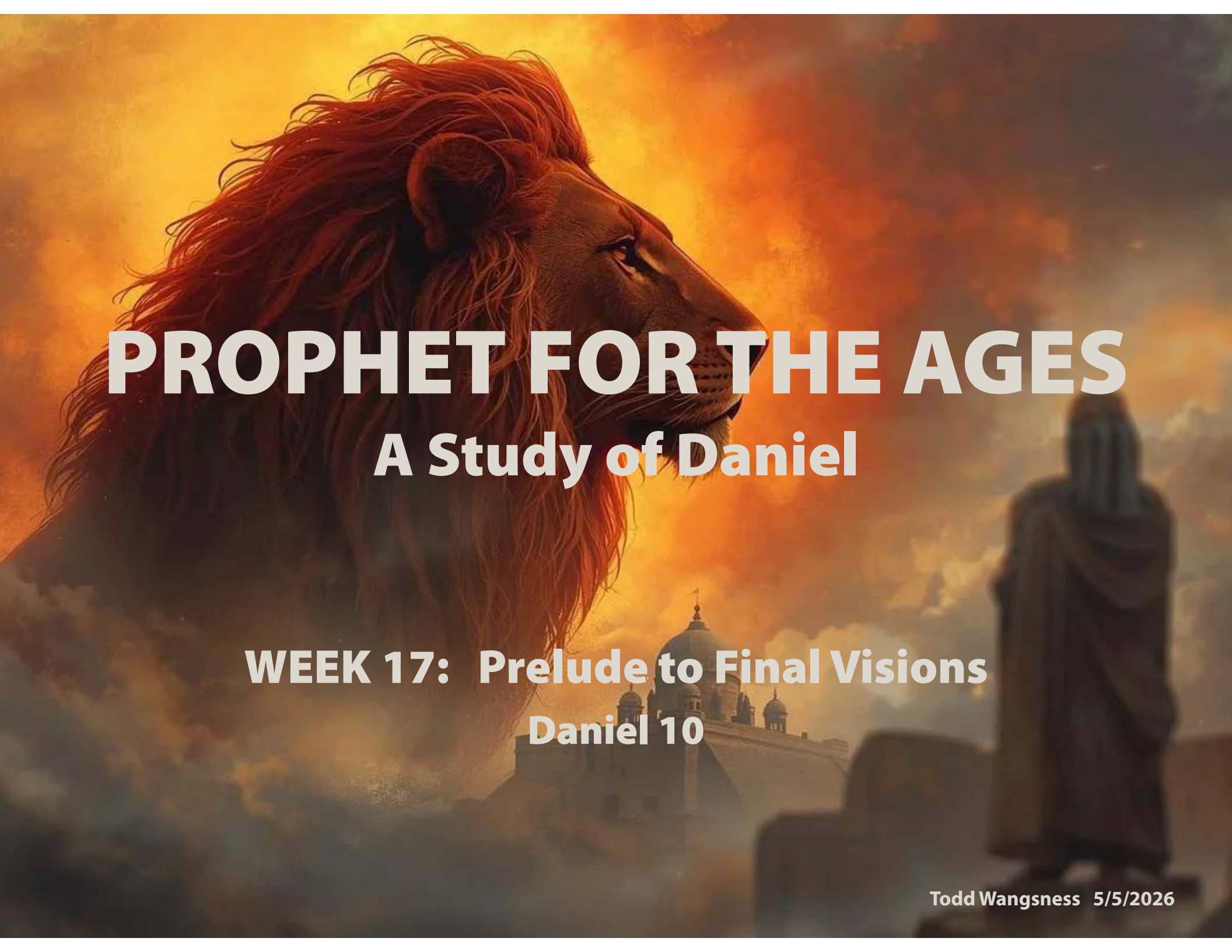




# **PROPHET FOR THE AGES**

## **A Study of Daniel**

**WEEK 17: Prelude to Final Visions**  
**Daniel 10**

# Prophet for the Ages: Prelude to Final Visions

## Daniel 10 Overview

- **Context:**
  - Daniel chapter 10 is the beginning of the final major vision in the Book of Daniel (chapters 10–12 form one long apocalyptic vision). It serves as an introduction and preparation for the detailed prophecies about future kings, wars, and end-time events that follow in chapters 11 and 12.
- **Historical Setting**
  - Date: The third year of Cyrus king of Persia (around 536–535 BC)
  - Location: By the Tigris River (called the Hiddekel in the text)
  - Timing: Occurred about two years after the events of chapter 9 and roughly three years after the Jews were first allowed to return from Babylonian exile under Cyrus
- **Themes**
  - Spiritual Warfare: One of the clearest windows in the Bible into the invisible realm ... angels and demons actively influencing earthly kingdoms and politics.
  - Delayed Answers to Prayer: Even though God heard Daniel immediately, fierce opposition in the spiritual realm caused a delay. Persistence in prayer and fasting matters.

