

## ***“A Battle for the Ages” Part II***

As we noted in our first message, this passage, which the New American Commentary called, “one of the strangest in all the Bible,” we see a battle going on in outer space that rocks the world.

Brief recap of message one, since it has been four weeks:

Daniel is now about 85 years old and is still praying. He is troubled may be because of what he hears from the first group of about 50,000 that has returned to Jerusalem and also concerned about why others did not go.

This burden was so heavy that he was mourning, fasting from pleasant food and entertainment. This prayer lasted for 21 days.

Notice in three different places, he is “touched.”

- \* Verse 10 “A hand touched me, which made me tremble”  
One commentary said it “violently seized him.”
- \* Verse 16 “touched my lips;”
- \* Verse 18 “touched me and strengthen me.”

Due to these “touches,” Daniel is found with his face to the ground (vs. 8), on his knees and hands (vs. 10), standing up shaking, trembling (vs. 11) and laying on the ground speechless (vs. 15).

- \* Daniel saw some “out of this world” Pictures

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We believe that the first person Daniel saw in this vision was the Lord Jesus Himself in a theophany, a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord. (verses 5-6)

Then he saw and spoke with an angel and heard about something that was happening in the heavens that affected him on earth but was invisible to him on earth. That is what we are going to look at this morning.

## **I. Warfare is caused by Satan and demons who hate God.**

A. We know Satan is the leader of an army of demons 1/3 the size of God's army of angels. Satan is one person who is not like God who is all-powerful and omnipresent. He is limited in power and presence. Most likely no one in this room has ever faced Satan personally or ever will.

### **B. Demonic Army**

#### **1. Confined demons**

I Peter 3:19-20 "by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, ...in the days of Noah."

Almost without exception in the NT, "spirits" refers to supernatural beings rather than people and the word "prison" is not used elsewhere in Scripture as a place of punishment for humans after death, but is used for Satan in Rev. 20:7.

II Peter 2:4-6 "For if God did not spare the angels who

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sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgement; (then refers to Noah in verse 5 and Sodom and Gomorrah in verse 6).

Jude 6-7 “And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own habitation, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgement of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

Genesis 6:1-8 Wickedness had come to the earth to such a degree that the sons of God and the daughters of men were involved in some form of grievous sexual perversion like Sodom and Gomorrah. This caused the Lord to express His sorrow and deep grieving that he had made man.

## 2. Loosed demons

These are the ones we are concerned about.

\* These demons fell with Satan (Luke 10:18, Revelation 12:4, 9) “His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.” “The devil and Satan...was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

\* These demons can move without bodies - they are spirits.

\* These demons can take the form of a body and take over a body (Man in Mark 5)

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- \* Satan (and his demons) can appear as an “angel of light” (II Corinthians 11:14), a liar (John 8:44), a murderer (John 10:10) and “deceives the whole world (Rev. 12:9).
- \* These demons ‘apparently have the capacity to bring about hindrances and delays, even of the delivery of the answers to believers whose requests God is minded to answer.’”
- \* These demons have certain limited powers of obstruction and rebellion somewhat like those he allows humans. God can override them if he chooses to.
- \* Satan has organized his demonic forces into a hierarchy. There is some form of rank, as indicated by the six-fold description in Paul's letters: principalities, authorities, powers, dominions, thrones, world-rulers.
- \* Demons differ both in their degree or depth of wickedness (Mt. 12:45) and their strength or power (Mark 9:29). Could this possibly be what determines their organizational position?
- \* Satan does not operate haphazardly. He has a plan, schemes, tactics, a cosmic agenda (Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:11; 1 John 5:18-19).
- \* There are “princes” and “kings” - Daniel 10:13, 20

We read in v. 13 that Gabriel 'had been left there with the kings of Persia.’ Were the “kings” additional demonic spirits assigned by Satan to influence this nation?

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We read in verse 20 that, after his encounter with Daniel, Gabriel was to return to resume his battle with the prince of Persia. This indicates that whatever the nature of the 'fight in v. 13, Gabriel was not able to forever destroy or banish that 'prince. In v. 20 we also read of the "prince of Greece". Does this indicate that there is at least one high ranking demon assigned to each country or nation, perhaps with lesser demons assigned to assist? Note well that, according to Dan. 10:13,21; 12:1, Michael is portrayed as the special guardian or protector over Israel.

Has Satan assigned specific demons special responsibility, authority and power over specific geographical and political areas? Could the entrenched resistance to the gospel in some nations and cultures be due to the ruling presence of a demonic spirit (or spirits) placed there by Satan?

