

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**

**Theme: God is Sovereign over History**

**Outline:**

- A. The personal history of the prophet Daniel – Chapter 1
- B. The prophetic history of the Gentiles – Chapters 2-7
- C. *The prophetic history of Israel – Chapters 8-12***

Daniel is a book on prophecy – it is the KEY book on prophecy. It provides the guardrails in terms of dates and events that provide the mold for the whole of prophecy. Daniel gives us the broad outline of prophetic history and then various details are filled in throughout the whole counsel of God.

Daniel was uniquely gifted regarding visions and dreams. Nothing about what happened to Daniel in this regard is normative, but rather special.

**Slide # 2**

**Daniel 1:17 (NKJV)**

**17** As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and **Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.**

In the book, Daniel was given visions or a combination of dreams and visions. The key difference between dreams and visions is that dreams occur during sleep, while visions occur while one is awake.

In the book, Daniel had four visions revealed to him.

**Slide # 3**

**Daniel 7 Vision:** Overview of the Times of the Gentiles where Gentile nations are presented predator beasts in relation to Israel.

**Daniel 8 Vision:** Ram and the Male Goat representing Medo-Persia and Greece with a close look at a little horn that emerges out of Greece known historically as Antiochus Epiphanes.

**Daniel 9 Vision:** 70 weeks of years, that is, 490 years of special dealings with Israel are in view.

**Daniel 10-12 Vision:** Further details related to prophetic history and how it will culminate in last days' fulfillment.

Daniel 10-12 forms a single unit regarding Daniel's final vision. Daniel 10 is essentially introductory background information to the vision of chapters 11 and 12. Thus, Daniel 10, in effect, functions as a prologue to chapters 11 and 12.

#### **Slide # 4**

##### ***Outline of Daniel 10-12***

Daniel 10 – 11:1 - Reception of Vision Described

Daniel 11:2 – 12:3 – Explanation of the Vision

Daniel 12:4-13 – Clarifications Regarding Daniel's Prophecies

Daniel 10-12 provides various threads of prophecy related to the Holy Land and the people of Israel. We often talk about the 400 years before Christ came as "The Four Hundred Silent Years" because there was no prophetic message from God during that long stretch of time.

That is true, however, there were lots of prophetic details given concerning this period as brought out in chapter 11. It was fulfilled with such exactness that the critics who don't believe in prophecy claim it must have been written as history and not as prophecy.

However, Jesus quoted from Daniel, referencing him as an authentic prophet as seen in Matthew 24:15. For us as believers that settles it. Jesus could not be wrong! Daniel was a legitimate prophet and the book of Daniel is verified by Jesus as legitimate Scripture. Those that "know better" than Jesus are always WRONG!

Daniel 10 providing introductory background to the final vision makes the MAJOR point that behind what is happening to Israel on earth relates directly to unseen spiritual warfare in the heavens.

In Daniel 10 we have the veil pulled back just a little to show us the reality of spiritual warfare behind the scenes. We may not realize it but evil angels known as demons are constantly trying to influence the world against God's plan and His people, and the holy angels are constantly engaging them and protecting and preserving God's people.

In Daniel 10 we have the **curtain drawn back** and we are given a glimpse at some spiritual realities that ultimately are behind the physical realities of this world. Also, we see the **part that prayer plays in this mix**. There is **mystery** here where we have in the mix the sovereignty of God and His sure plan, the battle between good and evil angels, God's people in the middle, and the part that prayer plays. This is what Daniel 10 is all about.

People think, "Oh prophecy will just play its way out." But in truth God has chosen to work it out in response to prayer. Yes, ultimately God is going to make Jerusalem a praise in the earth, but at the same time Isaiah 62:7 says to give God no rest in prayer until He does so. As I say, there is mystery here and it is awesome how God works.

#### **Daniel 10:1–21 (NKJV)**

**1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.**

This message came to Daniel in the third year of Cyrus which was in the year 536 B.C. This was about 2 years after Cyrus had decreed that the Jews could return to Judah (cf. Ezra 1:2-4; 6:2-5).

