

The Power of a Life Dedicated to God

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Daniel 10 gives us insight into what happens in the spirit realm when we pray, drawing back the veil and showing what happens as we offer our weak prayers made powerful by the blood of Jesus. It reveals the conflict in the spirit between high-ranking angels and demons as manifested in earthly spheres. There are angelic and demonic authority structures over each city and nation; we wrestle against these demonic principalities and rulers of darkness in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12).

¹²For 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...in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)

- B. Political leaders and governmental infrastructure are affected by the activity of angels and demons; the result of their conflict affects the events, decisions, and cultures of the cities of the earth.
- C. Demonic spirits target leaders with governmental authority to harass, oppress, and oppose them. For example, demonic powers can incite negative feelings in a king (heads of state). Prayer releases greater Holy Spirit activity (including angelic activity) to hinder demonic activity so that a king might “feel” differently—thus, leading his cabinet meeting with a whole different tone or posture.

¹The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. (Pr. 21:1)

- D. Paul said to pray for those in authority because it will affect our lifestyle, families, economy, etc. There is a relationship between prayer and an increase of the Spirit's activity to influence a king.

¹I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life... (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

II. WHAT IS A DANIEL FAST

²In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³I 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. (Dan. 10:2-3)

- A. There are two primary scriptures related to the Daniel fast. In Daniel 10:3 we learn that Daniel ate *no meat or tasty foods and drank no wine*. In Daniel 1:12 we see that he *ate vegetables and drank water*. The word that is translated *vegetables* in the NKJV is translated as *pulse* in the KJV—it comes from the Hebrew *zeroa*, which means “***that which grows from seed.***” Thus, *zeroa* includes vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes (peas or beans), nuts, seeds, tofu, and herbs.

³I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth...[for] three whole weeks... (Dan. 10:3)

¹²...ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. (Dan. 1:12 NKJV)

- B. **Daniel fast:** A common approach includes eating *vegetables, fruits, whole grains* (breads or rice from whole grains), *legumes* (peas or beans), *nuts, seeds, tofu*, and *herbs* in strict moderation. Many agree that Daniel abstained from all meat, sugar, dairy products, fried foods, wine, and from all pleasant foods.
- C. Fasting food is an expression of “voluntary” weakness, as we position ourselves before the Lord that our heart may be tenderized and become more sensitive to receive more from the Lord.

III. THE MIGHTY ANGEL AND ITS IMPACT ON DANIEL (DAN. 10:4-6)

- A. Daniel saw a high-ranking mighty angel (10:4-6). John saw a mighty angel like this one (Rev. 10:1). White linen is worn by some angels (Ezek. 9:3; Dan. 10:5; 12:6-7; Rev. 15:6)

⁵I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man [angel] clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! ⁶His 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. (Dan. 10:4-6)

¹I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. (Rev. 10:1)

- B. Daniel was deeply impacted by this angel (10:7-9) and the vision of Daniel 11-12 (10:8, 15-16).

⁷And 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. ⁸Therefore 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. ⁹Yet 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. (Dan. 10:7-9)

¹⁵When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless...¹⁶I 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. (Dan. 10:15-16)

IV. THE ANGEL’S CONFLICT RELATED TO DANIEL’S PRAYER (DAN. 10:10-14)

- A. A mighty angel came in response to Daniel’s prayer to give him understanding (10:10-14). Angelic and demonic powers were both at work in the spirit realm to affect the king of Persia. Daniel’s prayer with fasting had a significant impact in shifting things in the spirit realm.

