

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #139

DANIEL:

THE MAN WHO PRAYED

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Daniel 12:4

Daniel was fourth of the Major Prophets and like Isaiah was related to the royalty of Israel probably through King Hezekiah. His name means *Who in the name of God does Justice* or *God is my judge*. When he was 15 years old, he was taken as a captive to Babylon where he remained the rest of his life and became high up in leadership because of his abilities. The Lord gave to Daniel and 3 other young Jewish men (the three in the fiery furnace) special ability to learn and have wisdom and specifically to Daniel an ability to understand and to interpret dreams and visions (Daniel 1:17).

Daniel's book is an apocalypse. *Apocalypse* literally means "unveiling." At times when wickedness reigned in the world and demonic powers seem to be prevailing, an apocalypse is given by God to show the real situation behind what seems apparent to the world. The real situation is that righteousness will eventually prevail. Often God uses symbols and figures that people have to search out to determine what His eventual plan is. Revelation is, of course, an apocalyptic book but so is Daniel, parts of Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The book foreshadows the increase of more severe and universal persecution of the children of God and more intensity of the blasphemous repudiation of the God of Israel at the end of the age. (Daniel 5,6,7,8, 9,11,12)

As far as I know, there is no recorded sin that Daniel committed. I am sure that he was a sinner, but it is very rare that a man's sins are not "shouted on the housetops" in the Bible. At any rate, we know that Daniel was a man of self-control (Daniel 1:8, 10:3), great courage (Daniel 5:22-23), unquestionable integrity (Daniel 6:4), unceasing prayerfulness (Daniel 2:17, 18; 6:16), humility (Daniel 10:17), and vision (Daniel 7:9, 12; 10:5-6). We should all aspire to be like Daniel.

Daniel 10 NIV

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia (Possibly the son of Queen Esther of the book of Esther and a man whom the Bible predicted 175 years before he was born, even foretelling that he would liberate the Jews and rebuild Jerusalem-2nd Chronicles 36:22-23), a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar) (Belteshazzar means something close to the Lord of the treasure). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

At that time, I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips, and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. (This vision is almost exactly like the one of the Son of Man in Revelation 1:12-17.)

I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision (this shows that a person can see a vision while others cannot even though they are present); the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision. I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale, and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and, as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future (latter days just before Messiah comes), for the vision concerns a time yet to come. (This is one scriptural example of the answer to prayer being delayed. When we don't get the answer right away, we should keep praying until we do.)

While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face towards the ground and was speechless. Then one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I am helpless. How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe."

Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong."

When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."

So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

Daniel's Reaction to the Vision

1. Had no strength
2. Face pale
3. Felt helpless
4. Feel to ground
5. Speechless
6. Overcome with anguish
7. Could hardly breathe

I strongly urge all of you to watch Bravehearted Thots' "A Call to Anguish" by David Wilkerson. I believe it is a message for this hour.

Three Heavens?

Paul wrote to the Corinthians in 2nd Corinthians 12:1-4, *"It is not expedient for me doubtless, to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years (whether in the body, I cannot tell, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth)-such a one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man (whether in the body or out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth)-How he was caught up into paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

1. First Heaven: the heavens visible to the eye when one goes outside and looks up into the sky.

2. Second Heaven: a middle ground between earth and heaven where there is often warfare between angels and demonic forces and where Demonic Principalities try to influence areas of land on the earth. Ephesians 6 says we are to wrestle these things to the ground. We cannot cast them out but can render them powerless.
 3. Third Heaven: Paul himself tells us that this is paradise, which is what we mean when we say we want to go to heaven.
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Structure of Satan's Kingdom-Ephesians 6

SATAN: Commander-in-Chief of evil forces-His name means “Destroyer”. Before his fall from heaven, he was a cherub known as “Lucifer” or light bearer. There are passages in scripture that suggest that he was in charge of worship and praise or heaven’s choir director. He is also know in scripture as *The Prince of the this World*(John 12:31 and John 16:11), *The Prince of the Air*(Ephesians 2:2), *The Prince of Darkness*(Ephesians 6:12), *The Prince of Devils*(Matthew 12:24), *The God of this World*(2nd Corinthians 4:4), *An Angel of Light*(2nd Corinthians 11:14), *The Serpent*(2nd Corinthians 11:13), *Our Adversary*(1st Peter 5:8), *The Accuser of the Brethren*(Revelations 12:10), *The Tempter*(Matthew 4:3), *The Thief*(John 10:10), *The Murderer*(John 8:44), and *A Roaring Lion*(1st Peter 5:8), among other names.