Daniel had not returned, perhaps because of his great age. It is thought that in 605 BC, when Daniel was first taken captive to Babylon, he was about 15 years of age. This would currently make him about 84 years old.

Daniel, for many years in Babylon, had been called Belteshazzar, and so he still retained this manner of identification.

An emphasis is placed here on the fact that this message is TRUE! And history, as we will see, bears this out emphatically!

The phrase translated here as "but the appointed time was long" is better translated as "The message was true ***and one of great conflict***." This great conflict is spelled out at great length in Daniel 11:2-12:3.

But before we get there, there is another aspect of great conflict, that is, great spiritual warfare between holy and unholy angels. This really is behind the great warfare between nations, with Israel caught right in the middle. What defines history is great warfare – both spiritual warfare and physical warfare, and the one affects the other. This is the great spiritual insight brought out in chapter 10.

We see throughout chapters 7 through 9, that Daniel, while having some level of understanding, was consistently bothered by details that he did not understand. But now the angel is going to fill in many details, and the emphasis at this point is that Daniel did understand. Twice in verse one, this emphasis is made.

At this point, Daniel clearly understood that a great conflict awaited his people that would be long and drawn out and he got some insight into what is involved behind the scenes in terms of spiritual warfare and the place of prayer in this struggle.

## **2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.**

The Hebrew here actually says “weeks of days” so as to distinguish it from “weeks of years” as noted in the previous prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27.

## **3 I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.**

This is the language of fasting, which involved a partial fast.

### **Slide # 5**

Fasting can be just as much an activity of the flesh as feasting. True fasting is brought on by a spiritual burden, by brokenness of heart before God because of some great need that takes away the desire for food or that overweighs the demands of the physical with the demands of the spiritual. – **John Phillips**

On the Day of Atonement, in Leviticus 16:29, the Jews were told to “afflict your souls.”

“**Afflict your souls**” is commonly thought to refer to fasting and repentance. It is the only FAST day on the official religious calendar of Israel; although others were later added. The picture here is one of REPENTANCE and brokenness over sin.

However, as the Jews went along, “fasting” was often done for show and became a ritualistic thing that was actually offensive to God (cf. Isa. 58:3-7; Jer. 14:12; Zech. 7:5-6).

### **Slide # 6**

#### **Matthew 6:16–18 (NKJV)**

**16** “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

**17** But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

**18** so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Fasting is not to be for show, but really a matter of intensely seeking God on a personal basis. It is a matter between you and God and not for show. Actually, the NT nowhere commands fasting, but it is assumed there may be times where a person intensely seeks God and thereby sets aside the normal matters of life.

### **Slide # 7**

#### **1 Corinthians 7:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Repeatedly, we see that Daniel was a man of intense prayer. We are not told exactly **why** Daniel was fasting and praying, but commentators have speculated that three concerns may have been heavy on his heart.

- 1) Word may have gotten back that those who have gone back to Jerusalem and began rebuilding the temple were then stopped from proceeding, which was true (cf. Ezra 4:5, 24)
- 2) Perhaps also heavy on Daniel’s heart was the spiritual state of his people. When Cyrus allowed the Jews to return, fewer than 50,000 actually acted on it, showing their spiritual apathy. Although Daniel may have been too old to make the trip, we saw in Daniel 6 that he prayed three times every day toward Jerusalem (Dan. 6:10).

His heart was still there, but that was evidently not true for so many of his fellow Jews. We noted in Daniel 9 (which was about 2 to 3 years earlier) that Daniel had been intensely in prayer for his people, confessing their sin (cf. Dan. 9:1-19). So Daniel had concerns for his people, both spiritually and physically.

