

Series: The Book of Daniel

Sermon: The Invisible War All Around Us

Passage: Daniel 10:1 - 11:1 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: Spiritual warfare is going on all around us at all times but we can take courage knowing that the One who dwells within us is the only God who is greater than all His created angelic hosts.

I. A Shocking Encounter

- Daniel's 3 week fasting was during the feasts of Passover (14th) & Unleavened bread (15th-21st).
- Daniel's encounter with an angel(s) had a dramatic physical affect on him.
- Three times the angel(s) strengthened Daniel by his touch. (see Matt. 4:24; Luke 22:43)

II. A Fascinating Revelation

- God heard Daniel's prayer and immediately dispatched His response.
- Spiritual demonic conflict hindered the answer being delivered for 21 days. (**Eph 6:13**)
- The "Prince of Persia" is a spiritual being of apparently greater power and national influence.
- Michael, the archangel (Jude 9), was dispatched to aid the messenger angel by contending with and overcoming this powerful demon.

III. Some Truths About Angels & Demons

- Angels are real, both faithful and evil.
- Angels are created beings subject to God's supreme sovereignty and authority.
- Angels are NOT human but, at times, appear in human form. Otherwise they are invisible to us.
- Angels serve a variety of services: worship, judgment, messengers, protection, encouragement.
- Angels seem to have a hierarchy or structure in authority and power. From this passage it would be reasonable to presume that all nations have powerful high ranking angels influencing leaders, laws and policies for both good and evil.
- Demons can have a limited but powerful influence on humans.
- The influence of demons and temptation can be resisted through reliance upon the Holy Spirit, God's Word and prayer (see the armor of God in Ephesians 6).
- Everything that goes wrong in life is not demonic activity, but also some of it likely could be.
- **Check out the NEW Oasis Church: Reach and Teach Podcast Episode 3 on Spotify for a fun story about angels from the book of 2 Kings!**

IV. An Encouraging Word

- The angel affirmed twice that Daniel was someone greatly loved (esteemed) by God. (see Rom. 5:8)
- The message of chapters 11-12 would be troubling but Daniel was instructed (1) not to fear, (2) to be strong and (3) take courage. (see Joshua 1:9)
- While spiritual warfare would continue, God's truth, His will for all time, is settled and sure.

V. What are we to do?

- Keep praying no matter how hollow or fruitless it might feel. God hears and answers.
- Don't be afraid of angelic & demonic beings because the all powerful One dwells within us (1 John 4:4).
- Instead of getting too fixated on angels & demons; focus on Jesus, walk by the Spirit, obey God's Word & live by faith.