

In this passage, we will see that there is an unseen spiritual battle raging around us in the world. And Daniel was part of this spiritual battle. His prayers were used by God to accomplish some of the things we see. He was not a passive spectator of this battle. He was part of it. And he was serious about it.

Daniel was a person who lived in the midst of great darkness. Idol worship took place on all sides. His peers schemed politically. The riches of the world and all the pleasures and luxuries he could have wanted were available.

But Daniel did not care for these things. He did not indulge himself in the pleasures of the world. While he lived in the capital of a rich empire, his heart was not there. His heart was set on his people.

Daniel cared deeply for his people. He wanted them to be victorious. And he wanted to know God's plan for his people's future. Daniel, therefore, engaged himself in a spiritual battle, fighting on behalf of God's people.

Read Daniel 10:1-19

1. What does Daniel's vision teach us about the spiritual realm and its interaction with the physical world? Invisible warfare is happening without many people even knowing it. What causes you to recognise the spiritual dimension that stands behind the visible? What does Paul instruct us to do in light of spiritual opposition by invisible enemies (Eph. 6:10-20)?
2. How does the concept of spiritual warfare presented in this chapter affect your view of struggles in your own life?

3. What role do angels play in the biblical story and in our understanding of the spiritual realm?
4. How does knowing that our prayers are heard from the beginning influence your prayer life?
5. In v8, what can Daniel's physical response to the spiritual encounter teach us about the impact of spiritual experiences? Take a look at how Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John respond to the majesty and power of God much like Daniel in chapter 10 (Ezek. 1:1, 22-28; Rev. 1:12-17a; Isaiah 6:1-5).
6. When have you been totally overwhelmed by an encounter with God, or overcome by the weightiness of a message from God's word? If so, what was that experience like?
7. How does the angel's prophecy inform your understanding of God's control over future events?
8. Discuss the significance of the angel's battle with the Princes of Persia and Greece. How does it relate to current global events and our own prayer life?
9. How would you apply the lessons from Daniel's experience in addressing spiritual warfare in your own life?
10. Considering Daniel's encounter and prophecy, what are some practical steps we can take to stay spiritually vigilant in our present-day living?

Prayer Points

Please pray for those working and volunteering. Pray that their Christian witness is evident and faithful to Jesus. Pray for opportunities and wisdom in demonstrating the light of Christ.

Pray for the wider church and the current impact of resignations, and the turmoil for those who feel disturbed by recent events. Pray for the UK church and the ability to provide a safe place and integrity for those who feel vulnerable.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

November 24th 2024

Daniel - Defiant Faith:

Spiritual Warfare
Daniel 10:1-19

The book of Daniel tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is—his character, his purposes, his way of working in the world for the good of his people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is sometimes assumed *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God, even when the world seems against you.* How do we remain faithful to God, especially in an age where it seems a great deal is moving in a different direction? What does it look like to trust in God when our world is turned upside down? Daniel remained faithful and God used him to great effect, how can God use us in the fiery challenges of life?

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001