

**2017: Week 13**

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2017

*“Spiritual Warfare”*

**Ephesians 6:12**

“<sup>12</sup> For **our struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, **against the spiritual forces of wickedness** in the heavenly places” (NASB)<sup>1</sup>.

This past Sunday John guided us through yet another difficult passage from **Daniel 10**. Within this text he made us more aware of a very real battle within the spiritual realm. From this text we can see that there is in fact a clash of forces between good and evil. Angels who serve the Lord God Almighty are in combat against angels who oppose the Lord God Almighty. This battle occurs on various fronts and for different reasons, and it is still happening today. The frightening part to this reality is that we— even as Christians— often live our lives as if we were completely unaware of this spiritual realm and its warfare. The New Testament reminds us that we as Christians— whether we know it or not— are involved in a spiritual battle much like the spiritual battle involving Israel during Daniel’s time. The enemy wants to defeat and destroy us.

Do we seek the Lord’s help when battling with sin, when dealing with temptation, or when needing to make significant decisions? John quoted the former U.S. Secretary of State and National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice, when asked about the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks: *“The terrorists were at war with us, but we were not yet at war with them.”* May we ourselves not live in ignorance to the spiritual battle that is being waged against us!

**1. “THE TEXT”**

**READ Daniel 10**

- This chapter takes place in 536 B.C. when Daniel was an older man (possibly his mid-80’s). He had been exiled in Babylon for decades. In this chapter Daniel receives a troubling vision of “great conflict” (10:1). Daniel first sees a vision of a magnificent man (10:4–9), and then he is visited by an angel (possibly two different angels; 10:11, 10:19) sent from the Lord to encourage him and inform him of what was going to happen (vision of future events in Daniel 11–12).
- This angel told Daniel that he was sent by God to come to Daniel, but that he was opposed for \_\_\_\_\_ days by another angel (demon) identified as the “Prince of \_\_\_\_\_” before he was able to reach Daniel.
- What is Daniel’s response to the vision and the angelic encounters he experienced within this chapter?

**2. “YOU”**

- Daniel was bothered by something, and *he fasted and prayed* to the Lord over this particular issue for three weeks. Can you get better at spending more consistent time with the Lord through prayer or fasting? How?
- During Daniel’s time of fasting and prayer, the Lord permitted a demonic attack that prevented His own angel from reaching Daniel for a period of time. When it seems like God isn’t answering your prayers, it might be that
  - a) God is permitting a spiritual battle within another dimension that delays His response, or
  - b) God is trying to teach you various lessons through the process of waiting, or
  - c) God is answering your prayers with a no rather than a yes.

Regardless of what the Lord is doing behind the scenes, **for what are you responsible in the meantime?**

**3. “REMEMBER”**

- **1 Peter 5:8** “Be of sober spirit; be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- **Ephesians 6:13** “Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day...”
- **John 16:33** Jesus: “...In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”
- **1 John 4:4** “...greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Dear Father God, there is a spiritual dimension that I cannot yet see, but I know it is real, and I need Your help from the war that is being waged within it. Help me to better rely on Your help and strength each day. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** unless otherwise noted.