#  Session 9 The Power of a Life Dedicated to God (Dan. 10)

outline of Daniel 10-12

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Introduction

*If I had to summarize Daniel 10, I would say it talks about the effectiveness of the praying believer. Daniel 11 is the power of the Antichrist, and Daniel 12 is the full victory of the redeemed. Daniel 10-12 is all one encounter with the Lord that Daniel describes. So Daniel 10, the effectiveness of the praying believer. Daniel 11 the power of the Antichrist and Daniel 12 the victory of the redeemed to summarize it really succinctly.*

Daniel 10 is the context for Daniel receiving his fourth vision that is described in Daniel 11-12. Called a “great” vision (10:8), it is the longest and most detailed prophecy about the Antichrist in the Bible, giving insight into his political decisions, religious attitudes, and military activities, as well as into the Great Tribulation and Israel’s deliverance (Dan. 11:21-12:3).

*Daniel 10 is the context for Daniel receiving his fourth end-time vision, which is in Daniel 11-12. Meaning all three chapters are one encounter, Daniel 10-12. In Daniel 10, he says, “Let me tell you what the context was.” Daniel 11-12, he goes on, “Now here is the vision.” It was called a great vision in Daniel 10:8. This is the longest and most detailed prophecy in the whole Bible. So Daniel described it as a great vision: great in meaning, great in detail, great in significance.*

*In Daniel 11, which is the part about the Antichrist, we see the Antichrist’s political decisions, we see his religious attitudes, his military activities, we see the great tribulation, and we see Israel’s deliverance. These massive, important themes are all laid out in one great vision.*

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)

*The reason Daniel 10 is referred to by some as pulling back the veil on the spirit realm—like Lou Engle, who is one of my dear friends, says this—it gives us insight into what happens in the spirit realm when we pray. It is one of the few passages of the Scripture that draws the veil back and lets us see the activity. We offer our weak prayers. I mean we do not feel very powerful, we do not feel very spiritual, we do not feel His presence, and we offer our prayer. I tell you, beloved, we offer our prayers in weakness, but they ascend in power because of the blood of Jesus. They have power and this is what happens whether you feel it or not.*

*Daniel 10 reveals the conflict between high-ranking angels and high-ranking demons. Now it only gives a little bit of insight, but we can see the major activity of what is happening in the spirit realm in the conflict. Paul referenced this in Ephesians 6:12. He said, “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but we wrestle against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual hosts.” These are categories of demons, demonic powers. The highest category—it is implied, or is what we understand—is called demonic principalities. The second highest power, the assumption is—is called powers. The third category is rulers of the darkness and that is a category of a demonic being. Then another category is called spiritual hosts. Someone asks what are the differences? I do not know but the point I gather from this is that there are various rankings and various activities that are very different from one another.*

*I believe that over every city and every nation of the earth there is both a demonic and an angelic hierarchy. I believe there are demonic powers over this city that are the chief demonic powers, and they have those that assist them of lesser power who are under their command. On the opposite side, on the kingdom side, there are angelic powers that have been assigned to every geographic area of the earth. Of course the angelic powers move by the direction of the Holy Spirit.*

*So when we say that our prayers release greater Holy Spirit activity, this includes more angelic activity. So there is an angelic activity I would put it as a subcategory of the Holy Spirit activity. Sometimes I will say that we see greater Holy Spirit power and greater angelic activity. Really, you know, the angelic activity is part of the Holy Spirit activity.*

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.

*Political leaders—meaning presidents, prime ministers, governors, and the infrastructure under them—are affected by these demons and angels. I am assuming most political leaders are not very in tune with how they are being affected by spiritual beings. I am assuming most would think that this is ridiculous. There are demons that are inspiring them, inciting them to anger and rage and frustration and confusion, seducing them with wrong ideas about their own grandeur and power. They make decisions based under that influence.*

*Angels can drive back demonic influence. When the angels drive back the demonic influence over a city, then there is a greater impact of the light of God on the city, the governmental leaders, and the culture. Even if the leaders are not believers, they are under an influence that causes them to make decisions for God’s purpose though they might not even know it. You know, when sometimes kings will make a declaration and it fits the perfect will of God and they might be totally unaware of it, because it says in Proverbs 21 that the king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord and He turns it like channels of water to affect the city or the nation under that leader.*

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)

*Demonic spirits target the governmental leaders. They target them knowing that if they can get a governmental leader, a governor or a mayor or a prime minister, to be incited with negative feelings, pride or anger or rage or confusion or many of those kinds of things, it will affect the whole population under that governor or affect that president’s or that king’s domain.*

*When we pray and the Holy Spirit releases greater angelic activity, demons are driven back. Here is how I picture it. I am sure it is not exactly like this, but I think this at least gives you a bit of an idea of how it operates. So there is like a demon that is inspiring a king with rage and anger and frustration. This king is in his cabinet meeting with his leaders, and he is so angry and he is going to make this decree, or he is so jealous, or he is so possessed with pride. He is going to decide something that will enhance his grandeur and power or something like that. The word picture I have in my mind because Satan is described as being like a dragon, though that is just a symbol, like breathing hot fire, so I picture demons in that same kind of metaphor just breathing hot fire, inciting negative emotions in a king or any kind of governmental leader. This kind of demonic rage and feeling, and they get all stirred up and even their cabinet meetings, their leadership meetings, whatever they might call them, the whole mood and the tenor of them and the tone of them is negative.*