- 3) Daniel was very probably concerned about the FUTURE of His people. That certainly would fit with the further revelation he is given in chapters 11 and 12, and the emphasis on “understanding” that he now has as a result. Daniel is shown that although his people would be involved in a great conflict, yet they would be preserved. This has historically defined their experience right up to the present time.

#### **4 Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris,**

The first month on the Jewish Calendar is the month of Nisan. It was during this month that three Jewish feast were held, namely Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits. But instead of celebrating Daniel had been fasting because of the current situation for his people.

Daniel speaks historically and very precisely. This happened on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Nisan as he was by the side of the river Tigris. He knew exactly where and when this happened. When a MAJOR thing happens, people often remember where they were. For example, those old enough to remember when 9/11 happened they often remember exactly where they were. This was that kind of situation for Daniel.

In verse 5 we are introduced to a heavenly being with which Daniel had an encounter. There is lots of discussion about who this being was.

In truth, we are NOT told exactly who this was. Some think it is simply an unidentified angel. Many think it was probably Gabriel because of his role in bringing previous revelation to Daniel as seen in chapters 8 and 9. Others think, because of the description in parallel Scriptures that the preincarnate Christ is in view.

However, a HUGE problem with the view that says this was the preincarnate Christ is that an evil angel could hold Him at bay for three weeks and also that He needed the help of the angel Michael to overcome the power of the evil angel. That doesn't fit with the truth of the deity of Christ. So, I tend to think that a high-ranking angel is in view, whether it be Gabriel or someone else.

However, some think that while verses 5-9 are descriptive of the preincarnate Christ, a change takes place at verse 10 where Christ passes from the scene and a high ranking angel is in view. This could be as may be suggested by the wording at verse 10 which says “***Suddenly, a hand touched me...***”. Daniel does not say whose hand it was. Was it the person who had been talking to him, or the hand of another personage?

It is not out of the realm of possibility that Christ and an angel may both be in view (cf. Gen. 18:1-3; Dan. 12:6). However, the overall flow would suggest one person, whom I take to probably be a high-ranking angel.

**5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!**

Clearly, this was a heavenly being described here as “a certain man” which is not uncommon in referring to angels since they often appear in the form of a man in the Scriptures.

He was clothed in linen. White linen is often a symbol of holiness (cf. Lev. 16:4). He had a golden belt around his waist.

**6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.**

Pure beryl is actually colorless, but colored by other factors it can take on a wide array of colors.

### **Slide # 8**



But that doesn't help us much in determining the actual appearance of this person. But we get the point – his appearance was radiant and awe-inspiring for sure! His face was like lightning! This is totally other-worldly. His eyes were like flaming torches. His arms and feet were like the gleam of polished bronze. And his voice like the sound of a great multitude. It was awesome!

You can see why some think this was the preincarnate Christ (cf. Rev. 1:12-20; 2:18). And yet I would remind us of John's experience when he saw a mere angel in glory in the book of Revelation.

### **Slide # 9**

#### **Revelation 19:10 (NKJV)**

**10** And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

### **Slide # 10**

#### **Revelation 22:8–9 (NKJV)**

**8** Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

**9** Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

Even John the apostle, when he saw angels in all their glory, found it very difficult not to worship them.

**7** And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

**8** Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength.

Daniel emphasizes that he ALONE saw this vision. However, the men who were with him sensed the awe of the presence of this heavenly being (cf Acts 9:7). They were terrified and ran to hide themselves.

Whenever the "heavenly" meets the "human" it is terrifying for the human. This is the uniform testimony of Scripture and serves to discredit those who claim to regularly have close and visible encounters with heavenly beings. If one really saw an angel or heavenly being in their heavenly glory as Daniel did, they would have the same overwhelming experience.



Those with Daniel ran for their lives, and even Daniel himself was sapped of all his strength, leaving him completely limp.

**9 Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.**

Daniel could still hear the sound of his words, but swooned powerless on his face in a trancelike state on the ground. This experience was totally overwhelming – more than any mere human could handle.

