

# “SPIRITUAL WARFARE”

Daniel 10:13, 20-21, 11:1

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## INTRODUCTION

There are **three** characters in this chapter: one human (Daniel) and two heavenly: The Angel of the Lord and the interpreting angel. The time of the prophecy relates to the **latter days**. Note that only Daniel **saw** the vision—others did not; cf. Paul’s vision in Acts 9. Compare the **3-fold strengthening** of Daniel with the strengthening of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. As far as the reference to the “writing of truth”, God’s complete plan is recorded, much of which has become part of our Scriptures; this part of the “writing of truth” is recorded in Daniel 11-12.

In the experience of Daniel we can see the *experience of all of the nation of Israel*:

- He falls in the presence of the Holy Angel.
- He is strengthened and rises again.
- He endures great suffering.

But, Daniel also receives insight into the real spiritual warfare: he gets a rare glimpse into the spiritual realm. **YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU AS A BELIEVER ARE IN THE MIDST OF REAL SPIRITUAL WARFARE.**

### I. THE STRUGGLE OF PRAYER

- vv. 2-4: 21 days—the time period involved
- Note his location when the vision came—“the bank of the great river—Tigris”
- Notice the examples of such spiritual striving in prayer given in **Rom. 15:30** (brethren with Paul); **Col. 4:12** (Epaphras).
- Yet, Daniel had not yet received an answer! Why?
  - Not because God did not hear. (v. 12; cf. Ps. 34:15)
  - Not because God did not care. [*Poem: “Does Jesus Care?”*]
  - Not because God did not act [v. 12; “I have come in response.”]
  - Not because Daniel was not right with God (vv. 11, 19).

Then, why?

### II. THE STRUGGLE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM (v. 13)

- A. Opposition of the Prince of Persia: Not a Persian king!
1. Michael is the “one of the chief of princes” (angelic)
  2. Persian rulers are called “kings of Persia” at the end of the verse.
  3. To match an angel with a human king is uneven; how could a human king hinder him for 21 days?
  4. Michael is Israel’s “prince” (v. 21; 12:1)
  5. Other Scripture supports such angelic power in human realms: Is. 24:21; 46:1; Jer. 46:25; 49:3; I Cor. 8:5; 10:20. **Esp. Eph. 6:10-18.**
  6. There is real spiritual conflict.

- B. Help from Michael [Name means “who is like God?”]
1. The Chief Prince (v. 13)—cf. “the great prince” in 12:1.
    - a. Over Israel (12:1; 10:21)
    - b. Over a group of angels (Rev. 12:7); an “archangel” (Jude 9)
    - c. Over Satan (Rev. 12:7; Jude 9)
  2. Sufficient Helper (v. 21)
  3. Receiver of Help (11:1)—from this angel speaking with Daniel {Gabriel?}
- C. Victory of the Lord’s Angel
1. He remained there—“going forth” to deal with Prince of Persia.
  2. Continued fight (v. 20; Both the Princes of Persia and of Greece
- But, this struggle has a practical application for us.*

### III. THE STRUGGLE OVER SOULS

- A. For Salvation
- See Acts 16—the slave girl
  - Acts 24:25—Felix’s soul
  - Acts 26:27-29—King Agrippa
  - Cf. Acts 16:14—the Lord opened Lydia’s heart.
- B. For Dedication (Ro. 12:1)
- Christian workers like Paul plead for such dedication.
  - Paul pleads God’s mercies.

### CONCLUSION

*Who is winning the struggle in your heart?*

Get involved in the spiritual conflict over souls and for the edification of the saints!

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