*If prayer goes forth, that demonic inspiration is minimized, cut off, set aside, angelic activity is now moving, light is moving, and that same unbelieving king says, “Wow, I just feel different today. You know I think we are going to do this…” In that posture they make decisions that are for God’s purpose, though they might be completely unaware of it. So that is why when we pray for the Supreme Court situation with the gay marriage, I want to see angelic activity driving demonic powers out of this entire influence. Not just the nine decision makers, but all the leaders around them who are influencing those judges. There is a whole hierarchy, a human hierarchy. I want to see Holy Spirit power released through that hierarchy even through their counselors, their advisers, their research teams, their associates. I mean it is a whole structure and that is why our prayers really matter.*

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)

*Paul said, “First of all I exhort you, pray for all men.” In 1 Timothy 2:2, he says, “Pray for kings. Pray for everyone in governmental authority.” Again it is not just the king; it is his cabinet, it is their support team, their administrators, their counselors, their researchers, all kinds of different positions connected to each one of these leaders. Paul says to pray and the net result is that they will make decisions so you have a peaceable life. It affects the economy, it affects the culture, it affects many things.*

*We look at ourselves and say, “Our weak prayers?”*

*The Lord would say, “Look at Daniel 10 or Luke 18. Pray for justice and this thing will shift in the realm of the spirit.”*

Context of the fourth vision (Dan. 10:1-3)

Daniel received this vision during the third year of the reign of King Cyrus—in 536 BC. This was just over two years after the Persians had conquered the Babylonian Empire (539 BC). In 538 BC, Cyrus gave the decree for Israel to return to Jerusalem. They arrived there in 536 BC.

1In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia [536 BC] a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. (Dan. 10:1)

* + 1. A common view is that after the death of King Belshazzar, Cyrus established Darius as viceroy over Babylon. Darius is the name of several Persian leaders. Darius the Mede (Dan. 11:1) was the son of Ahasuerus (Dan. 9:1). Some see Darius as the name of a political office such as *governor* and name Gobryas as the man holding this office in Daniel’s time.
		2. The first year of Cyrus and the first year of Darius both occurred in 538 BC.

*Again, Daniel 10 is the context where he is describing what happened. Daniel 11 is the actual vision. In our final session next week we will look at just a little bit of Daniel 11, mostly the last end of it, not the first part of it. Because it is such a long prophecy, we will cover just a little bit.*

*Daniel 10:1 says, “In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia.” Now that date is significant because we know that the third year of Cyrus is 536 BC. I have the details written down there in the notes. 536 BC was a key time because the Jewish remnant had just left Babylonian captivity. They had been in captivity seventy years, and they just arrived in Jerusalem in 536 BC; that is the year they are building the house of prayer in Jerusalem. Daniel is still way over in Babylon, which is modern day Iraq, and he is praying. He is in his eighties and he knows that the remnant is back in Jerusalem, that they just got there a few months ago. They are being oppressed and harassed, and they have many difficulties.*

*So the timing of this vision is really key because what he sees in the vision is not just the ultimate trouble coming to Israel through the Antichrist, but the real point of the vision, the high point of the vision, is the full and final permanent victory of Israel and all of the redeemed; that is the real glory of this vision. Though there is trouble, and the trouble will intensify, ultimately there is full and final victory for all the people of God. That is the high point of this vision that we will get at next week.*

Daniel’s life was threatened when he was thrown into a lion’s den (Dan. 6). This probably happened near the time that he received the vision in Daniel 9 or Daniel 10. We cannot be decisive about the exact date, but Daniel 6 is assumed to have occurred near the beginning of the Persian rule because of the language of establishing its government in Babylon. Daniel 6 expresses the demonic rage against Daniel near the time that he received great prophetic insight. Daniel was in his mid-80s at this point.

Daniel was mourning for Israel because of what was happening with the remnant back in Jerusalem.

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)

*So Daniel is praying. It says, “In those days, I, Daniel, was mourning.” Now he is mourning for what is happening back in Jerusalem. Again they have only been there some months—we do not know the exact amount of months but some months—and there is trouble. They are being attacked by the locals, the Samaritans; there are all kinds of obstacles and difficulties. The remnant is thinking, “Wow! We thought it would be easier than this.”*

*If you remember last week—when we mentioned Gabriel in Daniel 9:25—Gabriel had said, “Daniel, when they do restore Jerusalem, remember it will be in troublesome times.” There will be conflict and opposition. At every advance there will be resistance, Daniel 9:25. You tend to think if the city is being restored and the glory is coming, it just ought to be smooth. Gabriel said to remember there will be trouble. At every advancement there will be opposition is the idea. That was last week we looked at that in Daniel 9:25. That vision was two years before this vision.*

*Well, they are in Jerusalem now, and the trouble is coming just like Gabriel said. Daniel is mourning. He is mourning for their trouble, and mourning is another way of saying he is fasting. Meaning he is subjecting himself to this weakness of fasting. So he is mourning in that sense as well. He said in verse 3, “I eat no pleasant food, no meat, no wine came to my mouth. I did not anoint myself.” I guess in modern day speak he did not take a shower or use deodorant for three full weeks. Now if you are going to do the “no pleasant food, no meat, no wine,” please take a shower, okay? I am not going to comment on that as I do not want to violate the Scripture, but please take a shower if you are going to sit next to me in the prayer room, okay?*

What is a Daniel Fast?

