4 ESV

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for
you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

In your trial

God is there to comfort you

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 ESV

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and
God of all comfort,

⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who
are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

In days of prosperity and adversity God has made both, God holds the future in his
hand

Ecclesiastes 7:14 ESV

¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has
made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will
be after him.

In making disciples God Jesus is there.

| Matthew 28:20 (ESV)

| ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am
with you always, to the end of the age.**"

Encountering Jesus, impacted Daniel like a freight train.

The same Daniel was left trembling facing God's angels, but meeting Christ in this vision sapped him of all strength.

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.

Even the men around Daniel when they experienced His divine presence fled in panic to hide themselves.

Trembling = harada = panic, fear, terror, an overwhelming feeling of fear and anxiety
Daniel himself was significantly impacted.

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.

This is the only time in all of Scripture that the Scriptures use this phrase a **great vision**.

Its a great vision because its the vision of the most powerful being that operates out of Time, in time and is over time, the being who sustains the very molecules within your body

Daniel appearance changed

All his strength depleted.

Seeing Jesus in all his glory , left him like jello on the ground.

And when Jesus spoke .

He fell flat on his face.

The Bible says he slept, I wonder if he fainted.

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.

Daniels experience is what John experienced on the island of Patmos when he encountered Christ in His glorified state.

| Revelation 1:17–18 (ESV)

| ¹⁷ When I saw him, **I fell at his feet as though dead**. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last,

| ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys

| of Death and Hades.

The heavy sleep may be similar to the God induced sleep that Adam experienced Gen 2:21, or Abraham in Gen 15:12.

I lean to him fainting.

This vision of the pre-incarnate Christ is a crescendo of revelations of the Messiah in Daniel

Dan 2:34 Jesus is represented by a stone cut by no human hands that would shatter the image in the dream.

Dan 7:13-14 He is described as one like the son of man destined to receive dominion, glory and the kingdom

Dan 9:25-26 He is the Messiah that will be cut off.

And here Dan 10:4-9 He is displayed as the priestly figure, radiating glory, and power, to which every created being falls down flat on their faces.

It reminds you of Pauls words

| Philippians 2:8–11 (ESV)

| ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

| ⁹ Therefore God has highly **exalted him** and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

| ¹⁰ so that at the **name of Jesus** every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

| ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Encountering Jesus in His glorified state, left Daniel without strength, flat on his face.

Jesus is not your pelly

Thats why a doubt someone who would claim to have met Jesus and had lunch with HIm at the wimpy.

The biblical encounters of the true glorified Christ left people flat on their faces, as if dead people.

He is the creator of this universe

He is the all powerful infinitely Holy, perfect , righteous God.

Every one of you shall meet Jesus.

1 John 3:2 ESV

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Imagine that encounter.

His piercing eyes will penetrating your heart.

Everything is laid bare.

Every thought

Every emotion

Every sinful desire

Your complacency

Your nonchalant attitude towards Christ, his church, how you served Him or not

Every excuse you made.

Every heart idol you worshipped

Every ruling desire you ever had.

Meeting the infinitely holy Christ will expose you .

The question is will you be exposed:

forgiven

Justified, declared not guilty

redeemed

or will you be exposed

not forgiven

unredeemed

guilty

How you respond to Jesus in this life will effect the next

If you have trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord, then He will be your Savior

If you have rejected Him, then He will be your judge and executioner

If you are engaged in any form of spiritual conflict,

Knowing you are a child of Jesus makes all the difference.

Having been a missionary for 18 years, I have at times encountered people with Demons.

And also encountered demonic activity.

All I can say is that without Jesus you are absolutely vulnerable

With Jesus,

Paul prayed that the believer would understand the tremendous resources available to the believer.

| Ephesians 1:16–21 (ESV)

| ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

| ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

| ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

| ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power **toward us who believe**, according to the working of his great might

| ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

| 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.

The Strength of any believer does not come from self, it comes from Christ.

He is the source of strength, authority and power especially in any conflict trial or temptation.

| Ephesians 6:10–12 (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.

Conclusion

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 10-11:1