The scenario described in Daniel 10 is the most explicit support for the idea of territorial or 'nationalistic spirits.

In response to his humility and prayer (v. 12), God sent an angel to Daniel. His arrival was delayed 21 days because he had been hindered by "the prince of the kingdom of Persia" (v. 13). Who or what is this "prince"?

He isn't a human prince:

- \* because he is able to resist this exalted angelic being, something no human could reasonably be said to do;
- \* because he is able to resist with such force that Michael had to be summoned for help

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(v. 13b);

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- \* the word "prince" is applied equally to Michael. Michael is an angel "who is like God." That is what his name means. He is Israel's prince and chief guardian.

He must be demonic in nature:

- \* he engages in direct conflict with an angelic being;
- \* he sustains an on-going relationship to the nation of Persia (v. 20). Thus, "the prince of the kingdom of Persia" is a demonic being assigned by Satan to this nation as his special area of activity; he was to provide hindrance to God's will and kingdom there, especially among God's people under Persian rule.

If there is a power of these countries, don't you believe there is one of the U.S.. If we only knew what was going on in the heavenlies over the U. S. during times of elections, wars.

Several other texts implicitly hint at the idea of territoriality among the demonic hosts.

- a. Deuteronomy 32:7-8 - Here we are told that the Lord apportioned humanity into groupings ("set the boundaries of the peoples") according to the number of "the sons

of Israel". However, in the Septuagint (LXX) and in a scroll of Deuteronomy from Qumran we read "according to the number of the sons of God," an obvious reference to the angelic hosts. If the latter is correct, as many OT scholars believe, the implication would be that "the number of the nations of the earth is directly proportional to the number of angels. Certain groupings of angels are associated with particular countries and peoples" (Arnold, 151). Thus, as F. F. Bruce put it, "the administration of the various nations has been parceled out among a corresponding number of angelic powers."

b. Mark 5:10 - Here we have the strange request by "Legion" that Jesus not "send them out of the country." Why did they fear (resist) being driven from that specific geographical locale? Could it be that they had been assigned to that region by Satan and feared his reprisal for failing to "keep their post" so to speak?

c. Revelation 2:13 - Pergamum is described as "where Satan's throne is" and "where Satan dwells". This city

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was infamous for its paganism, and several things may account for this description: (1) Pergamum was the center for the imperial cult where a temple had been erected in honor of "the divine Augustus and the goddess Roma." (2) There was also a temple in Pergamum for Zeus, king of the Greek gods. (3) The citizens of Pergamum worshipped Asclepius, the god of healing (portrayed or symbolized by the serpent = Satan).

Perhaps Pergamum was the focal point of Satan's activity at this time, the home-base, as it were, from which he directed his demonic hosts. The point is that some places, and hence people, are more intensely under the control or rule of demonic power than others because of an unusual concentration or presence of demonic activity.

## **ii. Warfare was initiated because of God's activity on the earth.**

Satan is in open conflict with God and we are part of the battlefield - the war zone. We are "the theatre."

Wonder why there is no peace on earth? Only warfare?  
Satan hates every person who is "made in the image of God."

Do you believe there is something behind

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\* war? no peace. Hitler, before going out on a major campaign, would spend the night communing with the spirit world. Who do you think he was talking to?

\* false and foolish scientific hypotheses

\* false religions and false teachers

People tap into these psychic encounters, astrology, weegie boards, sayonics, dragons and demons (the professor at UAH was involved in that).

The main arena is earth. “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.” Matthew 5:10

Satan does not hate us, He hates God.

### **III. Warfare was unseen on earth, but felt here.**

Nowhere in this passage does it give us any indication that Daniel knew what was happening in the heavens. He was just praying. But he prayed for 21 days. Why?

I believe he was praying according to the Spirit. He didn't give up or let up until He was released.

Why do not have answers to our prayers immediately?

1. We ask amiss for our self and not His glory. James 4: 3
2. We have unbelief.
3. We experience false emotions (we don't believe our prayers are getting through or a false impression that we are ready to stop praying).

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4. We give up. I can live without it. I can do without it.

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5. We face hostile forces.

The angel came to thank Daniel and strength him - verse 20 for not giving up. The same thing happened to Jesus - although he was battling Satan himself - but afterwards “angels came and ministered to Him.” Matthew 4:11

Heavenly host in their conflict need the support of earthly intercessors.

Earthly people of God in their conflict need the help of heavenly host.

Ezekiel 22:30 “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap.”