¹¹And he [angel] said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you...¹²for 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. ¹³But the prince [demonic principality] of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes [archangel], came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴...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.” (Dan. 10:11-14)

- B. ***Set your heart to understand:*** Daniel sought understanding about each of his four visions.
- C. ***I have come to make you understand:*** The angel gave Daniel understanding (10:12, 14) of what will happen to Israel in the end times. He gave the prophet the Daniel 11-12 vision. Daniel's four visions give insight into God's end time plan for Israel and to transition the earth to the age to come.
- D. ***From the first day:*** There is activity in the angelic realm from the first day that we set our heart to understand and to humble ourselves before our God.
- E. ***I have come because of your words:*** Angels respond to the prayers of the saints. If Daniel had not prayed, the two angels would not have come. Daniel wrestled against demonic powers with fasting and prayer. Our prayers make a dynamic impact on what happens in the earthly and heavenly realms. Michael the archangel came because of Daniel's continued prayer.
- F. ***Greatly beloved:*** The Lord revealed His love to Daniel in a fresh and deep way (10:11, 19). The angel revealed that Daniel was greatly beloved of the Lord. Jesus spoke of the Father loving all who obey Him. He loves the relationship and life choices of all who obey Him (Jn. 14:21).
²¹***“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”*** (Jn. 14:21)
- G. ***The prince of Persia:*** The demonic principality of the kingdom of Persia (Iran) withstood the angel for twenty-one days.
- H. ***Withstood me:*** The mighty angel was resisted by a demonic prince (principality) over Persia. This demonic power sought to stir up the human king of Persia against Israel (10:13, 20-21).
- I. ***Came to help:*** Michael, one of the chief princes or archangels *came to help this mighty angel*. The mighty angel had been left alone without another high-ranking angel to assist him in his battle against the demonic principalities of Persia.
- J. ***Archangels:*** Michael and Gabriel are the only two angels mentioned by name in the Bible.
1. Michael is mentioned five times in the Scripture— three times in Daniel (10:13, 21; 12:1) and in Jude 9 and Revelation 12:7. Each time he is described as fighting. Thus some refer to him as the “warrior angel.”
 2. Michael is referred to as a chief prince or archangel (one who leads angels).
- K. In the end times Michael will again stand up to help Israel (Dan. 12:1; Rev. 12:7-9). Michael's involvement implies that it involves Israel's destiny as Michael is entrusted with protecting Israel.
¹***“At that time [the end times] Michael shall stand up, the great prince [archangel] who stands watch over the sons of your people [Israel]; and there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation], such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people [Israel] shall be delivered...”*** (Dan. 12:1)

- L. The mighty angel's continued conflict (10:20-11:1).

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." ²¹But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince." ^{11:1}"Also in the first year of Darius the Mede [538 BC, two years earlier], I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him [Michael]." (Dan. 10:20-11:1)*

V. THE LIFE OF DANIEL: THE POWER OF A LIFE DEDICATED TO GOD

- A. No study on the book of Daniel would be complete without mentioning Daniel's dedication, with emphasis on his prayer life. The effectiveness of his life was undergirded by a lifetime of prayer (6:10) and setting his heart to walk in wholeheartedness (1:8) and gain understanding (10:12).

¹⁰*Daniel...knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. (Dan. 6:10)*

⁸*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank... (Dan. 1:8)*

¹²*"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..." (Dan. 10:12)*

- B. Daniel is the only man who was used by God as an example while he was still alive.

¹³*"When a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it..." ¹⁴Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves"... ¹⁹"If I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it..." ²⁰even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it...they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness." (Ezek. 14:13-20)*

- C. *The forerunner spirit*: seeking greater understanding of God's heart and end-time plan. The four visions in Daniel give insight into God's plan for Israel and for transitioning the earth to the age to come. One emphasis in all four visions was for Daniel to understand God's end-time plan (7:16; 8:15-19; 9:2-3, 22-23; 10:1, 11-14; 11:33, 35; 12:4, 9-10).

²²*"O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand." (Dan. 9:22)*

¹²*"...you [Daniel] set your heart to understand..." ¹⁴Now I [an angel] have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days..." (Dan. 10:12-14)*

- D. Part of our ministry assignment is to function in a forerunner spirit which includes proclaiming some of the unique dynamics that will occur in the generation in which the Lord returns, both positive and negative ones. The Lord is raising up forerunners from many streams in the body of Christ who will give some understanding of what both the Lord and the enemy will do in that hour. Understanding will be essential in equipping God's people not to be fearful, deceived, confused, offended, or seduced by sin in the context of the unique dynamics occurring in that hour. The Lord's people are to be filled with peace, gratitude, confidence, clarity, and holy love.