

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 104

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

Daniel 10 – Part 2 STUDY GUIDE

DANIEL 10 - PART 2

Daniel 10:12, 13

Here we find a prophetic and biblical picture of the great controversy between light and darkness. Good angels and evil angels are pressing in to influence the decisions of human beings. We also discover that as soon as Daniel began to pray in Daniel 10, God sent an answer just like He did in Daniel 9. However, this time the answer is delayed due to the opposition of dark, spiritual forces, the devil and his angels—the prince of this world, as Jesus referred to the devil (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). We know that God has a plan for our redemption and this plan is communicated to Daniel. As always, the prince of this world seeks to thwart God’s plan by influencing humans, especially human leaders.

Daniel 9:25

In this verse, we find that sometime after the release of the Hebrews from Babylon, seven prophetic weeks, or 49 years, were allotted for the rebuilding of the city and the temple of Jerusalem. Yet there would be some “troublesome times.” According to the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, the rebuilding was done with stiff opposition from the Samaritans. This opposition was inspired by the devil and his angels. Here in the history of the rebuilding of the city, we find another insight into the conflict between light and darkness, between good and evil. This is one of the reasons that there are four decrees for the rebuilding of the city and the sanctuary (see study notes for program 100). The conflict between the powers of Heaven and the powers of darkness goes back and forth as human minds are influenced

for good or evil. The building project was pushed forward or halted while Heaven was working out God’s prophetic plan, and the devil and his angels sought to hinder that plan.

God cannot show Daniel an understanding of the end of this vision unless the vision has a beginning point. In Daniel 10, the devil and his angels are doing everything they can to hinder the proclamation which is to start the great 2,300-prophetic-day timeline leading to Messiah. The forces of darkness appear to be prevailing until Michael shows up, then it was “game over.” When Michael shows up, the victory is won. This is because Michael is Christ—the One who is like God.

Many have assumed that “archangel” means “angel,” when in fact it does not. The term “archangel” is only used two times in the New Testament, this first time about Michael, as noted earlier in Jude 1:9. The second mention is in the context of the second coming of Christ in 1 Thessalonians 4:16. The word “archangel” comes from the Greek word *αρχάγγελος* (archángelos), which translates to “chief of the angels.” How do we know that Michael is another name for

Christ, rather than a created angel? There is no place in the Bible where Michael is called or even described as an angel. The word “arch” means chief. Michael is chief of the angels, not an angel. Additionally, Michael’s activities parallel the activities of Christ.

“Arch” is never ascribed to Lucifer, who was once a covering cherub. (Ezekiel 28:14) Neither is it applied to Gabriel, who is considered one of the top angels (Luke 1:19; Daniel 10:21). The term “archangel” is only spoken of Michael.



“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....” **DANIEL 10:13**

KEY SCRIPTURES

Daniel 10:13 MICHAEL...CAME TO HELP ME

Daniel 9:25 SEVEN WEEKS AND SIXTY-TWO WEEKS

Revelation 12:7 WAR BROKE OUT IN HEAVEN

1 Thessalonians 4:16 THE VOICE OF AN ARCHANGEL

Revelation 12:7

Here in Revelation, Michael and His angels are the ones who cast Lucifer out of Heaven. Additionally, Daniel gives us some very clear evidence about the true identity of Michael. He describes Michael as “the great Prince who stands watch over the sons of your people” (Daniel 12:1). So here, from further biblical evidence, Michael is the “great Prince” who stands watch over believers.

We might still insist that angels do stand up for believers, but no angel is ever identified as the “great Prince.” The combination of this title with the activity can refer to only One, and that is Christ. Only Christ is the great Prince Who stands watch for believers.

Daniel uses this “prince” terminology in several verses. Daniel 12:1 is the summation of the other verses below. If we take a close look at the previous verses and the person and activity they describe, we will find that they identify the work and person of Christ. Daniel describes Christ as:

“The Prince of princes” — Daniel 8:25

“The Messiah the Prince” — Daniel 9:25

“One of the chief princes” — Daniel 10:13

“Michael your prince” — Daniel 10:21

The angel Gabriel calls Michael: “one of the chief princes” and “your prince.” Verse 13 of Daniel 10 has Michael helping Gabriel against the forces of evil and prevailing as only Christ can. We should note that elsewhere the Bible uses the same princely term when it describes Jesus as “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:25, 28

Notice this second mention of Michael describes the voice of the “archangel” in connection with the resurrection. According to John 5:25, 28, Jesus says that His voice will resurrect the dead from the grave.

When we consider all the biblical evidence about Michael, we can say that many have misunderstood his identity. The majority of Bible texts on this subject describe Michael as the Prince. He is the “great Prince,” one of the “chief princes,” the “Prince of princes,” “Messiah the Prince,” and our “Prince of Peace.” Only one verse in the entire Bible directly calls Michael the archangel, and that term means “chief of the angels” (Jude 1:9). We ought not to take this one verse and use it to misinterpret all the other verses on this subject, especially when its meaning can be understood to harmonize with the others. Jesus is Michael, the great Prince, the Messiah, one who is like God, the commander in chief of all His created angels, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

This clear, biblical identity of Michael in no way undermines the divinity of Christ. If being the archangel made Christ a created being, then taking the form “as a dove” made the Holy Spirit a bird, and appearing in a burning bush made God

some kind of plant (Matthew 3:16; Exodus 3:4). In the life and death of Jesus, God took the form of man, yet Jesus Christ is still wholly God. God can come to Earth in whatever form He likes and remain the Almighty God. Just because God takes on the form of an angelic messenger, a man, or any other form, that does not make Him created. God is God. He can manifest Himself as He pleases and still be fully divine and fully God.