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)

*What is a Daniel fast? I have a little bit here on the Daniel fast. There are two primary scriptures because it is a common phrase that many use. This passage to which we refer when we say, “I am on a Daniel fast.”*

***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 (all that enhances the flavor of food—seasonings, salad dressings, sweetener, etc.). It calls for abstaining from all pleasant foods, not only “meats and sweets.”

*It is basically abstaining from all pleasant foods. That is the idea. Now I break it down a little bit there; you can read that and do with that as the Lord leads you.*

Biblical fasting is abstaining from food for spiritual reasons. The Daniel fast is a *real* fast from food. It is not merely a diet or eating with moderation. It involves significantly reducing the types and amount of food that we normally eat and greatly increasing our time with the Lord. Going on a Daniel fast mostly for health reasons is good, but that is a *Daniel diet*, not a Daniel fast.

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.

*One thing important to understand: fasting does not earn us anything, but positions us to receive as our hearts become tenderized. We receive more, not because we earn it, but because we are positioned to become more tenderized and sensitive. So we tend to gain more understanding and we are more in line in unity with God’s heart. Because fasting does that, it has this impact on our spiritual life when we are fasting in the grace of God.*

*That does not mean fasting is easy. Some guys think, “Well, I do not have grace for fasting.” What they are imagining is fasting is easy. I think that even when you have grace, it does not mean that it is easy! It just means it is doable. It is like the “yes” to keep on fasting is stronger than the “no, you know I am going to quit.” The “I am going to go on” is stronger than “I am going to quit.”* ***That*** *is what I call the grace of fasting.*

*You know I have heard these people say that they did not even know they were fasting. I say, “Whatever.” Maybe they really did not feel it, but boy, I know it every time! When the motivation to keep going is stronger than the motivation to quit, I call that the grace of fasting. I found over the years that, not necessarily* ***while*** *I am fasting but typically* ***when it is over****, there is a heightened sensitivity. Sometimes it is during the fast too, but sometimes during the fast I feel worse. I feel rotten. I feel oppressed. It is just that your flesh is responding to being opposite of the normal routine of life of having food and nourishment.*

The mighty angel and its impact on Daniel (Dan. 10:4-6)

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), priests (Ex. 26:42;
1 Sam. 2:18; 22:18), and the saints (Rev. 19:8)

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)

*Now we are going to find that Daniel sees the high-ranking angel that helps him. The very fact that it is a high-ranking angel tells us that the opposition is a high-ranking demon. We know that the purpose is a high-ranking purpose. I mean the higher the angel and the higher the demon, the more significant the purpose is; that is the implication I take from this.*

*So in verse 5-6 he describes this high-ranking mighty angel. Now some people think this is the Lord Himself. I do not think it is. I think it is a mighty angel that is very similar in appearance to the mighty angel in Revelation 10; they are similar. In Revelation 10 it is called a mighty angel. The first reason I do not believe it is the Lord is because this mighty angel needed Michael to help him. The mighty angel was restrained by a demonic power, restrained and restrained until finally Michael comes. I cannot imagine that being true of Jesus, that He would be restrained by a demon. I cannot even conceive of that. So some folks see this as a picture of Jesus. Jesus has some of these characteristics in His glorified form in Revelation 1 when He reveals His glory, but I do think this is a mighty angel.*

*Verse 5, “I lifted my eyes, and behold a certain man”—because the angels appear in human form—“clothed in linen whose waist was girded with gold. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightening, his eyes like torches of fire. His arms and feet like burnished bronze and the sound of his words is like the voice of a multitude.” Again this is a similar description of the mighty angel in Revelation 10. I am only saying similar to Revelation 10. It might be the same angel; it might not be. The point is there is a category of angels that have this dimension of splendor and the glory of God at this level.*

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)

*We see the mighty angel, so we know it is a very important assignment. We know the issue is very important in order to have an angel of that stature appear. Now we see how deeply impacted Daniel was first by the angel himself. The glory of the angel overwhelmed Daniel, and also the information in the vision overwhelmed him. Both of them deeply impacted him, though they were two different issues. It is one thing for an angel to come with such glory that a person is overwhelmed, but it is another thing for the message itself to be overwhelming. Both of these are the case here in Daniel 10:7.*

