

Daniel 10 – The Battle

I. 1-3: Introduction

By this time, the first wave of exiles had returned under the leadership of Ezra (Ezra 1-2). [Daniel 10](#) sets the stage for the spectacular prophecy which describes a time of great persecution and testing for the people of Israel until the end of the Book. Daniel did not go back with Ezra's group of exiles because he was probably too old to move.

II. 4-20: The Angel and Michael

Daniel sees a glorious unnamed angel on the banks of the Tigris River, he runs out of strength and vigor; his companions are terrified, yet unseeing. A "certain man" introduces himself to Daniel. As Daniel was laid out in weakness by this experience, he was strengthened by the touch of **a hand**. When it was time for Daniel to hear and understand, he needed to **stand** at attention.

The angel explains his coming to Daniel and the opposition he faced on the way; God responded to Daniel's prayer the very moment he made his request known.

Since this **prince** is able to oppose the angelic messenger to Daniel for three weeks, we know this is more than a man. This **prince** is some kind of angelic being, and we know he is an evil angelic being because he opposed the word of God coming to Daniel and stood against the angelic messenger. It's Satan or a high ranking demon. Michael, one of the chief princes had to rescue him.

Why did God allow such a conflict? He certainly *could have* blasted away in a moment any demonic opposition. God's plan probably was to use the time of delay to develop Daniel as a man of persistent prayer.

Daniel started on the ground, then stood up,, and now is back on his **face** again.

Daniel was about to receive the answer to his prayer, but the battle was not over for his heavenly messenger. He must battle **the prince of Persia**, then **the prince of Greece**. God is watching out for Israel, working behind the scenes in the spiritual realm.

"The heavenly warfare is to be directed against first Persia and then Greece, because each of these in turn will have power over God's people." (Baldwin)

Michael seems to be an angelic guardian of Israel, battling against the demonic representative of Persia or any other who opposes God's people. On earth, Israel seemed lowly and weak but in the heavens Israel had the mightiest representative of all.

2 Chronicles 20:15 - *And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.*

Ephesians 6:12-18 – *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of **the gospel** of peace; above all, taking the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**; praying always with all **prayer and supplication** in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

"There may be hindering factors of which a praying Christian knows nothing as he wonders why the answers to his requests are delayed. Nevertheless, he is to keep on praying. (Archer)