DANIEL 10 — THE BIG PICTURE

Daniel 10 shows us that even God’s plans and purposes are challenged by the devil, and no surprise there, for Lucifer sought to war against God’s government when he was a covering cherub in Heaven (Isaiah 14:12-14; Revelation 12:7-9). We are in the midst of the great controversy in which mankind has chosen to follow a fallen rebel angel on the loose in the universe. This fallen angel is doing all he can to hurt and destroy God’s loving purposes for humanity (John 10:10). And God is doing all that He can to rescue us from that choice and its deadly consequences.

In Daniel 10, we have a picture of this great controversy that is centered on the 2,300-day prophecy, specifically the 70 weeks. God has a plan to send Jesus as the Messiah to be anointed at the beginning of the 70th week, and to die as a sacrifice for our sins in the middle of the 70th week for our salvation. Satan is pictured as doing everything possible to hinder this 70-week/2,300-day prophetic time prophecy and to stop the decree that God foretold would mark its beginning (Daniel 9:25). In this spiritual struggle over the minds of men, Michael shows up to help Gabriel impress the kings of Medo Persia to start the action of prophecy that will lead to His own death. The picture in Daniel 10 is a prophetic picture that touches the heart. We realize that Michael—Christ—came to help influence an earthly ruler to put into action the prophetic declaration that begins the prophetic countdown to Calvary. What wondrous love is this!

When God calls Daniel “greatly beloved,” He means it. The prophetic picture in Daniel 10 gives us evidence of God’s great love for the human race. Jesus Christ the Messiah is coming to make sure that we are taken care of, even at the sacrifice of His own life.

God does not force His way into our individual lives. God has a plan of salvation, but He isn’t forcing us to comply with that. Heaven wrestles with human beings, seeking to influence their decisions for salvation, but God will not mandate our eternal life, and that’s the picture we find in Daniel 10. God seeks our cooperation with His plans for our salvation, but He does not force us. God sees troublous times are going to take place in relation to His plan for us because we have an adversary who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy us (John 10:10). Even in the rebuilding of the city and the temple, men inspired by Satan were working against Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Jews in an attempt to halt God’s plan to rebuild them.

Isaiah 45:1; Daniel 5:5, 6

- Through the preexilic prophet, Isaiah, Cyrus is called by name.
- In the New Testament, Mary was told to name her son Jesus.
- The parents of John the Baptist were told to name their son John.

The book of Isaiah identifies a heathen king by name before he is even born. Based on the New Testament evidence, we can know that God also spoke to Cyrus' parents to influence them to call him Cyrus. God often speaks to individuals, both believers and unbelievers, and impresses them with things that they should do (Daniel 2:28; Genesis 41:25). Many people are open to receiving these impressions of the Holy Spirit of God and acting on them. Others resist these impressions and turn away from God. Cyrus' parents received impressions from God and named their son Cyrus. God foresaw that they would be responsive to the influence of His Spirit and He inspired Isaiah to write about the experience before it ever happened. Cyrus is identified as God's anointed even though he is not of Israel—he's a Persian king. This reminds us that the Holy Spirit is at work in the hearts and lives of every human being, and not just those whom He calls His professed people.

And of course, the powers of darkness attempt to counteract God's plan. Evil spirits work to influence and impress people to do things that are not in harmony with Heaven. Here again, we see the great controversy between good and evil as angels seek to impress the king of Medo Persia. We as human beings choose to whom we will listen: good or evil, light or dark, God or the devil. Our choice decides our eternal destiny.

Daniel 10 is also calling us to persevere in prayer. Not the kind of prayer that gives up after a week or two, but the kind

of prayer that continues to urge our petitions to Heaven. These persistent prayers recognize not God's unwillingness to grant our requests, but the forces of darkness fighting in opposition not only against us, but against God Himself.

Daniel 10:14-17

What we saw in Daniel's experience in the first part of this vision is now repeated two more times. Again and again, Daniel recognizes and confesses that he has no strength to stand before God. Daniel is upright, the faithful servant of God, following in humility the light that God has given him. And yet he is unable to stand on his works or righteousness. This is a powerful and vital insight for us to understand as believers. We can only stand in God's presence through His great love for us and not in our good works for Him.

Daniel 10:18-21

We are greatly beloved even though we have no strength. The more we acknowledge we have no strength, the more God comes to strengthen us. God wants to touch our lives and give us strength and an understanding of His Word, especially His prophetic message for our time. This is the message God delivers to us in Daniel 10. Daniel 10 provides a vital foundation as we proceed on to Daniel 11.

Appeal

May we always remember that our standing before God is found in the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, no matter how spiritual our lives may appear. May we not be discouraged by delayed answers to prayer. May we recognize that God honors our free choice for Him and His plan of salvation. And may we always choose God. In Jesus' name, amen. ★