*So Daniel is describing the impact of the angel. “I, Daniel, alone saw the vision.” He explains, “I am the only one who saw the angelic being. The men that were with me”—his prayer team I will throw in there—“they did not see the vision.” They felt the presence of the glory of God, they felt the weightiness of God’s glory in that setting, but they did not actually see the vision themselves. Imagine this. Great terror fell upon them. They fled to hide. Can you imagine being in a prayer meeting and an angel appears to one of the people in the prayer meeting? The angel has so much power and glory that the other ten or twenty people do not see anything, but they are saying, “Oh my! Do you feel that?” They are so filled with terror—I mean the fear-of-God terror, a godly terror—they run out of the room and leave Daniel there. They leave the prayer setting. That is intense! It kind of reminds me of when Saul of Tarsus got converted and became Paul the apostle: he saw the Lord, saw the light and heard the voice, but the guys around him did not. They did not see the light or hear the voice.*

*Verse 8, “I was left alone.” Of course the guys—you know I am saying this hypothetically, five or ten of the prayer team—they all ran. “I saw the great vision.” That is when it is called great. It is great in importance, in its value, and in the dimension of the glory of God. All of those are dimensions of the greatness of it. “No strength remained in me.” So his prayer team fled, and in his physical frame the vigor in him left. “I retained no strength” at all—I am adding the words “at all”—“I retained no strength.” I mean he is overcome, just absolutely spent.*

*He goes on in verse 9 that he could still hear the angel’s voice. “I can hear the sound.” He says, “I am in a deep sleep with my face on the ground, but I can still hear. I have no strength left, I am absolutely overwhelmed, but I can hear his voice.” Remember the voice of this angel is like the sound of a multitude; it is this thunderous, powerful voice. Then a little bit later in verse 15 he describes a little more. I just put the two passages together. He said describing the encounter, “When this angel spoke to me, I turned my face towards the ground. I was speechless.” Remember he was lying on the ground speechless, overwhelmed without any strength.*

*Verse 16, “I opened my mouth and spoke and said to the angel, ‘Lord, the vision is overwhelming me. Help!’” So that is kind of how I see it. He is on his face and says, “Lord”—by which he is talking to the angel—“because of the vision, my sorrows have overwhelmed me.” He sees the magnitude of the vision because he sees the Antichrist. He is overwhelmed and he says, “Help me right now.” So his face is on the ground, he can hear the angel, but he can hardly speak. The angel touches him and strengthens him.*

*A little bit later, which we do not cover in this teaching, but you can read it—the angel says, “Now stand up.” As in, “Stand up, Daniel. I need you to be in full attentiveness as I am going to go through the details.” You read Daniel 11; the details are so precise. “You have to stand up; I am going to strengthen you, I am going to help you hear what I am telling you.” There are so many implications of this mighty angel and how angelic interaction affects a human. This is outside of my experience. I look at this and thing, “Wow, this is a whole other realm!” And it really is.*

*Here is the reason I am highlighting this. I believe that in the hours—meaning the years—preceding the Lord’s return, with the increase of evil and the Antichrist in all the things that he sees in Daniel 11 in the vision, I believe that God’s servants are going to have experiences of this level. That is the reason I am highlighting it. Well, I am highlighting it because it is in the Bible, but I believe it is revealed to us because when the timeframe of the fulfillment of this kind of power for victory and this kind of power of darkness comes to a culmination, I believe that there are going to be these kinds of experiences in the spirit and that it is given as a—I do not want to say a prototype of all experiences—but it is letting us know this dimension of spiritual powers at this level will happen, that they are real and they are biblical.*

The angel’s conflict related to Daniel’s prayer (Dan. 10:10-14)

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)

*Let’s look at the angel’s conflict. This mighty angel is being resisted by a mighty demon. So as Daniel keeps praying, “Lord, release Your glory. Break through in power.” As Daniel keeps praying for this twenty-one days, this mighty angel is hindered. Look how powerful this angel is that he subdues Daniel entirely, yet the demon, the ruling demon of Persia, which is now Iran, is so powerful that this demon actually restrains this mighty angel. That tells you the power of the demon that is operating behind Persia, which is Iran today. We are not talking about a little demonic influence; we are talking about a demonic power of such stature. This mighty angel was restrained and withstood for a season. As Daniel kept praying, the Father on His throne sent Michael. Now the mighty angel and Michael overcame the demonic power of Persia, which again is now Iran.*

*Let’s read the account that Daniel gives. Verse 11, “The angel said to me, ‘O Daniel.’” I mean how tender is this? Before he gives him the most terrifying vision that has the ultimately glorious victory, he says, “O Daniel know this—you are greatly beloved.” This mighty angel, who overwhelmed Daniel by his power and glory, says, “Daniel, Daniel, I have been sent. My first message, before I tell you of the evil and then of the victory, I want to tell you this–the Father wanted me to tell you personally that He really loves you.” Isn’t this amazing? I mean that Daniel’s heart was so in tune with the Lord’s heart.*

