

RUSSELL SANDERS

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DANIEL THE PROPHET - LESSON 9

WAR IN THE HEAVENLIES – PRINCIPALITIES

Yesterday we saw in Daniel Chapter 10 how the prophet fasted 21 days while he waited for God's answer to his supplication. God had sent the answer the first day via a powerful messenger angel which was delayed by strong demonic forces. It took a war in the heavenlies for the message (answer) to get to Daniel. We consider now what I see in verse 13 of chapter ten.

The angel who was dispatched is described in verses five and six. He was an awesome figure, a messenger angel, sent from the archangel Gabriel who is the chief in charge of a host of messengers. It does not say it was Gabriel himself, although Gabriel had previously appeared in person to Daniel on previous occasions (Daniel 9:21 and 8:16). Nevertheless, this was a very high-ranking angel, but not a true warrior angel.

Upon his arrival, the angel explained to Daniel that he had been sent the very first day (vs. 12) but that (vs. 13), ***“the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me (fought against me to stop me) one and twenty days.”*** This “prince” was the principality over Persia which we will examine in a moment.

The angel continued on to say, ***“but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, and I remained there with the kings of Persia,”*** until he made his “breakthrough” on day twenty-one.

This is an example of the highest order of what Apostle Paul understood in Ephesians 6:12, ***“For, we wrestle (fight) not against flesh and blood (physical realm) but against principalities, against (demonic) powers, against the rulers (princes) of the darkness (evil) of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (or on high).”***

At that time, Babylon was ruled now by the Persian empire with Cyrus as emperor. Persia was the ruling principality of the known world. This meant that the “Prince of Persia” had ascended as the most powerful ruling demon on earth. Persia was his “principality” so, this demon prince was the “principality” warring against God's hosts (angelic hosts). (Persia is present-day Iran who still troubles the world.)

God sent help for this hindered messenger angel. He sent Michael himself, the archangel over all of God's warrior angels. There is no warrior angel stronger than Michael. The battle in the heavenlies raged against the prince of Persia and the demon “kings of Persia” who fought with him against Michael's forces. The messenger angel had to remain with Michael until he could get a release.

After the messenger angel gave Daniel the message, he had to return to the battle front to continue fighting alongside Michael against the “principality” of Persia, the powerfully strong demon prince and the demon “kings” and their demon warriors.

Folks, we are usually clueless about the “war in the heavenlies” that continues to rage on. We cannot “see” it, but our prayers so make a difference by giving strength to the warrior angels who are fighting on our behalf.

I wonder, who is the “prince” for Satan over America. Look around; you can see the evidence of how strong his principality has become.

Some “principal” demons are over nations, while some slightly lower ones are over states or provinces, and others assigned to be over a county or over a particular city, town, or even a neighborhood. Satan has a huge army well organized and structured. Every domain, no matter how small or large, has a demonic “principality” over it. However, God’s army under Michael’s command also has warrior angels assigned to those same places. Our prayers support them.

Do not fear. God, through Jesus’ name, has given us power and authority but we must use it! Don’t be lazy or negligent. Pray. Speak the word. Act upon the word. We win, but we must engage!