**10 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands.**

Suddenly, Daniel felt a hand on him, which made him tremble, but also at the same time allowed him to get up on his knees and the palms of his hands.

### **Slide # 11**

What a rebuke this scene is to presumption and spiritual pride. We tremble at the thought of those who think that they can command God to do this or that or who use flippant and irreverent terms to address the One who sits on the heavenly throne. – **John Phillips**

**11 And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.**

Clearly, this angel was sent to help Daniel understand. Verse 1 started out with this emphasis on “understanding,” and here the angel makes that the issue.

He reassures Daniel, calling him “greatly beloved”. In Daniel 9:23, the angel Gabriel said this very thing to Daniel. Also in verse 19 of this chapter, Daniel is again called “greatly beloved”. Three times in Daniel this is stressed (Dan. 9:23; 10:11, 19). Greatly beloved is the idea of highly treasured, precious, or being greatly valued.

The angel told Daniel he had specifically been sent to him. This was “mission Daniel” to help him understand because he was “greatly beloved”. Daniel was special in the eyes of God and because of this he was favored with this special revelation.

Yes, God loves everyone. He “so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” (Jn. 3:16). Still, there are objects of God’s special love. John is called the disciple “whom Jesus loved” (Jn. 13:23). Well, didn’t Jesus love the other disciples? Yes, He did, but there was a special love for John. Daniel was special to God! His commitment to God was outstanding!

Daneil went from being paralyzed flat on his face (v. 9) to trembling on his knees (v. 10) to now standing and trembling (v. 11). That’s progress.... albeit a little shaky, but progress!

**12 Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.”**

The first message of this angel to Daniel was one of encouragement and reassurance, “greatly beloved” and now “Do not fear”.

The angel here indicates what prompted Daniel to pray. He wanted to understand. Going back to Daniel 8 we find the emphasis that Daniel wanted more insight into what he had been shown regarding the future of his people (cf. Dan. 8:15).

Now we know what Daniel was praying about. Certainly, one of the things he was praying about was a deeper understanding regarding the future for his people.

Fasting is a form of humbling oneself. As Daniel went to fasting and praying for understanding, from that very day his words were heard. Instantly God heard his prayer and went about to answer.

Note the angel specifically tells Daniel that he is now here “***because of your words***” – in other words, in answer to his prayers.

God works through prayer. God works in answer to prayer. James says, “you do not have because you do not ask” (Ja. 4:3).

### **Slide # 12**

**James 1:5 (NKJV)**

**5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

If you want spiritual insight – ask God! Yes, for some reason we so often forget to ask – acting as though somehow we can just figure it out. We need God’s help. God has a corner on spiritual insight. We can only get it from Him (1 Cor. 2:14).

**13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.**

Here, Daniel is given a dose of understanding regarding spiritual warfare. From the first day that Daniel began to pray he was heard (v. 12). God heard his prayer from the very beginning. But then he prayed for three weeks before he got an answer. Why? What happened?

The angel here tells him.

When he speaks of “***the prince of the kingdom of Persia***” he is NOT talking about a merely human prince, meaning “ruler” or “leader”.

Clearly, the battle here relates to the spiritual/heavenly realm as the reference to Michael the angel makes clear. Also, no mere human could resist the messenger of God for 21 days. This involves another level – another realm of power. One single holy angel killed 185,000 soldiers in one night in Sennacherib’s army, as seen in 1 Chronicles 32:20-21. No human prince could possibly stand up against this. We are talking about supernatural spiritual warfare here.

Here “***the prince of the kingdom of Persia***” evidently refers to a demonic figure of high ranking who is over the realm of Persia working in the spiritual realm to try and thwart God’s purposes and plans for His people.

Behind the governments of the world there is tremendous demonic powers at work (cf. Ezek. 28:11-19; 2 Cor. 10:3-4; Eph. 6:12).

