

Daniel 10:1-21

Daniel 10:12,13 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. But the princes 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..."

The last three chapters of Daniel are one in terms of Daniel's experience. Chapter 10 introduces the vision, chapter 11 describes the content of the vision and in chapter 12 Daniel is given some final instructions.

Daniel's description of his vision gives a sense of premonition in that Paul's Damascus Road experience was similar in a way to Daniel for Daniel was with a company of men who did not see what Daniel saw but were filled with terror at whatever was happening and hid themselves. In Paul's case, the men with him heard a voice but apparently did not hear what was said. They saw no one and were left speechless by their experience. John's experience of the Revelation on the

Isle of Patmos is also reminiscent of Daniel's for John's vision of Christ is certainly similar to the man Daniel saw in his vision. In the cases of Daniel and Saul, heaven confessed a deep interest and connection to what was happening in their hearts. In the cases of Daniel and John heaven chose to reveal to these men future things that God had determined and purposed for His creation.

The vision was occasioned by Daniel's prayers and mourning in which Daniel had returned to the "Daniel Diet" of his youth. After 3 weeks of fasting in this way, Daniel received the vision by means of the appearance of the heavenly messenger who was sent to him. The messenger announced that He had begun his journey to Daniel just as soon as Daniel started praying but that he had been held up (withstood) by the prince of the kingdom of Persia and that he had apparently broken through when Michael (one of the chief princes) came to help him.

This experience confessed by the messenger indicates an involvement of the spiritual entities of both good and evil in the carrying out of God's intended answer to Daniel's prayer. The fact of the prayer and the sending of the answer was known and then resisted by the forces of evil. Then,

these forces were defeated when with Michael's help the messenger broke through. The evil entity is named as the prince of the Kingdom of Persia. The messenger would give Daniel word of God's purposes in respect to this kingdom and therefore it would seem that the very expression of these purposes to Daniel was a decisive step.

The messenger's story provides a glimpse into the unseen spiritual world and gives us a witness to the fact that there is more going on than we know. In the face of this truth, we should give close attention to Paul's summons to spiritual warfare, "Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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..."

Paul's remedy for the onslaught of these spiritual forces arrayed against us is the whole armor of God. Put succinctly, we need to fill our lives with truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation the Word of God and prayer.

