



THE INVISIBLE WAR

Daniel 10:1-21

I. An Internal Concern (10:1-3)

- DANIEL IS PRAYING FOR OTHERS, EVEN THOUGH HE CANNOT PHYSICALLY BE THERE WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD.
- Are you physically limited? You are not spiritually limited!
- Sometimes the will of God is turbulent and difficult
- The 43,000 have been tasked to go back and rebuild Jerusalem, and they found it difficult, yet they were right in the middle of God's will.
- 1 Corinthians 16:9

II. An Invisible Comfort (10:4, 16, 18)

- A heavenly visitor comes to Daniel and lets him know that Daniel is loved.
- The touch of love from God:
 - "a hand touched me" (v.10)
 - "touched my lips" (v.16)
 - "touched me" (v.18)
- Other people were around him couldn't see it. (v.7)

III. An Infernal Conflict (10:12-13; 20)

v. 12 – Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words."

v. 13 – "but the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me..."

v. 20 – "And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come."

WE HAVE GOD WHO IS FIGHTING OUR BATTLES WITH US AND FOR US.

Two Extremes in Speaking of Our Adversary, the Devil:

There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence, the other is to believe and to feel an unhealthy interest in them. — C. S. Lewis

EXTREME #1 – Overemphasizing the Devil

A little boy called his little sister a bad name, hit her with a broomstick, and spit on her. The mother remonstrated with the naughty child and said, "You shouldn't have done that. The devil made you do that." He said, "The devil made me call her a bad name. And, the devil made me hit her with the broomstick. **But, spitting on her was my idea.**"

EXTREME #2 – Pretending He Does Not Exist

The New York Times, in reporting on a survey by the Barna Group, noted the diminishing belief in the devil among Americans.

Two-thirds of Americans do not believe in the devil as a living entity.

Another Barna Poll (in the last 3 or 4 years)

Four out of ten Christians (40%) strongly agreed that Satan "is not a living being but is a symbol of evil." Two out of ten Christians (19%) said they "agree somewhat" with that perspective.

David Jeremiah once said, "Many times we are praying to and praying for, but not praying against." [The Handwriting on the Wall, pg. 213]

2 Corinthians 2:11 - lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (KJV)

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

1 Peter 5:8-9a (KJV) *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith...*

Ephesians 6:10-12 (KJV) *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

James 4:7 (KJV) *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Revelation 12:11 (KJV) *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

The late pastor Martyn Lloyd Jones wrote: ***Not to realize that you are in a conflict means one thing only, and it is that you are so hopelessly defeated, and so "knocked out" as it were, that you do not even know it — you are completely defeated by the devil. Anyone who is not aware of a fight and a conflict in a spiritual sense is in a drugged and hazardous condition. [The Christian Warfare, 1976, p. 41]***