



SAVED TO SERVE

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DANIEL THE PROPHET - DANIEL 10

MICHAEL THE GREAT PRINCE VS THE PRINCE OF PERSIA

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will be studying Daniel 10. We will learn about the great controversy between heavenly and satanic agencies and the power of persevering prayer.
2. **Note:** Read Daniel 10:1. The Bible lets us know that Daniel received a vision and was given its understanding. The events that he saw were to take place in the future.
3. Read Daniel 10:2, 3. Prior to Daniel receiving enlightenment, what was he doing for three full weeks?

4. **Note:** Notice that the Bible describes the time period Daniel mourned for as “three full weeks” or “three whole weeks.” The marginal reference of the Bible tells us that this time period represents “weeks of days” or literal weeks not to be confused with the prophetic weeks we saw in Daniel 9:24.
5. Read Daniel 10:4-6. What did Daniel see in vision according to verse 5?

6. How is His appearance described in Daniel 10:6?

a) His body _____

b) His face _____

c) His eyes _____

d) His arms and feet _____

e) His voice _____

7. Compare Daniel 10:5-6 with Revelation 1:1, 13-15. Who is the man that Daniel saw in vision?

8. Read Daniel 10:7. The men around Daniel heard **noise but did not see** this “certain man” that Daniel saw in vision. The experience of Saul (who became Paul) is another evidence which proves that Daniel saw Jesus in vision. Who was speaking to Saul/Paul on the road to Damascus when his servants also **heard a voice but saw no man**? Acts 9:1-7

“No less a personage than the Son of God appeared to Daniel. This description is similar to that given by John when Christ was revealed to him upon the Isle of Patmos. Our Lord now comes with another heavenly messenger to teach Daniel what would take place in the latter days. This knowledge was given to Daniel and recorded by Inspiration for us upon whom the ends of the world are come (The Review and Herald, February 8, 1881).” {4BC 1173.2}

9. What happens after Daniel saw Christ in vision? Daniel 10:8

10. Read Daniel 10:9-12. Daniel heard a voice and was touched by a hand to help and encourage him. Who is this person which began speaking to Daniel to tell him that his prayer was heard? Daniel 9:21-23

11. What reason does Gabriel give for his delayed response in going to Daniel’s aid? Daniel 10:13

12. **Note:** In order to comprehend Daniel 10:13, we must understand it from a spiritual and historical context. Let us begin with the spiritual context so that we can identify who the “prince of Persia” is.
13. Daniel 10:1 tells us that Cyrus was the king of Persia. Daniel 10:13 mentions the “prince of the kingdom of Persia.” We must understand that the word “prince” has another meaning besides the son of a king. What does “prince” mean in scripture? Proverbs 8:16; Revelation 1:5
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14. **Note:** The word “prince” in the Strong’s Hebrew Concordance (number 8269) means “ruler.”
15. The Bible says that Gabriel was withstood by the prince of Persia. A literal man cannot hold back the power of an angelic being. Who then does this prince of Persia represent which combatted Gabriel for 21 days? John 12:31; 14:30; Ephesians 6:12; Matthew 4:8-9
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“By this we see that heavenly agencies have to contend with hindrances before the purpose of God is fulfilled in its time. **The king of Persia was controlled by the highest of all evil angels.** He refused, as did Pharaoh, to obey the word of the Lord. Gabriel declared, He withstood me twenty-one days by his representations against the Jews. But Michael came to his help, and then he remained with the kings of Persia, holding the powers in check, giving right counsel against evil counsel. **Good and evil angels are taking a part in the planning of God in His earthly kingdom. It is God’s purpose to carry forward His work in correct lines, in ways that will advance His glory. But Satan is ever trying to counterwork God’s purpose. Only by humbling themselves before God can God’s servants advance His work. Never are they to depend on their own efforts or on outward display for success** (Letter 201, 1899).” {4BC 1173.3}

“**We have before us in the Word of God instances of heavenly agencies working on the minds of kings and rulers, while at the same time satanic agencies were also at work on their minds. No human eloquence, in strongly set forth human opinions, can change the working of satanic agencies. Satan seeks continually to block the way, so that the truth shall be bound about by human devising; and those who have light and knowledge are in the greatest danger unless they constantly consecrate themselves to God, humiliating self, and realizing the peril of the times.**” {4BC 1173.4}

16. **Note:** Let us now identify the historical context of the scene in Daniel 10:13. Gabriel and Michael (whom we will identify shortly) were contending with Satan, the prince of Persia. What were they warring over? They were contending over the proclamation and progress of the work to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem firstly given by Cyrus, King of Persia. Let us confirm this point.
17. **Note:** It is important to note that the commandment to go forth and rebuild Jerusalem was started by Cyrus of Persia, reaffirmed by Darius of Persia, and then completed under the decree of Artaxerxes of Persia. See Ezra 6:14.

