



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. The rest of the people in this room keep their guardian angels more busy than mine.
2. God's angels are stronger than Satan's angels.
3. The spiritual battles in the Bible between God and His angels, against Satan and his angels are visual metaphors, and not physical battles.
4. There are specific angels (both good and bad) who are assigned to oversee my nation.
5. God has a precise timeline for the future that He has written out, in which His angels fight to protect.

DIG DEEPER

➤ **READ Daniel 10:1-14** (NLT)

In the third year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) had another vision. He understood that the vision concerned events certain to happen in the future—times of war and great hardship.

2 When this vision came to me, I, Daniel, had been in mourning for three whole weeks. 3 All that time I had eaten no rich food. No meat or wine crossed my lips, and I used no fragrant lotions until those three weeks had passed.

4 On April 23, as I was standing on the bank of the great Tigris River, 5 I looked up and saw a man dressed in linen clothing, with a belt of pure gold around his waist. 6 His body looked like a precious gem. His face flashed like lightning, and his eyes flamed like torches. His arms and feet shone like polished bronze, and his voice roared like a vast multitude of people.

7 Only I, Daniel, saw this vision. The men with me saw nothing, but they were suddenly terrified and ran away to hide. 8 So I was left there all alone to see this amazing vision. My strength left me, my face grew deathly pale, and I felt very weak. 9 Then I heard the man speak, and when I heard the sound of his voice, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground.

10 Just then a hand touched me and lifted me, still trembling, to my hands and knees. 11 And the man said to me, "Daniel, you are very precious to God, so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you." When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling.

12 Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. 13 But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. 14 Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come."

» **The Setting**

• (vs 1&2) **3rd year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia** - (ca. 536 B.C.). This would be the first time the Passover had been celebrated in Jerusalem since the destruction of the temple in 586 B.C.—fifty years earlier. Maybe Daniel was mourning because he could not be in Jerusalem for the first Passover celebration. Perhaps he was grieving because the foundation of the temple had not yet been started, even though the people had already been there almost a year. According to Ezra 3, they did get started the next month. Perhaps he was mourning because only fifty thousand people returned to Jerusalem. Daniel was 85-90 years old; so he was too feeble to return. But there were many others who did not want to go back because they were too comfortable in the Babylonian world.



DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

- (vs 4) On April 23, as I was standing on the bank - This was 24 days after Passover. Coincidentally, the Hebrews of Exodus stood on the banks of the Red Sea which would part within a few hours, on the 25th day.

« What questions come to your mind as you read through Daniel 10:13?

° Is this something that we believe is still going on today?

° Does the thought of spiritual warfare trouble you or excite you?

« Do you think that angels can and do influence the minds of humans?

- In Jewish tradition, each nation has its patron angel (as do individuals and churches in the NT: Matt. 18:10; Acts 12:15; Rev. 1:20; cf. Gen. 48:16). According to Deuteronomy 32:8, the Lord of Israel, the Most High God, placed a subordinate in charge of each of the other nations.

› **READ Daniel 10:15-11:1** (NLT)

15 *While he was speaking to me, I looked down at the ground, unable to say a word. 16 Then the one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing in front of me, "I am filled with anguish because of the vision I have seen, my lord, and I am very weak. 17 How can someone like me, your servant, talk to you, my lord? My strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe."*

18 *Then the one who looked like a man touched me again, and I felt my strength returning.*

19 *"Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!" As he spoke these words to me, I suddenly felt stronger and said to him, "Please speak to me, my lord, for you have strengthened me."*

20 *He replied, "Do you know why I have come? Soon I must return to fight against the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia, and after that the spirit prince of the kingdom of Greece will come.*

21 *Meanwhile, I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one helps me against these spirit princes except Michael, your spirit prince.*

11 *I have been standing beside Michael to support and strengthen him since the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede.)*

« Daniel is touched three times (vss. 10, 16, & 18). What do each of these points of physical contact tell you about God and His representatives?

« In vs. 20, the angel asks, "Do you know why I have come?" Then he lets Daniel know that basically he's in the middle of an intermission during a spiritual fight, and that he took a break to talk about the spiritual fights to come. That is what chapter 11 is all about, which are the pages from the "Book of Truth."

° What questions does this raise in your mind?

« What does this chapter reveal to you about God that you've never thought of much before?

MY PRAYER...

1. How aware am I of the spiritual warfare going on around me today?
2. In what ways am I allowing negative influences to sway me away from showing God's love?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