PRINCIPALITIES: These are very powerful demonic forces over large areas of lands or groups. They influence things like religion, lust, suicide, pockets of crack houses in a city, preponderance of homosexuality and sexual sin in a town, etc. Anywhere there is an obvious spiritual problem, you can be sure there is a strong demonic prince over that area.

POWERS: These evil powers are over institutions, such as schools, churches or penal systems.

RULERS: These demonic beings influence literature, rock music, what is seen on television, liberal and unbiblical sex education teachings, slanted news.

SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES: These powers are what’s behind many cults, the occult, and false doctrine, etc.

DEMONS AND EVIL SPIRITS: These are evil spirit beings who are some of Satan's main agents in his warfare against humanity and who are disembodied spirits who seek to embody human beings.

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What is a Behemoth?

Read Job chapters 15-24 with spiritual eyes to understand Behemoth. Job 40:23 tells us, "*Behold, he drinketh up a river and hasteneth not; he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.*" Behemoth means something of massive size and strength. Some think this was the bull, others the elephant, and still others the hippopotamus. Some think it is an animal no longer alive. It represents any system large enough to oppress large groups of people. Behemoths are demonic strongholds of the enemy that must be destroyed before millions come to know Jesus. The Isarelites were under a Behemoth in Egypt. This was confronted by Moses. The religious system of Jesus' day was a Behemoth confronted by Jesus. Modern Behemoths include Communism, Islam, Humanism, Materialism, Witchcraft, Religion and Tradition, etc. Behemoth may well represent Satan who like Behemoth is full of pride and shows no mercy.

In the passage of Daniel 10, we have two demonic principalities: the Prince of Persia and the Prince of Greece. They are fighting against an angel messenger, probably Gabriel but not named, who is bringing a message of the end times. I believe this is significant and I believe they are two of the Behemoths we will face and have to spiritually confront in the last days.

The Prince of Persia

This Behemoth represents the Isalmic Religion, a religion that denies that Jesus is God and says those who believe in Him will go to Hell. It encourages the killing of all who disagree with this religion and is working to dominate the whole world.

The Prince of Greece

This Behemoth represents the Greek philosophy of humanism and glorification of the human body, including the stronghold of homosexuality. It is a mind control thing exalting the intellect and urging people to do what feels good. Its utopia is a world without religion as glorified in the song by John Lennon, "Imagine". I believe it is what is behind religion and tradition and the New Age movement.

Conclusion:

Whether we want to or not, we are called to wrestle in prayer against these Satanic powers. In 1st Thessalonians 5:16-23 Paul emphasizes the activities that all Christians should be engaged in: *Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

AND as you fight the fight of faith in prayer, remember whom the Lord says you are in His Word(This was compiled by my friend Pat Carver who has gone to be with the Lord, but her work lives on!): *New Creation. Heir of God. Joint-heir with Jesus. One with the Word. Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. In Perfect Health. Chosen One. Blessed with Every Spiritual Blessing. Standing and Acting on the Word. Doer of the Word. Free from Law and Tradition. Free from Want. In Favor with God and Man. Saved. Redeemed. Sanctified. Justified. Forgiven. Eternal. Resurrected with Him. Victorious in All Things. Cleansed from Unrighteousness. More than a Conqueror. Abiding in Him. Carefree. Oak of Righteousness. Wealthy in All Things. Part of His Body. Having No Lack in Anything. Set Apart. Peculiar. a Gift. Salt. a Believer. a Branch of the Vine. High and Lifted up into Heavenly Places. An Overcomer. Partaker of His Divine Nature. a Member of the Royal Family. Unwavering. Loving. Redeemed from the Curse of the Law and Its Ability to Rule You. Forgiving. Full of Joy. Tenderhearted. Delivered from Evil. Far from Oppression and Fear. Blessed of the Father. Temple of the Holy Spirit. Single-minded to His Word. Strong in Him and the Power of His Might. a Faith Being. Walking in Victory. Healed. Steadfast. Reigning in Life. Speaking Faith-filled Words. God-inside Minded. Pulling down Enemy Strongholds in Jesus Name. Beloved in the Brethren. Complete in Him. Bearing Fruit that Remains. Peaceful. Casting Down Any Thought Contrary to His Word. Thinking on All Those Things that are Pure, Lovely, Honest and of Good Report. Clad in His Full Armor. Trusting in His Ability.*