*He goes on, “I want you to understand the words I am about to give you.” The words are the words in Daniel 11-12, so we are not going to look at those words again tonight. Verse 12, he goes, let me explain to you Daniel how this is operating in the spirit realm. From the first day, look at verse 12, that you set your heart to understand God’s purpose, he says, and from the first day you set your heart to humble yourself before God your prayers were actually heard. I have come because of your words. Because you kept praying that is why I came. This is so significant!*

*Verse 13, “But the prince”—now he means the demonic prince, the prince in the spirit realm, the number one demonic power over Persia, again modern-day Iran. Paul called that prince a principality. Remember Paul spoke of principalities and powers in talking of demonic rankings of the hierarchy of demons—He said, “The demonic prince over the kingdom of Persia [or Iran] withstood me for twenty-one days.” We are talking about this mighty angel being withstood. How powerful is this demon that is energizing the darkness in Iran! Again every nation has demons assigned to energize and fill with darkness, and every nation has angels, and so it is this whole battle in the realm of the spirit.*

*He said, “This demonic power of Persia withstood me”—held me at bay—“for twenty-one days.” He goes on, “God the Father sent me to you. From the very first day you prayed, I was dispatched from God’s presence to come to you, but I could not get to you.”*

*You think, “What? It is an angel from God, and he could not? Why didn’t God just wave His hand and get rid of all the demons?”*

*The Lord would say, “No, no. I do not want to do it that way. I want the people on the earth to have a dynamic participation in the conflict. When they pray, I dispatch angels. If they keep praying, the angels continue to come. If they stop praying, the angels back away. If they keep praying, eventually the demonic power is displaced, and it is because of the prayers of the saints.”*

*You know there is a testimony of Moses in Exodus 17 when they were in battle. Israel was fighting Amalek. Moses was up on the mountain, and the Israel was down in the valley in the battle. When Moses raised his hands, Israel started winning. When Moses’ arms got tired and he put his arms down, Israel in the battle down in the valley, they would begin to lose. So you know ten, twenty, thirty minutes he has got his hands up and Israel is winning the battle. He gets a little tired, puts his hands down, Israel loses. He says, “Whoa!” He puts his hands back up, and he says, “My arms are tired.” Then he gets Hur to hold up one hand, and his brother holds up the other hand. When Moses’ hands are held up, they won more. Israel was winning. When Moses put his hands down, Israel would lose. That is a picture of prayer.*

*As Daniel continues to pray, the victory in the spirit realm unfolds more. Now we know Jesus has already won the victory so the power over Satan is already accomplished. We are talking about enforcing and manifesting that power in time and space on the earth. Because the power is already been won by Jesus, therefore our weak prayers matter. That does not mean we offer up one prayer and it is over; that means we are pushing back the darkness by simply persevering and reminding God of His Word. That very simple participation is like Moses holding his hands up and the enemy is subdued. When the people of God do not pray, the enemy gains an upper hand. Again the Lord could say, “I could do this without any of you. My Son already won the victory. But I want you involved in how it is manifest in your city, your state, your nation, in your generation.” So the praying church is critical. It really, really matters that we participate.*

*Anyway verse 13, he says, “Michael, one of the chief princes”—it is kind of hard to say exactly, but that means an angelic prince, an archangel—“came to help me.” He says, “For I was left alone there with the kings.” Plural kings–that means the demonic principalities, the demonic hierarchy. He says, “I was left alone,” meaning he did not have another high-ranking angel like Michael with him. I assume he had angels of lower rank that were with him, but he said, I was left alone, as in I did not have a high-ranking angelic being like Michael. I was resisting these demonic kings of Persia, meaning in the spirit realm.*

*Verse 14, “I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days.” He says in essence, “I know you are praying for Jerusalem right now. They are going through trouble here in 536 BC. There is going to be a breakthrough, but I am going to use this occasion to show you the ultimate trouble coming to Israel and the ultimate breakthrough. I am showing you where it is going in the big picture.” He means this because the vision—again the vision is Daniel 11—pertains to the days yet to come, to the latter days.*

*Okay, let’s go back to verse 12 again. “From the first day that you set your heart to understand and humble yourself before God your words were heard.” So he is on day twenty-one of his fast. Now some people think that day twenty-one is the magic day. I think that is a wrong idea. I do not think there is a magic day. I think he just was on day twenty-one, and that is just it. I do not think that it is always “day twenty-one” as if that is the special day. The important part is from the first day, day one. So there he is eating his vegetables, he is praying, and he is troubled by this remnant in Jerusalem. They have been there for some months now. Trouble is coming, so he is praying. He is mourning and he is praying. Day two, nothing. Day three, nothing. He does not know that in the spirit realm a mighty angel has already been sent to him. Day four, it looks like no answer. Day eighteen, it does not look like anything is happening. Day twenty, “Lord, are you even listening?”*

*Now he is weaker and weaker, I mean he is in his eighties. He has a full-time job in the king’s court; he is part of the government. He is giving himself to fasting and to prayer. Then on day twenty-one suddenly as he is in this prayer meeting down by the river with his friends there—I am assuming these are friends, his prayer team. I am just putting that part in with this group of men—suddenly the mighty angel breaks in, terror fills these men, and they all flee. Daniel is overwhelmed by the glory of the angel and falls over. He says, “Angel, please help me talk a little bit.” The angel helps him.*

