

BATTLING IN PRAYER

Daniel 10:1-21

Intro: The Bible tells us that prayer is important; prayer is talking with God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ.

Prayer is praise- telling God how wonderful He is.

Prayer is thanksgiving- telling God thank you for providing our necessities.

Prayer is confession- telling God that we are sorry for what we have done.

Prayer is supplication- asking God for help.

Prayer is intercessory- asking God to take care of another person.

The Bible also teaches us that prayer is a battle, and Daniel ten has one of the clearest pictures of battling in prayer in the Word of God. In this chapter, we find Daniel in a serious prayer meeting.

I. Vs. 1, PREFACE TO THE BATTLE OF PRAYER

A. Daniel got a word from God revealing a vision to him.

B. The Babylonian name Belteshazzar is here recorded to let us know that this is the same Daniel who has been setting forth prophecy throughout the book.

C. Daniel understood that he was in a battle, and that it would be a long hard one: "the time appointed was long."

II. Vss. 2-3, PREPARATION FOR THE BATTLE

A. Vs. 2, For three weeks, these are three weeks of days, twenty-one days, Daniel was mourning for he had a spiritual burden.

B. Vs. 3, So great was the burden of the prophet that he desired God's help more than he did food and finery. The Jews had gotten away from true worship and given themselves over to fleshly appetites.

III. Vss. 4, PLACE OF THE VISION

A. The vision begins on the twenty-fourth day, three days after Daniel's fasting and praying.

B. The place of the vision was "by the side of the great river Hiddekel." This means that Daniel is still in Babylon and did not return to Jerusalem with the pilgrims. Hiddekel is another name for the Tigris river. Above the city of Babylon, the Tigris and

Euphrates rivers are thirty-five miles apart. Near Basra, in Iraq, the Tigris and the Euphrates join together forming one river. Mesopotamia means two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates.

IV. Vss. 5-6, PERSONS OF THE VISION

- A. Vs. 5a, Daniel and some of his friends are by the Tigris; and as Daniel lifts up his eyes, he sees a “certain man”. Much discussion has been had as to who this man is. Some say an angel, others a Christophany or appearance of Christ in the Old Testament.
- B. Vss. 5b-6, There are characteristics of this “certain man” that resemble the characteristics given of Christ in Revelation 1:13-15.

V. Vss. 7-9, POWER OF THE VISION

- A. Vs. 7, Daniel saw the vision, but his friends did not. Yet the power of God was so evident that they could feel it, and in fright they ran away.
- B. Vs. 8, We are here reminded of the words of Isaiah 6:5: “Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” Friend, when you see Him, you are in awe. Daniel saw himself as weak, low and needy in the presence of a heavenly one.
- C. Vs. 9, In encountering the glory of God, Daniel is without strength and sleeps or swoons.

VI. Vss. 10-14, PREVAILING IN THE BATTLE

- A. Vs. 10, There is a transition between the “certain man” of verses 5-6, and the angel now giving strength to Daniel to get up on his knees, then to palms of his hands, and onto his feet in verse eleven.
- B. Vs. 11, The consistency of Daniel is once again seen as he is called his once again called, “a man greatly beloved.” Daniel was a man who did right even in a land full of heathens. The angel came to give understanding to the prophet.
- C. Vs. 12, The angel came in answer to specific prayer, the prayer of Daniel. When he prayed, he was heard, and the answer was on its way.
 - 1. Let’s look at three familiar words concerning prayer:

Ask- Simply ask the Lord

Seek- this means to study, to investigate.

Knock- come again and again to the Lord.

2. The answer came because Daniel prayed.

D. Vs. 13, The angel carrying the answer to Daniel's prayer was hindered for twenty-one days by, "the prince of the kingdom of Persia." The word "withstood" indicates to me that a pitched battle took place in the heavens.

1. The prince spoken of here is not Cyrus, king of Persia, but a fallen angelic prince from the unseen world. This is why I urge you to stay away from drugs and witchcraft. Satan wants to alter your mind and control you.

2. "Michael", the angel who commands, under Jehovah God, the armies of heaven (Revelation 12:7), came to help, and the demonic forces were defeated.

3. "And I remained there with the kings of Persia" denotes subjugation of the evil forces there and their power over the human rulers.

4. We are to realize that we are in a spiritual battle with the powers of darkness (Eph. 6:12).

a. I believe that an evil angel is assigned to the United States Government as evil demonic forces are assigned to China, Iran, Iraq etc.

b. The next time you pray, and the answer is not as quick as you think it should be. Remember that we are in a great battle, a great conflict between evil and good.

E. Vs. 14, "Latter days" means the times of the end, the days of the Anti-Christ. These "latter days" will end with the second advent of Christ when He comes to set up His millennial kingdom.

VII. Vss. 15-19, PALE DUE TO BATTLE

A. Vs. 15, Daniel was deeply affected by what he had witnessed. If we could see the spiritual warfare that is taking place around us, we would set our faces toward the ground.

B. Vs. 16-18, We are not sure who this angel is, some say he is Christ in the form of a Christophany, others a high ranking angel of God. Whoever he is, this angel strengthens the man of God in his time of weakness. To me, the worst weakness is

spiritual weakness; although here, I believe that Daniel was physically drained.

- C. Vs.19, Note carefully the words of the angel. It was in the course of prayer that Daniel was strengthened.
 - 1. “Fear not”– the reason for anxiety is gone. It has been removed.
 - 2. When we look to the Lord, peace and strength is ours (Philippians 4:6-7).

VIII. Vss. 20-21, PERSEVERANCE IN BATTLE

- A. Vs. 20, The angel that had spoken to Daniel must return to fight against the prince of Persia and later with the prince of Greece.
 - 1. We are reminded that there is no break in spiritual warfare. The battle goes on constantly. It will only end when the Prince of Peace is ruling over all things.
 - 2. The battle is constant and our weapons are mighty (2 Cor. 10:3-4).
 - 3. Child of God, be on the look out for the devil is after you (1 Peter 5:8).
- B. Vs. 21, God showed Daniel things that are, “noted in the scripture of truth...” God has always had a settled Word, and it was revealed to men as God gave it to them. Only this angel and Michael knew this vision. Daniel had a great guardian angel, none other than Michael.

Conclusion: We need to be prayer warriors for we are in a great battle.

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