Family Group Outline – Nov 8th, 2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MBC:

1. Our monthly church workday is this Saturday at 8:30 am.

2. Our church will host an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox drop off from November 16-23.

3. To prepare for the preaching of the word on this coming Lord's Day, we would encourage you to meditate on the passage ahead of time. This Sunday morning's sermon will be from Daniel 11 and the Evening service's will be on Genesis 21:1-21.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: *Of the Righteous and the Wicked* - We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death. Mal. 3:18; Prov. 12:26; Isa. 5:20; Gen. 18:23; Jer. 15:19; Acts 10:34- 35; Rom. 6:16; Rom. 1:17; 7:6; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Rom. 6:18, 22; 1 Cor. 11:32; Prov. 11:31; 1 Pet. 4:17-18; 1 John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; John 3:36; Isa. 57:21; Psa. 10:4; Isa 55:6-7; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Prov. 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23- 26; John 12:25-26; Eccl. 3:17; Matt. 7:13-14

WISDOM: "And so sovereign providence has often produced a remarkable effect—evil men making other evil men good...A certain order embraces all things, and anything which departs from the order planned and assigned to it, only falls back into order, albeit a different order, so as not to allow anything to chance in the realm of providence." – Boethius

WORD: "The Story of a Prayer", Daniel 10:1-21

Suggested questions:

1. Read Daniel 10:1-21. Was there anything that particularly challenged, impacted, or confused you from this Sunday's message?

2. How does Daniel 10 encourage us when we are discouraged about developments in our country and in the church?

3. Considering what we heard from Carlos in 1 Timothy 2:1-7 and then this past Sunday from Daniel 10, how should our prayer life relate to politics?

DIGGING DEEPER: Michael, A Chief Prince
https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/michael-chief-prince

Michael, A Chief Prince
Ligonier Ministries

During the past few decades, Western Christians have become more interested in spiritual warfare. Bestselling novels have depicted battles between the armies of heaven and the forces of hell, and scores of teachers have addressed the subject. Many of these works refer to "territorial spirits" who have charge over certain countries or empires, and Christians are often encouraged to "bind the demon of [insert name of city or country]" to help advance God's kingdom.

Undoubtedly, much of this teaching is drawn from today's passage and its account of a battle between "the prince of the kingdom of Persia" and "Michael, one of the chief princes" (Dan. 10:13). This Michael is referred to elsewhere in Scripture as an archangel (Jude 9), an angelic being who apparently holds a high rank in the Lord's army. His opponent in Daniel 10 is clearly an enemy of God and His people, a demon with strong influence on the Persian empire. Although Scripture does not refer directly to the prince of Persia as a "territorial spirit," it does seem that there are angelic beings, good and evil, assigned to individual lands and kingdoms. For instance, Deuteronomy 32:8 speaks of national borders fixed "according to the number of the sons of God." There are also the cherubim assigned to guard the territory of Eden after the fall of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:24).

What are we to make of all this? First, we should acknowledge that there is real conflict in the heavenlies and that we are wise to be knowledgeable about those areas on earth that suffer from spiritual oppression and bondage. Second, even though there are regions that are especially hostile to the gospel and likely ruled by particular evil beings, demonic powers are no match for the host of heaven. The prince of Persia was able to delay the angel's visit to Daniel, but he was unable to keep him away forever (Dan. 10:13–14); thus, we can be confident that God's purposes will win the day even if there is much toil and trouble beforehand. Finally, we must recognize the reality of spiritual warfare without overemphasizing the abilities of Satan and his minions. Though Scripture might recognize the existence of "territorial spirits," we are never told that we must "bind them" or pray directly against them for the work of the gospel to be effectual.

Coram Deo

There is indeed a war going on in the heavens, so we should not be naive about the enemies we face. Still, we can be confident that the hands of God envelop us, and so we should ask Him to deliver us and to give His Word success when we are proclaiming it to people. Let us place the weight of emphasis on the Lord and His abilities and not on Satan's capabilities, for they are nothing in comparison to the power of God.