

Daniel:

God's Divine Ambassador

New Hope
Baptist Church
Winter Bible Study
2010



Chapter 10: Spiritual War

- ❖ Time of Daniel's vision in chapter 10: c. 536 B.C. (third year of Cyrus)
- ❖ "Word was revealed:" we don't know what word Daniel learned
- ❖ "The word was true, and it was a great conflict:"
Something distressed Daniel
- ❖ Daniel, "mourned" for three weeks
 - ❖ Daniel ate almost nothing, drank no wine, and even abandoned his personal hygiene
- ❖ Location: Tigris River

God's Messenger

- ❖ Daniel saw an angel on the bank of the Tigris
 - ❖ v. 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”
 - ❖ Description matches description of Jesus in Revelation 1: “one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters”

God's Messenger

- ❖ Same person in both passages?
 - ❖ Daniel: This being did not accept worship
 - ❖ This angel clearly described his struggles with other “princes” that Jesus, as God, could have easily defeated
 - ❖ Rev. 1: “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, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades’”
 - ❖ St. John clearly saw Jesus, not an angel

God's Messenger

- ❖ Those with Daniel fled
- ❖ Daniel alone faced the angel
 - ❖ “No strength was left in me”
 - ❖ “My radiant appearance was fearfully changed:”
Daniel had recovered from the initial vision
 - ❖ “I retained no strength”
 - ❖ “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”
- ❖ cf. Matt. 28: “an angel of the Lord descended from heaven... His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men”

God's Messenger

- ❖ Address of the angel: “O Daniel, man greatly loved”
 - ❖ Same word as in ch. 9
 - ❖ “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”
 - ❖ As in ch. 9, God had decided to answer Daniel the moment he began praying

Spiritual Warfare in Nations

- ❖ Why didn't the angel come when God determined to answer Daniel?
 - ❖ "The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days"
- ❖ Who is the "prince"?
 - ❖ Not the "prince" as in a human ruler
 - ❖ Spiritual being that controlled the affairs of the Persian Empire
 - ❖ Apparently, God allows spiritual beings to rule nations "in the background"
- ❖ God retains sovereign control over all nations

Spiritual Warfare in Nations

- ❖ The angel's help: "Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me"
 - ❖ Michael: the archangel, "prince" of Israel (v. 21)
 - ❖ Jude 9: Michael "contended" with Satan over Moses' body
 - ❖ Revelation 12:7: Michael will lead the armies of heaven in the battle that results in Satan's final expulsion from heaven

Spiritual Warfare in Nations

- ❖ After this angel spoke with Daniel, he would return to the spiritual war
 - ❖ Angel would fight “prince of Persia”
 - ❖ After the fall of Persia, “behold, the prince of Greece will come”
 - ❖ 334 B.C.: Alexander the Great would begin his conquest of Persia
 - ❖ 331 B.C.: Alexander defeated the Persian army at Gaugamela; end of the Persian Empire