

Persistence in Prayer

These last three chapters of Daniel form a unit of revelation. Daniel explains how this vision came into sharper focus and explains his focused prayer for understanding of the future of his people. He is terrified because the future reveals to him a great war, the greatest war ever known with respect to Israel.

These chapters represent the last vision of Daniel and probably occur shortly before his death. By this time he is somewhere close to ninety years old. We are not told why he is in Mesopotamia when he has this vision, rather than the capitol city of Babylon, but he has others with him (servants and soldiers?) and is probably on some mission for the empire.

I. Daniel 10:1-3

- A. Daniel is in a time of protracted prayer and mourning over what he has been given to understand the future of Israel to be. Note that, even though he is on a mission of sorts from Babylon, he takes the time to seek God concerning answers to the visions he has seen.
- B. It is difficult to say whether Daniel is referring to visions he has seen in the recent past, or whether this is a prelude explaining how he was praying when the vision described in the remainder of the book comes to pass.

II. Daniel 10:4-6 This is the most detailed description of an angel recorded in Scripture.

III. Daniel 10:7-11 Those who were with him fled in terror while Daniel alone saw the vision and the angel and fell upon his face. I Corinthians 2:11-14—"The things of the Spirit are spiritually discerned."

IV. The Mystery of the Supernatural Realm

- A. God heard Daniel's prayer as soon as he prayed it, but it took three weeks for the answer to come.
- B. There was a battle between this messenger angel and the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" for 21 days
- C. Michael (the archangel) came to the messenger angel for rescue and overcame the opposition so that he could deliver the message to Daniel
- D. Some lessons in prayer for us
 - 1. we wrestle not against flesh and blood...Ephesians 6
 - 2. we ought always to pray and not to faint...Luke 18:1-8a
 - 3. God hears us when we pray, though the answer may delay. We are precious to Him.