*Then the angel says, “I want you to know I was sent twenty-one days ago. Your prayers actually matter. If you had stopped praying, I would not have come. I would have been resisted.” I mean it really matters what we are doing. He says, “But I have come because of your words.” What a glorious thing that, through our weak words by the blood of Jesus, angels actually come because we say things in agreement with God. If we do not say them, less happens. If we say it more, more happens. We are not earning it. We are just coming into agreement with God’s heart. Agreement is the principle for which more Holy Spirit activity happens.*

*Again verse 13, there is a demonic prince that is inspiring the human prince. The human prince would be the king; in this case it would be Cyrus. So this human prince, Cyrus, already made a godly decree two years earlier inspired by the Spirit of God. This demonic prince of Persia wants now to bring this human prince, this king, Cyrus, under constant frustration, anger, confusion, and darkness. He says, “That demonic prince in the spirit realm withstood me. Michael the archangel came to help me.”*

 *Verse 14, but “I have come.” There is going to be a breakthrough in circumstances. I want you to know; I want to give you understanding why. Why do we want more understanding? Because with more understanding we are in greater unity with God’s heart, we are praying in the will of God, and more happens. Understanding is an issue of life and death.*

*Some folks think that just whatever God wants will happen. The Lord would say, “No. If you understand what My Word says, then agree with My heart, persevere in agreement, and more will happen.” Do not just say it does not really matter, one way or the other. Now we do not have to understand all the details of when it is going to happen, how it is going to happen. We want to understand what is on God’s heart, what is the victory He has promised, what is some of the resistance described in the Bible that we are standing against with perseverance.*

***Set your heart to understand***:Daniel sought understanding about each of his four visions.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***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)

***The prince of Persia***:The demonic principality of the kingdom of Persia (Iran) withstood the angel for twenty-one days.

***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).

***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.

***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).

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)

*Now it is interesting that Michael the archangel is the one that came to help this mighty angel. Again that is one of the reasons why I believe the mighty angel is not an Old Testament vision of Jesus, because Jesus would not need Michael to come help Him. Look what it says later on in the vision; this is the same Daniel 10-12, the same experience. At the end of the experience Michael is brought up again. It says that at that time, talking about in the end-times of the great tribulation, Michael will stand up. He is the great prince; he is the great archangel. Again, he is an angelic prince. That is what it means by Michael the great prince: a prince in the angelic realm, a leader over many, many angels. It is understood or supposed that, because of a couple of verses we have here in the notes here, he is over a third of all of the angels. We do not know that for sure but that is what some say.*

*Michael in the last days, in the Great Tribulation, will stand up to stand watch over Israel. Michael is assigned particularly to the nation of Israel. That is why people draw the conclusion Michael is over Israel. From this comes the assumption—and I think it is a true assumption but it is still an assumption—that there are mighty angels over other nations as well. Israel is not the only nation that has an angel assigned because the Lord is the Lord of all the nations. His glory covers all the ends of the earth. So the whole thing is all the nations are under Him. Notice Michael the great archangel stands watch over Israel. Now this is the verse, the Great Tribulation verse. The mighty angel says, “…for there is coming a time of trouble.” This trouble will be such as never been ever before since there was a nation, even up to that time. There is coming a time of trouble. The mighty angel tells Daniel that it is a time of such trouble that no time before it or no time after it will equal this trouble; it will be unique. This is actually the very verse Jesus quotes in Matthew 24 when He talks about the Great Tribulation. He quotes this passage right here, what the mighty angel told Daniel.*

*The point I am making here is that during this time of great trouble, the Great Tribulation, Michael arises. It means he takes this very aggressive activity; he arises to action. He is deeply involved in the affairs of Israel. This is good because the Antichrist is trying to wipe out Israel in the Great Tribulation, but Michael arises in that final hour in the same way that Michael arose back here in Daniel 10. So when we understand Daniel 10, it gives us a snapshot in the way that the prayers of the saints are going to release Michael and other angels to combat demonic powers even in the Great Tribulation.*

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

20Then 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)

*We are going back to Daniel 10 here. The angel says to Daniel, “Do you know why I came to you?” Daniel is still on the floor. Well, he is up now because he had to stand up. He is probably trembling. Again he is in eighties and has been fasting twenty-one days. He is overwhelmed by angelic glory. He is standing there, and the angel asked him a question. “Do you know why I came? In other words, “I want you to know this before I give you the answer,” and the answer is to give him the information in Daniel 11-12 that we are not going to get to this week. He goes on, “I want you to know this: I have to return to fight against the demonic principality of Persia [or Iran]. I have to go fight against that demonic power again.” So just because there is a breakthrough here, the battle is not over. Part of what he is saying is, “Keep praying, Daniel. Stay with this because the battle is not over, because the prince of Persia is returning again, and he wants to wipe out Israel.”*

