LESSON 10: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A TERRIBLE, SPIRITUAL CONFLICT BETWEEN GOD AND SATAN, AND ONLY GOD'S WORD CAN EQUIP US FOR THE BATTLE — SEE EPH 6:10-17.

• THE FINAL MESSAGE GIVEN TO DANIEL CAME SOMETIME AFTER THE EXILES RETURNED TO JERUSALEM, DANIEL HIMSELF HAVING REMAINED IN BABYLON – DAN 10:1; SEE V. 4.

WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A TERRIBLE, SPIRITUAL CONFLICT BETWEEN GOD AND SATAN, AND ONLY GOD'S WORD CAN EQUIP US FOR THE BATTLE — SEE EPH 6:10-17.

• DANIEL WAS SHOWN A VISION CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF HIS PEOPLE, THAT THERE WOULD BE GREAT CONFLICT BEFORE (AND AFTER) THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH – DAN 10:1.

WHEN WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE, WE OUGHT TO HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD AND PRAY, AWAITING HIS ANSWER AND RECOGNIZING THE SPIRITUAL WAR AROUND US — DAN 10:2-21.

• THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS POSSESS (OR HAVE POSSESSED) POWER IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM, EVEN OVER WORLD POWERS, AND THEY THUS BATTLE AGAINST GOD — SEE REV 13:1-2.

WHEN WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE, WE OUGHT TO HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD AND PRAY, AWAITING HIS ANSWER AND RECOGNIZING THE SPIRITUAL WAR AROUND US — DAN 10:2-21.

• WE MUST, THEREFORE, STAND FIRM AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL, EQUIPPING OURSELVES WITH THE ARMOR OF GOD, PRAYING AGGRESSIVELY, AND WAITING PATIENTLY — EPH 6:10-18.

THOUGH WE ARE OFTEN IGNORANT OF HOW GOD AND SATAN ARE USING WORLD POWERS, WE CAN REST ASSURED THAT GOD IS ACTIVE AND SOVEREIGN – DAN 11:1-45.

• THE PREDICTIONS OF DANIEL 11 ARE SOME OF THE MOST DETAILED (EXPLICIT) OF ANY OF THE PROPHECIES OF THE BIBLE, RELATING EVENTS OF THE INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD.

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• FOR A DETAILED SUMMARY (AND POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION) OF DANIEL 11, SEE A COMMENTARY ON DANIEL BY HOMER HAILEY.

REGARDLESS OF THE DIFFICULTIES WE FACE AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD, WE WILL BE REWARDED IF WE FAITHFULLY SERVE THE LORD TO THE END — DAN 12:1-13; SEE 2 TIM 4:6-8; 2 COR 4:16-18.

WHEN WE RECOGNIZE THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN, WE WILL NOT COMPROMISE OUR CONVICTIONS (CHAP. 1) BUT WILL RECOGNIZE HIS POWER OVER EVEN THE STRONGEST POWERS (2). ARMED WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DIE FOR THE LORD'S CAUSE (3). BUT THIS REQUIRES THAT WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD (4) AND SHOW THE UTMOST REVERENCE FOR HIM (5). THROUGH RESOLUTE TRUST AND CONSTANT PRAYER, WE . . .

... WILL BE DELIVERED FROM ALL EVIL (6). IT IS CHRIST HIMSELF WHO CONQUERS EVEN THE STRONGEST OF ENEMIES (7). GOD ALLOWS THE WICKED TO GAIN POWER TO TEST AND SANCTIFY HIS PEOPLE (8). If WE CONFESS OUR SINS, GOD WILL FORGIVE US THROUGH JESUS CHRIST (9). THE COSMIC BATTLE AROUND US MAY BE FIERCE, BUT IF WE TRUST IN THE POWER AND PLAN OF GOD, WE WILL RECEIVE OUR REWARD (10-12).