### **Slide # 13**

**Luke 4:5–6 (NKJV)**

**5** Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him **all the kingdoms of the world** in a moment of time.

**6** And the devil said to Him, “**All this authority** I will give You, and their glory; for **this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.**”

God ever remains sovereign, but the devil is in control of the kingdoms of this world! He has a well-organized army of demons involving various levels of power and authority.

This spiritual prince (demon) over the territory of Persia was obviously very powerful in the spiritual realm. And yet at the same time God has His angels who are constantly battling them as we see here.

### **Slide # 14**

It has been said that there is no single verse in the whole of Scripture that speaks more clearly than this about the invisible powers that rule and influence nations. – **Charles Feinberg**

God is sovereign and Satan and his demons can **only do what God allows** but often they are allowed to hinder or try to obstruct. (cf. Job 1:12, 2:6; Lk. 18:1; 1 Thess. 2:18). This is where prayer comes in. God works in answer to prayer.

And the thing that makes a difference is PRAYER! The angel said to Daniel, “I have come because of your words.” The key thing we are told to do in reference to the governments of the world is to PRAY!

Naive Christians so often think the real fight is with people, corrupt people, liberal people, people with no common sense. But in truth Satan works through people and our ultimate battle is with these satanic forces at work in and through these people.

### **Slide # 15**

#### **1 Timothy 2:1–2 (NKJV)**

**1** Therefore I exhort first of all that **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks** be made for all men, **2 for kings and all who are in authority**, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

We can accomplish more through prayer than any other means! What could Daniel do in a far away country as an old man? He could pray! This is the secret. God works through prayer. Of course be responsible and vote and be a good citizen, but the most important reality of change you will ever do is to PRAY! Truly God works through prayer.

The most important text we have in the NT on spiritual warfare is found in Ephesians 6.

### **Slide # 16**

#### **Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)**

**12** For we **do not wrestle against flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers, **against the rulers of the darkness** of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

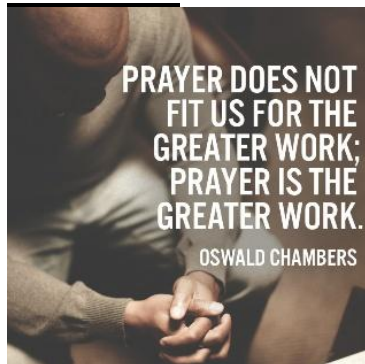
#### **Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)**

**18 praying always with all prayer and supplication** in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

No one can truly pray except for Christians. In the end, only God working through Christians can really change things – only they can pray. We need God to work, and He works in answer to prayer!

Is it any wonder that prayer is the hardest thing and yet the most important thing for God's people to do! It is the crux of the work – the major work! And yet most major on DOING all kinds outward activity and neglect PRAYER.

### **Slide # 17**



For 21 days, the exact amount of time Daniel had been praying, this holy angel had been delayed from reaching Daniel in answer to his prayer. Imagine if Daniel had stopped praying! He prayed it through. He prayed until the answer came through. Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).

This standoff only came to an end when Michael (one of the chief angelic princes) came to the aid of the holy angel. Together they were able to break through the resistance of this demonic prince.

Note in both the case of the evil angel and in the case of Michel they are both called “prince” which shows we are talking spiritual entities in the spiritual realm.

Michael (whose name means “who is like God”) is one of the most powerful of God’s holy angels. He holds the high position of archangel as seen in Jude 9.

He is mentioned three times in the OT – all here in Daniel (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1), and twice in the NT (Jude 9; Rev. 12:7). Michael is revealed to be what we might call “the guardian angel of Israel”.

### **Slide # 18**

#### **Daniel 12:1 (NKJV)**

**1** “At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.

Here in Daniel 10 we have a rare glimpse into the unseen world of angels and spiritual warfare between evil angels (demons who follow Satan) and holy angels who serve God.

There is an organized rank and file of both evil and holy angels and they are in conflict – here in regard to the prayers of Daniel (cf. Eph. 1:21; 2:2; 6:10-18).