“**In the seventh chapter of Ezra the decree is found. Verses 12-26. In its completest form it was issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, 457 B.C. But in Ezra 6:14 the house of the Lord at Jerusalem is said to have been built “according to the commandment [“decree,” margin] of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.” These three kings, in originating, reaffirming, and completing the decree, brought it to the perfection required by the prophecy to mark the beginning of the 2300 years. Taking 457 B.C., the time when the decree was completed, as the date of the commandment, every specification of the prophecy concerning the seventy weeks was seen to have been fulfilled.**” {GC 326.3}

18. When Gabriel and Michael are seen contending with Satan, the prince of Persia, what year of Cyrus’ reign was it? Daniel 10:1
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19. However, when did the commandment go forth from Cyrus, for the Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem? Ezra 1:1-2
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20. If the commandment went forth in the first year of Cyrus of Persia, then why do we see Gabriel and Michael warring with Satan in the third year of Cyrus’ reign? Ezra 4:1, 4-5
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21. Here is an important point to notice: who “stirred up” the spirit of Cyrus to make the decree for the Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem? Ezra 1:1
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22. **Note:** Since it was the Lord who influenced Cyrus to make the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, then we can confidently confirm that in Daniel 10:13, Satan was also there (personally and through human agents) trying to counteract the influence of heaven to prevent the writing of the decree and the completion of rebuilding Jerusalem. This is why the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 says that “the street shall be built again, and the wall, **even in troublous times**” because Satan was actively trying to stop the work God had set out for His people to do.

“Untiring in their opposition, the Samaritans “weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, and hired counselors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius.” Ezra 4:4, 5. **By false reports they aroused suspicion in minds easily led to suspect. But for many years the powers of evil were held in check, and the people in Judea had liberty to continue their work.**” {PK 571.1}

“**While Satan was striving to influence the highest powers in the kingdom of Medo-Persia to show disfavor to God's people, angels worked in behalf of the exiles. The controversy was one in which all heaven was interested. Through the prophet Daniel we are given a glimpse of this mighty struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil. For three weeks Gabriel wrestled with the powers of darkness, seeking to counteract the influences at work on the mind of Cyrus; and before the contest closed, Christ Himself came to Gabriel's aid.**” “The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days,” Gabriel declares; “but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.” Daniel 10:13. All that heaven could do in behalf of the people of God was done. The victory was finally gained; the forces of the enemy were held in check all the days of Cyrus, and all the days of his son Cambyses, who reigned about seven and a half years.” {PK 571.2}

23. Read Daniel 10:13 again. After contending with the prince of Persia for 21 days, Michael, one of the chief princes, comes to help Gabriel. The marginal reference for the word chief means “first.” Therefore, Michael is the first or chief of all rulers and all of the heavenly host. The name Michael in the Strong's Hebrew Concordance (number 4317) means “who is like God.” From these explanations, you may already know who Michael is, but let us compare scripture with scripture to see more clearly the answer.

24. How does Jude 1:9 describe Michael?

a) What voice will the Lord use to awaken the faithful saints who died? 1 Thessalonians 4:16

b) Whose voice is heard when the dead are raised to life? John 5:25, 28

25. **Note:** The voice of the archangel is the voice of the Son of God. Jesus is the Son of God; therefore, Jesus is Michael the archangel!

26. How else is Michael described? Daniel 10:21; 12:1

27. What similar titles are given to Jesus? Revelation 1:5; Isaiah 9:6

28. As we close, let us now transition to take a look at some practical lessons in the life of Daniel.

29. What is one lesson we should learn from the experience of Daniel and the parable of Luke 18? Luke 18:1

30. How often did this woman go before the unjust judge to get an answer for her petition? Luke 18:2-5

31. How will God treat His people who cry day and night to Him? What do they need in order for Him to answer their prayers? Luke 18:7-8

32. Since we saw that satanic and heavenly beings are engaged in a great controversy for our lives, what do we need in order to be victorious in this spiritual warfare? Ephesians 6:11-18

“Heavenly beings are appointed to answer the prayers of those who are working unselfishly for the interests of the cause of God. The very highest angels in the heavenly courts are appointed to work out the prayers which ascend to God for the advancement of the cause of God. Each angel has his particular post of duty, which he is not permitted to leave for any other place. If he should leave, the powers of darkness would gain an advantage....” {4BC 1173.5}

“Day by day the conflict between good and evil is going on. Why is it that those who have had many opportunities and advantages do not realize the intensity of this work? They should be intelligent in regard to this. God is the Ruler. By His supreme power He holds in check and controls earthly potentates. Through His agencies He does the work which was ordained before the foundation of the world.” {4BC 1173.6}

“As a people we do not understand as we should the great conflict going on between invisible agencies, the controversy between loyal and disloyal angels. Evil angels are constantly at work, planning their line of attack, controlling as commanders, kings, and rulers, the disloyal human forces.... I call upon the ministers of Christ to press home upon the understanding of all who come within the reach of their voice, the truth of the ministration of angels. Do not indulge in fanciful speculations. The written Word is our only safety. We must pray as did Daniel, that we may be guarded by heavenly intelligences. As ministering spirits angels are sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. Pray, my brethren, pray as you have never prayed before. We are not prepared for the Lord's coming. We need to make thorough work for eternity (Letter 201, 1899).” {4BC 1173.7}