*We find out what happen is that—I have it in the notes here—over the next sixteen years Israel had huge setbacks. I mean that demonic prince of Persia was coming against Israel even over in the land, over in Jerusalem. Remember Daniel is in Babylon, he is praying, and the angel says, “I have got to fight that prince of Persia because the saints, the redeemed over in Jerusalem, are going to come under a greater attack. Another wave of attack is going to hit them.” So he is really telling Daniel in part of this message to stay with it, do not draw back, do not give up, it is not over. Back in Jerusalem they are building the house of prayer and they got so discouraged because of all the troubles there, they actually gave up for sixteen years. They just quit. They gave up and gave in. Probably Daniel does not live much longer than this; we do not know, but we do not hear of him again after this.*

*The prince of Persia, the authority structure of Persia, was over Jerusalem and all the authorities there, and there was just resistance, wave after wave of resistance, but eventually the breakthrough came. God anointed prophets and they broke through. Zerubbabel finished it, and the house of prayer got established, and the nation got victory. I mean there are these setbacks but there is prayer, and then there is victory, then setbacks again. It is like we want to say, “Lord, we just wanted this to be easy. We do not want all this conflict.” Beloved, there is a real war.*

*As you know there is no timeout zone in the demonic kingdom. I have heard people saying for many, many years, “I am just so tired. I am just going to draw back.”*

*I say, “You think there is a no-fire zone somewhere in the spirit? That because you are tired, the demon that hates you is going to say, ‘Okay I will give you a break. Okay, you got three weeks off to get your strength back, then get back in the ring.’”*

*“I am just tired. I do not know.”*

*The demon says, “Exactly what I was hoping.” He will just destroy you. There is no timeout zone; there is no no-fire zone in the demonic kingdom. He wants you tired and quitting. He does not give you a timeout and then say, “Come back into the boxing ring later, and we will pick up where we left off.” He will destroy you if you quit. That is his goal. That is why we want to stay connected to one another, we want to stay connected to the Word, and we want to stay connected to the Spirit. Though there is resistance, there is victory and it really matters.*

*Then the angel goes on to say here, “I have to return to fight against the prince of Persia. Know this, when I have gone forth, after Persia, the demon behind Greece is coming next.” It was 200 years later when Alexander the Great rose up and wiped out the Persians. Then Alexander the Great and the Greeks were the ones in the premiere authority, and they were harassing Israel. The angel told Daniel ahead of time. He explains, “There is a big picture story going on, Daniel, and you are a part of it and so are the intercessors after you for centuries and generations up to the coming of the Lord.” There is a battle; it is unfolding. There is continuity, and we are all in this together. There is a big plan that is happening.*

*He goes on in verse 21 to tell Daniel what is noted or what is emphasized in the Scripture. He tells him what is emphasized, and it is the next chapter. In Daniel 11 he unfolds it. He say, “Let me tell you there is no one who upholds me against these kings of Persia except for Michael the archangel.” He is saying there is no other angelic power—that has the stature that Michael has—to help him against the kings of Persia that are fighting him, these demonic kings. Again, we are getting insight into how angels help angels, how they resist demons, and how intercessors on the earth affect the angels to help and support one another against demonic powers.*

*Look at verse 21 again, “No one upholds me, no one strengthens me against these”—these are the kings of Persia, the demonic kings—“except for Michael your prince.” The archangel, the one that is assigned to Israel, he explains, “Daniel, the archangel over your nation is the one that is helping me.” So keep praying is the idea.*

*Now look at this in the next verse. He says, “I want you to know this, Daniel”—now that we are talking and I am just kind of sharing everything with you here—“I want you to know this. Two years earlier, back in the first year of Darius the Mede”—which is the same year as the first year of Cyrus the king of Persia. It is the same time frame—“ I want you to know two years ago, I, even I, stood up and helped Michael.” So he is explaining that two years ago back, when Israel was first released out of Babylonian captivity in the Daniel 9 time two years earlier, Michael was at the front and this angel helped him. This is quite remarkable how the prayers of the saints cause the angels even to have greater activity and greater effectiveness in the actual out-working of the spiritual battle over that city in that generation, that particular timeframe.*

Before giving the details of Daniel 11, more parenthetical information was given. The first year of Darius (11:1) was 538 BC (or two years earlier than this current vision).

The mighty angel came (10:20) to aid Israel in fighting against the prince of Persia and to give Daniel prophetic insight into Israel’s future (Dan. 11-12).

***Must return to fight***: Israel faced great resistance from Persia over the next 100 years or so—to such a degree that they stopped the work on the temple for 16 years (535-520 BC).

* + 1. The restoration of Jerusalem and temple (the house of prayer) did come in God’s timing, even though it was delayed for 16 years. The story of this restoration is found in three passages (Ezra 1-6; Hag. 1-2; Zech. 3-8). Soon after arriving at Jerusalem, they laid the foundation of the temple, but because of opposition from enemies and economic troubles (Ezra 4:1-6; 24) and quit for 16 years (535-520 BC). In 520 BC they restarted their labors (Ezra 5:1-2).
		2. The main obstacles included the ***Samaritans*** who opposed them (Ezra 4:1-5, 24), the spiritual compromise and fear in the ***remnant of Israel*** (Hag. 1:1-11; Zech. 1:1-6), and the ***economic crisis*** that was intensified by drought and agricultural failures (Hag. 1:1-11).
		3. Two years earlier, in Daniel 9:25, Gabriel prophesied that the blessing of the restoration of Jerusalem would occur in the context of trouble and difficulty.

