

FIGHT THE FIGHT OF FAITH



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Daniel 10

The believer is involved in a spiritual warfare

Daniel got a clear picture of it

The enemy is on the prowl

I Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

The Gallup Poll

Most people will believe in God

Fewer will believe in the devil

Most will believe in heaven

Fewer will believe in hell

C.S. Lewis

"Humanity falls into two equal, but opposite errors concerning the devil. There's those who don't take him serious enough; and there's those who take him way too seriously"

Dr. John White

"Have no delusions about the reality of demons or their hostility. They will also oppose you as you obey Christ. If you play it cool and decide not to be fanatic about Christianity, you will have no trouble from them. But if you're serious about Christ being your Lord and God, you can expect opposition"

Daniel 10 Introduces us to the Fifth and Final Vision of Daniel

A Concerning problem of Daniel

He wept and fasted over the Jews return to
Jerusalem

Many of them stayed in Babylon

Those that went back weren't very successful

Daniel was about to be let in on a cosmic battle

He was engaged in the battle by being on his
knees

Daniel 10 Introduces us to the Fifth and
Final Vision of Daniel
A Commanding Presence

Daniel was a man clothed in linen
His other qualities were amazing and fearful

The Accounts of Those in the Bible Who Encountered God

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encountered God

Job abhorred himself (see Job 42:5-6)

Isaiah said, "Woe is me" when he had a vision
of God (see Isaiah 6:5)

The Accounts of Those in the Bible Who Encountered God

Peter told Jesus to depart from him when he discovered who Jesus was (see Luke 5:8)

In Revelation, a group of people beg the mountains to fall on them and hide them from God (see Revelation 6:15-17)

Who is This Man Daniel Saw?

Some suggest the angel Michael

Some another angel

The context and cross references seem to point to the pre-incarnate Christ—sometimes called the Angel of the Lord

John describes the Him in Revelation 1

Why Did Daniel See This?

He was about to be told all of the future battles of Israel—near future and far future

God wanted Daniel to know who's in charge

Remember the battle of Jericho; before the battle, Joshua saw a man standing with his sword drawn (see Joshua 5:13-15)

Why Did Daniel See This?

Just as Joshua saw the commander of the Lord's army, Daniel saw who is in charge

When we have problems, we tend to gaze at our problems and glance at the Lord

Gaze at the Lord and only glance at your problems

III. Some Contending Powers

Daniel was shaken by the vision; how he must
have been relieved to hear,
"Man greatly beloved" (v. 19)

III. Some Contending Powers

In the Bible, there are certain designations of special people

Abraham is called the friend of God (see 2 Chronicles 20:7)

David is called a man after God's own heart (see Acts 13:22)

III. Some Contending Powers

John the Baptist was called by Jesus, "The greatest man born to woman"

(see Matthew 11:11)

Only two people in the Bible were given the title greatly beloved: One is Daniel, the other is the apostle John

It is interesting that both Daniel and John give us apocalyptic literature

The Prince of Persia; Who is That?

It's not a human—it takes two super-duper angels to fight against him and a considerable amount of time

Daniel saw into the demonic and the angelic—there was a human king, but a demonic prince behind the king

The Prince of Persia; Who is That?

Jesus said of Satan, "He is the prince of this world" (see John 14:30 and John 12:31)

Paul called Satan "the prince of the power of the air who was at work in the children of disobedience" (see Ephesians 2:2)

IV. Understand the Battle

Not only is there a God, but there is a devil

The devil has a gang of demonic forces

They are a well-organized network set on thwarting God's plan and hinder God's people

IV. Understand the Battle

Understand what Paul said,

"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" (see Ephesians 6:12)

IV. Understand the Battle

Daniel 10 implies that there are demons assigned to nations

"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one"

(1 John 5:19)

We are deceived if we believe the things going on in the world are terrible—that's just the spill-over of the battle that is going on in heaven

V. The encouragement

Satan's outnumbered

The Bible says that He who is in you (Jesus) is greater than he who is the world (Satan) (see 1 John 4:4)

You are on the winning side no matter what

V. The encouragement

To survive well and to engage in the fight

Scripture—the Bible will keep you from
deception

Prayer will keep you from destruction—prayer
is bringing a gun to a knife fight

The battle is real, the enemy is powerful, get
suited up