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## Notable Quote About Daniel 10

***“The prince of Persia is only mentioned in Daniel 10. The prince of Persia is a reference to an evil spiritual entity that wielded authority over the ancient kingdom of Persia. This ‘prince’ was very likely a fallen angel who in some sense had authority or influence over the physical kingdom of Persia.***

***Remember that ‘our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms’” (Ephesians 6:12).***

- GotQuestions.org

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## Introduction to the Vision

**Dan 10:1** *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, 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.*

- Daniel was now approximately 85 years old
- Critics are quick to point out that the timing seems to conflict with that of Daniel 1:21, where it says, ***"Daniel continued even unto the first year of King Cyrus"***
  - This apparent "conflict" is easily resolved by understanding the passage in chapter 1 only references Daniel's career in the Babylonian government
  - It simply shows Daniel continued to serve in the Babylonian government until the Medo-Persian invasion and government was established
    - His career continued into the Medo-Persian empire for a few years
- ***"The appointed time was long"***: The vision does not refer to a single conflict, but a long, protracted period of strenuous trouble for Jews and the whole world

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

- **Why was Daniel in mourning? And what was he mourning about?**
  - **One possibility is the lack of response to the decree of Cyrus**
    - **Two years had now passed since the decree had been issued allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem – yet only a small number had actually returned (50,000 as mentioned in Ezz 2:64-67 and Neh 7:66-69)**
  - **Another possibility is that Daniel had received discouraging news that the rebuilding effort had been stymied by numerous obstacles and difficulties**
    - **As an officer in the court, he would have received frequent missives of the status of activity in Israel**
    - **These obstacles resulted in the construction work stopping shortly after it had begun (Ezz 4:23-24)**

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## The Appearance of the Glorious Man

**Dan 10:4-6** *Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! 6 His 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.*

- According to v4, Daniel's period of mourning would have encompassed the Days of Unleavened Bread
- Seven points regarding Daniel's description of the Glorious Man:
  1. ***Clothed in linen:*** Shows purity and emphasizes priestly service
  2. ***Girded with gold:*** A mark of royalty. Princely rank and office.
  3. ***Body like beryl:*** Emphasis on his power and authority in spiritual conflict
  4. ***Appearance of lightning:*** Radiance associated with Shechinah glory
  5. ***Eyes like ... fire:*** Emphasizing discernment and penetrating insight
  6. ***Arms/feet like ... bronze:*** Bronze is associated with 'judgment' in the bible
  7. ***Sound ... like a multitude:*** Power and might

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- **Is this Glorious Man a 'theophany' (pre-incarnate manifestation) of Jesus?**
- **Arguments *for* a theophany**
  - **Parallels with Revelation and OT: Language mirrors that of Revelation 1 and other passages in the Old Testament**
  - **Angels do not function as priests: Linen and golden sash imply a priestly role**
  - **Context: He delivers profound revelations about the future and spiritual warfare**
- **Arguments *against* a theophany**
  - **Opposed by a fallen angel: Apparently opposed for 21 days by the prince of Persia**
  - **It is inconceivable that an evil angelic being could oppose the Logos**
- **Context of scripture allows for an 'initial' appearance of the Logos with the subsequent message delivered by a high-ranking angel, perhaps Gabriel**

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**Dan 10:7-9** *And 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. 8 Therefore 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. 9 Yet 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.*

- The bank of the Tigris River was 20 miles east of Babylon
- Daniel had apparently traveled to the Tigris with a group of men who all promptly fled in terror and left Daniel alone at the appearance of the angel
- Daniel fell into a “deep sleep” (not uncommon when receiving a vision)
  - **Daniel 8:18** Daniel fell into a deep sleep with the Vision of the Ram and Goat
  - **Gen 15:12** Abram was in a deep sleep during the blood sacrifice
  - **Job 33:15** *“In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men”*

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## The Angel's Description of the Struggle

**Dan 10:10-11** *Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. 11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.*

- ***"A hand touched me"***: Not necessarily the 'hand' of the Glorious Man
  - As mentioned earlier, the context of the passage allows for another angel of high rank sent to deliver the message, i.e., perhaps Gabriel
- The angel helped Daniel up to his hands and knees after falling on his face
- He provided encouragement to Daniel by letting him know he was "greatly beloved"!
- Then he helped Daniel rise trembling to his feet

# Prophet for the Ages: Prelude to Final Visions

**Dan 10:12-14** *Then he said to me, “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; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now 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.”*

- In Chapter 9, Daniel received the messenger from God before he was even done praying
- In this passage, the angel was withstood for 21 days by opposition from the prince of Persia, a high-ranking evil spirit
- Very likely, the message the angel was to impart to Daniel was so important and crucial that Satan scrambled his chief officer of the region to thwart the angel's ability to transmit it
- Apparently, it was through Daniel's persistence in prayer and fasting that enabled (authorized) Michael to come and assist in overcoming the opposition
- The “kings of Persia” were evil angels under the authority of the prince of Persia
- The angel emphasizes the message was for the far distant future

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## Sidebar on Fallen Angels vs Demons

- It is possible that “fallen angels” are not the same as “demons”
  - *Gen 6:1-4 Now it came about, when mankind began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose ... 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of mankind, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. [NASB]*
- Genesis 6 describes the "sons of God" (fallen Watchers) taking human wives and producing Nephilim (giants/tyrants)
  - This pre-flood event is linked to widespread corruption that prompted the Flood
  - Many argue the Nephilim were unnatural hybrids – part spirit, part human – creating beings that were a corruption of God’s order
  - This view was embraced in apocryphal literature (Enoch/Jubilees/etc) and the Essenes

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## Sidebar on Fallen Angels vs Demons (cont.)

