

Daniel



Lesson 19-Prayer, Fasting, and the Unseen World

Focus: Daniel 10:1-21

- ❖ **Some historical events were revealed to Daniel by vision in the “...third year of Cyrus King of Persia” (533 BC) (v.1-3)**
 - *21 days of special prayer and fasting were offered for something obviously very important to Daniel.*
 - *This was **a kind of fast with limitations of all the fancy stuff**. In this fast the diet was simplified and the fast was made for a certain period of time **with a focused purpose in prayer**. God answered mightily!!*
 - **Fasting is necessary at times:** *Jesus said of one situation, “...this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting” (Matthew 17:18-21). **Especially focused and fasting prayer is more earnest, sincere, and powerful. It gets better results in the spiritual world with God. It is not a lazy or half hearted effort at all. It is not insincere.***
 - **Fasting is something Christians need to be practicing at times now, but once in Heaven, we will no longer need to practice it:** *(See Matthew 9:14,15) “...then will they fast.” **Even Jesus is fasting from some certain pleasures of life during this sinful age of evil history. “...I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom...” (Matthew 26:29). If Jesus can forgo some of life’s pleasures during this sinful age of the world (for the sake of God’s work), then so can we.***
- ❖ **Daniel sees a very powerful character and is overpowered by this vision; It brings him to the ground and sent other people running (v.4-6, 7-9)**
 - (v.4-6) This description of this character sounds exactly like that of Jesus in Revelation 1:13-18. (v.7-9) Many times prophets experience physically overpowering phenomenon when they go into vision.
- ❖ **The Lord heard Daniel’s prayers from the very beginning (v.10-13)**
 - *God loves his faithful ones so much. He hears our prayers from the very first although we do not always see the results of our prayers right away! **We should be persistent and keep on praying if we know that we are praying for a righteous cause**. Jesus teaches us to “...pray always and not give up” (Luke 18:1). We need to be persistent in our prayers (Luke 18:1-8 gives the whole parable Jesus told). **We must have “confidence in him”** that if we pray according to His will, He hears us, and he grants our petition (1 John 5:14,15).*
 - **There is a spiritual warfare going on that we do not always see:** *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...” (Ephesians 6:12). PRAYER BRINGS VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE!! “For the weapons of our warfare are...mighty...!” (2 Corinthians 10:3,4). We must keep our hands up in prayer, like Moses did (Exodus 17:9-12). For an example of the **unseen spiritual forces of God** notice the story of **2 Kings 6:15-18**.*
 - (v.13) *The Bible says, “...the prince of... Persia **withstood me...**” **When dealing with human hearts, it can take time to see victories!** You must keep praying and laboring as God leads you. God never forces the will, but he will labor with men and plead with them to change their hearts.*

When we pray for someone, this gives God more liberties in this great controversy, or spiritual warfare between Satan and his host and God and His. God has limited himself in that he will not force hearts. But He will plead and labor with hearts as we invite Him to. And Satan cannot hardly even complain about it, because we have prayed and invited the Lord's presence to work for us and others!!

- ❖ **Daniel felt the power and presence of God mightily moving around him (v.14-17)** *Sometimes prophets lose even their breath when they go into vision. The power of God is so awesomely mighty that no sinful man can even bear it without God's strength.*
- ❖ **The Spirit of God shows and reveals "...what is noted in the Scripture of truth" (v.18-21)**
 - **The spiritual powers are at work among the battles of men.** *God blesses, moves, and guides as He will so that nations will rise and fall according to His will.*
 - (v.20) *As soon as the Lord removed his blessing from Persia's armies, the Greeks began to take the advantage!*
 - **What about this Pagan king Cyrus? Did God lift him up for a divine purpose? Did God know and use King Cyrus even if Cyrus hadn't known Him?? (See the incredible prophecy of Isaiah 44:28-45:1-5,12,13).** *God used King Cyrus of Persia to accomplish His purposes, even though the guy didn't know him. Actually, God called him by name **over one hundred years before he was even born!!** If God knew Cyrus' name, don't you think He knew yours even before you were born!*
 - **The Ancient King Cyrus of Persia was actually shown this prophecy** (by Daniel, most likely). *His mouth must have dropped open and hit the floor as he saw this prophecy calling him by name before he even lived. It described his life situation right down to a "T"! **King Cyrus responded by humbly obeying the voice of the God of heaven (See Ezra 1:1-3; 5:13; 6:14)**—we have a copy here of a letter written by King Cyrus (1:1-3). **Seeing that God holds all things in His hands, will you also choose to serve Him, and humbly obey His voice?** He loves you and me, desires to save us from sin, and give us eternal life with Him.*
- ❖ **Questions on the character of "Michael":** *"Michael, one of the chief princes" (Dan. 10:13), "Michael your prince" (v.21). "At that time shall Michael stand up, **the great prince** who stands for the children of your people" (Dan. 12:1). "Michael the archangel contended with the devil..." (Jude 1:9). "Michael and his angels fought against the Dragon and his angels..." (Revelation 12:7). "The **Lord himself shall descend** from heaven with a shout, **with the voice of the archangel...**" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Jesus is the only other character referred to in Scripture as being our Prince (See Daniel 8:11,25; Isaiah 9:6; Acts 3:15; 5:31; Rev. 1:5). **Jesus is NOT an angel, or merely some created being** (as some churches falsely teach; as with the Jehovah's Witnesses church, etc.) **No, He is God.** Many believe this is only a name or title for Jesus. Jesus has so many names; King of kings, Lord of lords, Alpha/Omega, First born from the Dead, the Word of God, The first and the last, Messiah, Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lamb, etc., etc. "Arch" means **ruler** (like as in **Monoarchy** is one ruler, **Anarchy** is no ruler, etc.). Jesus is the ruler over all the angels. The word angel (angelos, in the Greek) can mean angel or messenger. Jesus is God's own son, his chief messenger to this world. He is the "messenger of the covenant" (Malachi 3:1). The Patriarch Jacob even referred to God as an "Angel" "who redeemed him" one time (See Genesis 48:15,16). By the way, the name Michael means "one who is like God." It's not really a matter to argue over as some Christians have done. Jesus is God, not a mere creature!!-enough said. **If you want more info** please go to www.Bibleprophecytruth.com, then look at "prophecy resources", then "free book library", then look for the booklet on Michael the Archangel (or just google that booklet by Pastor Doug Batchelor).*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you put your trust in the God who knows our names, even before we're born? _____ Are you willing to seek Him in prayer and humbly obey His voice? _____