

November 29, 2020

Prologue to a Prophecy

Daniel 10:1—11:1

The Final Vision is LONG

Dan. 10:1–11:1 Daniel's Vision of a Divine Man

Dan. 11:2-35 The Divine Man explains the first two post-Babylonian kingdoms

Dan. 11:36-45 The Divine Man explains the Antichrist and the Time of the End

Dan. 12:1-4 After the End, the Resurrection of All Flesh

Dan. 12:5-13 The Divine Man concludes His revelation to Daniel

Major Themes in these chapters

1. God's foreknowledge of history and His ability to reveal it to His prophets
2. God governs human history to protect and save His people
3. Behind human history lies a profound **spiritual war** led by the Son of God to defend God's people

Read Daniel 10:1

- v. 1 "third year of Cyrus" – spring of 536 BC
"it was a great conflict" – the divine message reveals a spiritual conflict

Read Daniel 10:2-6

- v. 2 literally "for three weeks of days" – specifying that this is *literal* weeks, not like the 70 of chapter 9
- v. 3 "nor did I *anoint* myself" – this word for *anoint* just refers to hygiene, not the same *anoint* as Messiah
- v. 4 the date would be 24th of Nisan (April 23, 536 BC) – just weeks before rebuilding of Jerusalem began
- v. 5 "clothed in linen"- this word for linen is almost always for priestly vestments
"belt of *fine gold*"- a unique Hebrew word used with royalty (Ps 45:9; Song 5:11; of Christ: Rev. 1:13)
- v. 6 "body was like *beryl*"- NIV: "chrysolite," whatever it is, it's on priestly breastplate (Ex 28:20; 39:13)
"face like lightning"- suggesting this is God (Ex 20:18; Job 36:30, 32; Ps 144:6; Ezek 1:13-14; Rev 4:5)
"eyes like flaming torches"- see exalted Christ in Rev. 1:14; 2:18; 19:12. He is source of divine light
"sound of his words like the sound of a multitude" – literally "sound of an army"

SO- he has priestly linens, kingly golden belt, and message/words of authority.

Who might this Prophet-Priest-King be?

Read Daniel 10:7-11

- v. 7 similar to when Christ appeared to Saul, and his companions were unaware (Acts 9:3-7; 22:9-11)
- v. 11 "I have been sent to you" by whom? Mt. 10:40; Mk 9:37; Lk 4:18; 9:48; 10:16; and 30+ times in John

Read Daniel 10:12-14

- v. 12 Initial message: don't think we haven't heard you just because there is a delay in answering prayer
- v. 13 Why was there a delay? Spiritual warfare was ongoing – More at the end
"prince of the kingdom of Persia"- a demon over the nation, perhaps their "god" Ahura Mazda
"Michael, one of the chief princes"- the "archangel" in Jude 9 and in Rev 12:7-11 fighting Satan
"kings of Persia"- more of Satan's demonic army

Objection! The "man" who appears to Daniel cannot be the Son of God. God is all-powerful and wouldn't need help from Michael or anyone! Fair enough, but God can use the support and aid of humans or angels whenever and however He sees fit.

A. Steinmann- "During Christ's earthly ministry, angels announced his birth (Lk 2:8-15) and ministered to him (Jn 1:51), for example, after his temptation (Mt 4:11) and in Gethsemane (Lk 22:43). At the end of the world, the Son of Man will come in glory with his angels, whom he will send out to do his bidding (Mt 13:41; 16:27; 24:31)." (page 500)

Read Daniel 10:15-19

v. 16 Daniel is reassured and strengthened a second time

v. 19 “Peace be with you” spoken by God also in Jdg 6:23; Is 57:19; Zech 9:10 and Lk 24:36; Jn 20:19-21

Read Daniel 10:20–11:1

v. 20 after the spiritual war with Persia, one with Greece will ensue

v. 21 “the Book of Truth”- apparently containing all human history as God foreknows it will happen

“your prince”- Michael is assigned to Daniel and those in exile

v. 1 This divine messenger strengthened Darius the Mede to release His people of Judah

The Main Point: “As soon as God moved Darius/Cyrus to fulfill his gracious promise to return his people to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, the devil and his angels began a war to impede God’s plan. The heavenly war had been raging for almost three years at the time Daniel received this final vision.” (Steinmann, p. 506).

SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND HUMAN HISTORY

In verses 13-14 the pre-incarnate Christ says He has been battling for three weeks with the “prince of the Kingdom of Persia.” Michael, “one of the chief princes” comes to His aide – for He was left alone against kings of Persia, and needed to come to speak with Daniel. Now (10:20) He must go back to fight and once Persia is done, a “prince of Greece” will come to defy God’s plan of salvation.

Are we sure these princes/kings are angels and demons? What kind of warfare is happening? Can it really affect human history?

Let’s see what else Scripture says on spiritual warfare:

- Romans 8:38- the term “rulers” is used for demons as the counterpart to angels
- Ephesians 6:12- our struggle is not (only) against flesh and blood, but spiritual forces too
- 1 Corinthians 10:20-21 – worship of idols is worship of demons

The gods of the nations are demons and have serious influence over the priests and kings of those nations as they try to obstruct and counter God’s plan for salvation.

- Hebrews 1:14- God’s angels are “ministering spirits” there to serve for your sake
- Matthew 18:10- we do have angels who see the Father

Are there other “battles” in the Bible that involve spiritual as well as human forces? Yes!

- Exodus 14:19-20- The “angel of God” intercedes in the battle with Egypt
- Exodus 23:23- God promises His angel will go before Israel to blot out their enemies (32:34; 33:2)
- Joshua 5:13-15 has the fulfillment, the Commander of Yahweh’s army appears to Joshua
- Judges 5:19-20- The battle of Barak against Sisera was also fought in heaven (“stars” for angels)
- 2 Kings 6:8-23- the battle of Syria against Israel
- Luke 10:17-20- heavenly warfare linked to theological warfare of believers on earth
- Revelation 12:7-11- Michael and his angels fight Satan and his angels

Martin Luther: “The tenth chapter is a prologue to the eleventh. Yet in it Daniel writes something special about the angels, the like of which we find nowhere else in the Scriptures, namely, that the good angels do battle with the evil angels in defense of men. Besides Daniel calls also the evil angels princes, as when he speaks of ‘the prince of Greece’ [10:20]. Hence we understand why things are so wild and dissolute at the courts of kings and princes, and why they hinder the good and bring on war and unhappiness. For there are devils there, hounding and goading, or hindering to such an extent that nothing goes as it should.”

Psalm 91 (*prayed from front of hymnals*)