**14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.”**

This is now the 5<sup>th</sup> time the issue has made that of understanding (v. 1, 11, 12, 14). This angel has come to help Daniel understand. The demons are doing everything they can to keep people from God truth. Spiritual warfare is ultimately a TRUTH WAR!

The angel plainly tells Daniel that what he needs to understand is that the vision ultimately relates to what will happen to his people (the Jews) in the latter days. Everything builds to this.

The vision explained in chapter 11 deals with events related to the intertestamental period (the 400 silent years), but then at verse 36 shifts dramatically to events related to the end times and the return of Christ.

The first part of chapter 11 builds to the climax of Antiochus Epiphanes (a type of Antichrist, and then building on this deals with the Antichrist. The point is, this is all illustrating and pointing to the “latter days” and what awaits Israel in the end.

### **Slide # 19**

Even those fulfilled earlier, such as the abominations of Antiochus IV have a deliberate typological significance to point to the last days.

– ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

That is the point! And we saw this same point made back in chapter 8, which also dealt with Antiochus Epiphanes at length.

### **Slide # 20**

**Daniel 8:19 (NKJV)**

**19** And he said, “Look, **I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time** of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.

Whether illustrated or directly addressed, the MAJOR thing being brought out is truth that relates ultimately to the “latter days.” Consistently throughout the OT prophetic books the “latter days” consistently refers to the last days in relationship to Israel that will usher in the coming of the Messiah (cf. Isa. 2:2; Jer. 23:20; Ezek. 38:16; Mal. 4:1). The phrase “latter days” occurs 14 times in the OT – consistently in relation to Israel (Gen. 49:1; Num. 24:14; Deut. 4:30; 31:29; Isa. 2:2; Jer. 23:20; Hos. 3:5; Mic. 4:1). The reason I emphasize this is because the last days emphasis in the NT in relation to the Church is not to be confused with last days realities in relation to Israel. They are distinct. Israel is specially in view in the OT.

### **Slide # 21**

The vision to which the angel referred is the long vision of the next chapter. As we shall see, this remarkable vision covers the entire intertestamental period from Malachi to Matthew. It then leaps over the church age and focuses on what the angel calls “the latter days.”

– **John Phillips**

**15 When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.**

In the middle of this revelation Daniel is consistently “a hot mess”. The message was just overwhelming and he couldn’t handle it. Here he is left facedown toward the ground and speechless.

**16 And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, “My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.**

Again, “suddenly” (cf. v. 10), a heavenly being touched his lips,” allowing him to speak. Daniel very respectfully says to the angel that the message is overwhelming, causing him to have no strength. It just zapped all the strength out of him. “Lord” here is simply an expression of respect comparable to “sir”.

Sorrows is the idea of anguish or pains. This left Daniel emotionally and spiritually traumatized! He got it alright. He now understood! Evidently at this point Daniel was very concerned and broken over what the future holds for his people in the face of such holiness. Perhaps also in light of previous revelation he has fear about Israel’s apostasies, prolonged discipline, and end time horrors.

**17 For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.”**

**18 Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.**

Once again, Daniel needed to be strengthened by the angel. Three times, Daniel is said to have been touched by the angel (v. 10, 16, 18).

**19 And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”**

Praise the Lord for heaven's grace and strengthening. The strongest among us are really very weak and fragile and apart from God upholding us we would all fall apart.

This is now the second time the angel says that Daniel is greatly beloved followed up by “fear not”. What a great encouragement!



God is not out to get His people. He is there for us! As Paul says, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31). And God can be counted on. When we come to the end of our strength, His strength is there for us. It’s grace! It’s a supernatural reality!

The angel then adds, “Peace to you, be strong, yes be strong!” How wonderfully spiritually refreshing and strengthening to have that message placed upon you. How often we hear Jesus saying to His disciples, “do not be afraid,” especially when they were most prone to be afraid (cf. Jn. 6:20). We need to hear those words. And how often in the NT do we hear God saying to His people, “Grace to you and peace” (Rom. 1:7). It reverberates throughout the entire NT in so many of the letters (cf. Jn. 20:19, 21, 26).