25…to restore and build Jerusalem…the street [open square] shall be built again, and
the wall, even in troublesome times. (Dan. 9:25)

The demonic principality of Persia/Iran who resisted this angel is still very powerful today. The Antichrist will bring many nations to fight Israel ([Ezek. 38:](http://av1611.com/verseclick/gobible.php?p=Eze_38.2)[5](http://av1611.com/verseclick/gobible.php?p=Eze_38.5-6)). Persia is the first one mentioned.

3“I am against you, O Gog [Antichrist]… 4I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws,
and lead you out, with all your army…5“Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them [Antichrist’s army], all of them with shield and helmet; 6Gomer [Turkey] and all its troops; the house of Togarmah [eastern Turkey] from the far north and all its troops…” (Ezek. 38:3-6)

*I want to highlight two more verses really quickly, then leave the notes to you to study. Ezekiel 38. Now you know Ezekiel is the prophet who was in the slave camp in Babylon while Daniel was in the king’s palace in Babylon. They were both in Babylon in the same generation. Ezekiel was getting insight into what is going to happen in the end times too. Look at Ezekiel 38:3. God speaks and says, “I am against you, O Gog.”—I believe that is the Antichrist—“I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaw, and lead you out with all of your army.” He goes out to identify the army that is in league with the Antichrist. He says that Persia [Iran] will be in league with the Antichrist in that period of time. Iran is the first nation mentioned. Of course it is mentioned by its ancient name. Beloved, the very fact that Iran is rising up, it is that principality of Persia is rising up against Israel again right now. This whole nuclear arms thing and all these things that are going on in the Middle East, it is the principality of Persia. It is the Daniel 10 storyline replaying again.*

God is raising up a “corporate Daniel” to pray for Israel. Michael will again stand up to fight for Israel and will cast Satan down (Rev. 12:7-9). Michael gives leadership in a war in the spirit against Satan and his fallen angels. I believe Michael will do this in response to the prayers of a “global corporate Daniel” in a way that parallels his response in Daniel 10.

7And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought…9The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan…he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:7-9)

*We will end with this. John the apostle in the book of Revelation gives us a little bit of insight on this. This is, I believe, talking about in the final three and a half years of this age. War broke out in heaven, Revelation 12. Some people think this happened at the cross. I believe, and there is really strong evidence, this is clearly yet a future event.*

*Revelation 12:7, we will end with this. War broke out in heaven and Michael arose. There is Michael again. He is in action just like back in Daniel 10; it is going to happen again. Michael and all of his angels fought Satan and all of Satan’s angels. Verse 9, “and the great dragon, Satan, was cast out, that is the serpent of old, the devil, he was cast to the earth.” Beloved, there is coming a time when Satan and the prince of Persia and all the others will rise up and try to exterminate Israel and completely destroy them. Michael will arise again. Michael will take on, not the prince of Persia this time, but Satan himself and cast Satan out of his position in the heavenly places. All the demon realms and ranks will be cast down to the earth and that will make them far less effective. Of course they will rage on the earth, but far less effectively.*

*Here is the point I want you to see: it is Michael rising up to do that. Why is Michael going to rise up in the Great Tribulation to help Israel? I believe because there will be a global prayer movement, there will be a corporate global Daniel doing the Daniel 10 storyline. Michael will rise up again just like then, demonic power will be cast aside in the future, and the great glory of God and the second coming of Christ and all that will come to full culmination.*

*So I believe this Daniel 10 storyline is going to be replayed again in Revelation 12. The whole Body of Christ will be a part of that corporate Daniel. That is why understanding these principles—though we do not have to understand perfectly, but the broad strokes, the broad themes—gives us a sense of confidence and resolve to really enter into this battle and to see that it really is going to be won and that our prayers really do matter. Well, amen and amen.*

the life of Daniel: The power of a life dedicated to God

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).

10Daniel…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)

 8But 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)

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)

The first six chapters of Daniel give insight into the effectiveness of his prayer here in Daniel 10.
***Daniel 1***:Dedication of youth; refuses to compromise; embraces a fasted lifestyle in Babylon
***Daniel 2***:Nebuchadnezzar’s first dream – receiving the word of Lord in crisis
***Daniel 3***:Being faithful witnesses (Rev. 13); deliverance from the fiery furnace
***Daniel 4***: Nebuchadnezzar’s second dream – calling leaders to righteousness
***Daniel 5***: Belshazzar’s feast – the sudden downfall of governments (fall of Babylon)
***Daniel 6***: Daniel in the lion’s den – supernatural deliverance of believers in persecution

***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)

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.