- Could this explain why demonic activity seems tied to human oppression and defilement (echoing the pre-Flood corruption)?
- The book of Enoch differentiates between fallen angels and demons/evil spirits
  - *1 Enoch 15:8-11 And now, the giants, who are produced from the spirits and flesh, shall be called evil spirits upon the earth ... Evil spirits have proceeded from their bodies ... they shall be evil spirits on earth, and evil spirits shall they be called. And the spirits of the giants afflict, oppress, destroy, attack, do battle, and work destruction on the earth.*
- Humans: Human spirits go to judgment or await resurrection after death
- Fallen angels / watchers: The original rebels, now in chains
- Nephilim: When killed, their spirits remain on earth as demons that seek to afflict humanity, desiring to inhabit bodies (explains possession)
- This view was familiar to many Jews in Jesus' time, potentially describing how "unclean spirits" or "demons" were understood in the New Testament

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## Sidebar on Fallen Angels vs Demons (cont.)

- **Demons/evil spirits in the NT crave embodiment and torment people through possession (e.g., the Gadarene demoniac in Mark 5/Luke 8, where "Legion" enters pigs)**
- **They are called "unclean spirits" ... fitting for hybrids born of an "unclean" forbidden union**
- **Pure fallen angels (like Satan and his direct followers) are not typically depicted as desperately seeking human bodies in the same way; they have greater autonomy and power**
- **Demons are often portrayed as weaker or more numerous entities that harass and possess, aligning with the idea of restless, earth-bound hybrid spirits without their original giant bodies**
- **Whether this idea that fallen angels are distinct from demons/unclean spirits remains to be seen or proven**
  - **Irrespective, there is an unseen host of evil spirits that are diametrically opposed to God and those in whom His Spirit resides (believers)**

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## The Angel Strengthens Daniel

*Dan 10:15-17 When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. 16 And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I 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. 17 For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me."*

- The angelic being "touched" Daniel's lips to heal the iniquity he confessed for the nation of Israel
  - When we confess our sin and see God's Righteousness, we are *undone* and see ourselves as *vile*!
  - *Isa 6:5-7 "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."*
  - *Job 40:3-4 Then Job answered the LORD and said: 4 "Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth."*

# Prophet for the Ages: Prelude to Final Visions

**Dan 10:18-19** *Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19 And he said, "O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!" So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."*

- The message to "be strong" is very reminiscent of the message to Joshua
  - *Jos 1:7 "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."*
  - Our motivation is *love for God*, not our own works!
    - *Tit 3:4-7 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
    - *1 Joh 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.*

# Prophet for the Ages: Prelude to Final Visions

## A Glimpse into the Battles of the Angelic Realm

***Dan 10:20-21*** 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. 21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.

- The angel told Daniel that he had to return to fight the battle against the prince of Persia
- It is very apparent from all of Daniel 10 there are territorial evil spirits
- The angel made it abundantly clear that at some point in the future, the prince of Persia would be vanquished, and the prince of Greece would rise to the forefront
- It is safe to assume that God has assigned regional/territorial guardian angels as well
- In the next chapter (11:1), the angel says that he also assisted Michael (guardian angel of Israel) in an angelic military conflict. This was about the timeframe that Cyrus took a pro-Jewish stance.

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## Questions To Ponder

- Do we persist in prayer as we should?
- What if Daniel had continued in prayer for 20 days, but not 21?
  - The admonition here is to pray on important matters until we receive a breakthrough!
  - For some reason, our prayers are important to God! He wants/desires His children's deep emotional involvement prior to authorizing a release of His power!
  - Amazing really ... The All-Powerful God of the Universe standing by to release His Power and Authority based upon the intensity and involvement in the prayers of insignificant humans who – collectively – are referred to as “fine dust in the balance”!
  - Adam – in the fall – effectively relinquished title to the earth over to Satan
    - Adam was to subjugate the earth ... instead, he forfeited mankind's control and rulership of the Earth over to the enemy (*Mat 4:8*)
  - As a result, God apparently allows this ‘authority’ of the fallen one to persist until/unless His people humble themselves in prayer to such an extent that He rules an intervention is warranted

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## Questions To Ponder (cont.)

- How should we engage ourselves in *Spiritual Warfare*?
  - Many misconceptions and errors abound surrounding this topic
- From what 'territory' are we engaged in battle?
- Are we fighting towards gaining a position in Jesus Christ?
- Eph 6 talks about putting on the "whole armor of God"
  - What is the purpose of putting on this armor? To wage warfare?
- What is the "objective of the battle"? What are we fighting for?