

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 7:59 PM
Subject: Last Nite's Study on Daniel 10

"Chapter 10 of Daniel only prepares us for the vision presented to Daniel in chapter 11! Without a clear understanding of this chapter and its reference to demonic activity in the unseen world, the prophecies in chapter 11 – which span the history of the world from Daniel's time until the Tribulation period – will be difficult to comprehend!" Such is the conclusion of Dr. David Jeremiah in his book, "Agent of Babylon--What the Prophecies of Daniel Tells Us About the End of Days."

Daniel 10:1 is a kind of summary statement for the rest of Daniel! In response to Daniel's faithfulness and "fervent" prayer, God "revealed" to Daniel that his people (the Jews) would experience great suffering in the years ahead, but by His appearance, also demonstrated that He "was there" and that He would watch over them and ultimately establish His eternal kingdom!

Daniel had gone down to the "great banks" of the Tigris River to pray and fast before the God of Israel. It was during the third year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia! Two years had passed since God had "stirred the spirit" of Cyrus to issue a decree to allow Jews to return to the land of Judah--among other things, to rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-2, Isaiah 44:28, Jeremiah 29:10-14), but the news was not all good. Too few had chosen to return, having grown accustomed to life in Babylon and progress in rebuilding the city and the temple had run into stiff opposition, leading to a total shutdown of the project, which would last for 16 years! Daniel must have wondered where it was all going and he was driven to pray for his people!

He had been fasting and praying for three weeks, when suddenly, "a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of gold...whose body was like beryl...with eyes like flaming torches...and arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze..." appeared to him in a vision (verses 5-6). Many students of the Scripture believe this was a "theophany" – a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ! Daniel's description of this person and his reaction to him (falling into a "deep sleep...with his face on the ground!"), are very similar to the vision, and reaction, experienced by the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos (recorded in Revelation 1:9-20) when he "saw one like the Son of Man." How interesting and awesome that Jesus would appear "personally" to both these "exiled," but "beloved" servants in their old age as a kind of recognition, and reward, for their faithfulness – and then give them special insight and understanding into future events involving the people of God to share with the people of God!

Daniel was then "touched" (in verse 10) – presumably by an angel, probably Gabriel (according to Wiersbe and others) – and told him that "because he had set his heart on understanding this" (the plight of his people), and "on humbling himself before his God," his words had been heard, in fact, "from the first day" that he had acted in this way! And he (again, presumably Gabriel) had come, as God's messenger, "to give an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days," but first he wanted to explain why it took him 21 days to get there!

His explanation gives us just a small, but profound glimpse and insight into the little understood reality of two amazing things going on in God's universe! One – Wiersbe describes it – the "invisible war going on in the heavenlies between the forces of evil and the forces of God"! And two, the special role of angels being played out – so unknown to us – in our very world, among other places!

When Gabriel left heaven to deliver God's answer to Daniel about the future of God's people, Satan had apparently dispatched his own "angels" to intercept Gabriel's mission to thwart the work of God! And, particularly, for the re-establishment of the nation of Israel, and preparation for the coming of Christ! David Jeremiah writes that "when the angels clashed, a titanic battle erupted which lasted for three weeks!" How interesting! It was apparently only with the help of Michael, the archangel, that Gabriel's mission was finally executed! All of which suggested a "cosmic spiritual conflict" going on, which Daniel certainly didn't know about, and as Wiersbe notes, "lifts prayer and "waiting on the Lord" (e.g., Daniel's three weeks of praying) out of the humdrum religious exercise and shows it to be one our strongest and most important spiritual weapons!"

The "waiting period" for Daniel is also a reminder of one of my favorite verses (and you can't beat the King James Version) Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint!"

As for angels, the Bible has so many interesting and mind-boggling things to say about them! Hebrews 1:14 says: "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation!" We read, in Matthew 4:11 and in Luke 22:41-42, how angels ministered to Jesus after He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness and in the garden as He was facing the cross! How about Psalm 91:11 "For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways!"

Well, what about the "things to come" which God shared with the 84-85 year-old Daniel, things that God said would "happen to your people in the latter days"? Some of these things have already happened and have been fulfilled, of course, but more is still out there! And we'll get to these things as we take on Daniel 11 and 12! Hang in there!

Meanwhile, we should be reminded that "our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places..." (Ephesians 6:1-18). And become more aware of the ministry of angels and, most importantly, the fact that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much!" (James 5:16, KJV)

Have a great week, men! Only three weeks to go in our study of Daniel!

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