What wonderful words of reassurance, comfort, encouragement, and strengthening.

### **Slide # 22**

Words from heaven...

***You are loved by God***

***Don’t be afraid***

***Peace to you***

Daniel affirms that he has been strengthened and is now ready to listen. Indeed, these words did strengthen Daniel. Twice this is stated in verse 19. The angel strengthened Daniel first by his touch (v. 18) and then by his words (v. 19).

**20 Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.**

What an interesting question. Daniel could have said, “I think I might have some idea since you have plainly told me you came to help me understand what is going to happen to my people in the latter days (v. 14).

But in the immediate context, it seems the angel immediately goes on to emphasize the reality of ongoing spiritual warfare behind the scenes. If you don’t understand this reality, you really won’t be able to make sense of what is going on in the world in relation to Israel.

Spiritual warfare swirls around Israel. And so the angel says, ***“And now I must go to fight with the prince of Persia, and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.”*** Clearly, he alludes to the prophetic truth that Greece would follow Persia, but the spiritual warfare would continue, which explains much of what was brought out in chapter 8 and that which will be further explained in chapter 11 (cf. 8:4-8, 20-22).

**21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.**

God is sovereign. He knows where it is going. What the angel is revealing to Daniel is according to what is written in God’s book of truth! “Scripture of Truth” is literally “the writings of truth.” This evidently refers to what God has decreed concerning His people Israel and their relationship to the nations of the world.

Note the emphasis on “Truth.”

### **Slide # 23**

v. 1 “The message was true...”.

v. 21 “the Scripture of Truth.”

Again, we don’t know much about this realm of spiritual warfare but this angel said it was him and Michael standing against these demonic forces of evil.

### **Understand Daniel...**

- 1) You and your people are in the midst of an ongoing great conflict. There are physical realities but behind it all is spiritual warfare!
- 2) God has a plan written down in His BOOK and your people are going to be preserved. Rest easy. You are loved, fear not, Peace to you. You can rest in the sovereignty of God.
- 3) Prayer is used by God in the matter of spiritual warfare. God works through prayer and uses angels in the mix. Keep praying.

**A missionary and his helpers** were forced to camp on a hill. They carried money and were fearful of an attack. After prayer they went to sleep. Months later a chief from the area was brought to the mission hospital.

He asked the missionary if he had soldiers who were guarding him that special night. We intended to rob you he said, but we were afraid of the 27 soldiers. When the story was told in the homeland – someone said, “We had a prayer meeting that night and were praying for you – and there were 27 of us present. – ***Our Daily Bread***

One of the greatest weaknesses in the Church Today is a lack of prayer – truly prevailing in prayer to God. A Christian Magazine advertised a book titled “Called to Pray.” They said, “This is one of our least popular, but most important books.” That pretty much says it all!

As one studies the history of Israel, it really makes no sense apart from divine revelation and the reality of spiritual warfare. Why have the Jews, as such a small people group, been more persecuted all over the world, more so than any other people group? Spiritual warfare! How do you make sense of worldwide anti-Semitism that is consistent throughout history? Intellectually, it makes no sense apart from spiritual realities behind the scenes called spiritual warfare!

Both God and Satan have powerful angels representing them as they influence rulers and nations either for good or ill, particularly in regard to their policies toward Israel. Behind the scenes of international events rages supernatural conflict between God’s holy angels and Satan’s fallen angels.

Most people are clueless about these realities, but God’s people should not be. We need to realize the importance of prayer in this ongoing conflict. Prophecy is not just something that automatically unfolds, it is something to bathe in prayer! God works through prayer!

Understand, understand, understand! Understand what is happening and your important role in prayer!

**1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)**

**7** But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

"God does nothing but in answer to prayer."- ***John Wesley***

***God help us to be people of prayer!***