

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

"Angelic Opposition"

Daniel 10:1-21

Introduction

1. The reality of a spirit world is given no doubt in the Bible. One of the strongest supports for this thought is provided in this chapter.

2. It all came about through the prayer of Daniel and his vision of Christ (10:1-6.)

3. Angels moved upon Daniel in ministry to him. He was touched to hear (v.10), to speak (vv. 16,17), and to understand (vv. 18, 19.)

4. What Daniel heard from the angelic world is something every believer should forever remember. Here are some of the features of the angelic message to Daniel the prophet:

1. ENDEARMENT. vv. 11, 19.

Twice over the Spirit of God notes the favorable position in which Daniel is with the Lord. What depth of meaning: "a man greatly beloved!" Let us not forget that God is mindful of the devotion and faithfulness of His own.

2. ILLUMINATION. v. 11.

The vision to be given to Daniel was not to be abstruse but transparent, for he says, "understand the words that I speak unto thee."

3. ENABLEMENT. vv. 11, 19.

Although awed by His presence, the Lord does not intend for His servants to be weak, hence the phrases, "stand up right . . . and be strong, yea, be strong."

4. EXPLANATION. v. 12, 13.

Here is some vitally new information concerning experiences on earth which are really an extension of situations in the heavens. Mark these verbs and consider their importance: "heard . . . I am come . . . withstood . . . come to help . . . I remained . . . NOW I am come." What does all this mean?

a. There are angelic hierarchies. Thought of

"prince" bears this out.

b. There are angelic wars. Thought of "withstood" confirms this.

c. There are forces at work to thwart God's eternal purposes. They are allowed a certain freedom of action (cf. 1 Kings 22:19-23). The real instigators of trouble are evil angelic beings (cf. 1 Thess. 2:18; Ezek. 28:1-19.)

d. God has His Own forces of superhuman beings at work (vv. 12, 21.) Michael is the warlike minister of God (mentioned in Dan. 10:13,21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7.)

5. INTENTION: v. 12, 14, 20.

Several matters are recorded in the Word as to intention of the angel's messages.

a. In answer to prayer. v. 12. How can we really expect God to speak to us IF we don't speak to HIM? Oh, how important is prayer!

b. In respect to Israel. v. 14. That Israel has a future is as patent as the fact that there is a God in heaven. Let us not tamper with God's purpose!

c. In connection with evil. v. 20. The struggle with forces against God will continue until His purpose is realized.

CONCLUSION: God has opened to our hearts in this passage a very important truth. Behind our experiences as believers, there are mighty forces at work. It is only the one who has found the Lord as his God through Jesus Christ who can appreciate the possibility of triumph. Even this triumph comes only through submission to Him and faithfulness to His desires.

NOTES: