

Historic Spiritual Battles

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BIG SANDY, Texas—The book of Daniel is an interesting mix of biblical history and future prophecy. It is obviously much easier to recognize the history lesson than to comprehend the potential prophecy lesson.

Four visions

Early in the book of Daniel, a Bible student can read about how Daniel interpreted dreams that came to King Nebuchadnezzar (in Daniel 2 and in Daniel 4).

Later in the book, a Bible student can read about four dreams that came directly to Daniel (found in Daniel 7-10).

Let's notice some information about this fourth vision.

Heard a message

- Daniel 10:1—The fourth vision was in the third year of Cyrus (king of Persia).
- Daniel 10:2-3—This vision came upon Daniel while he was mourning for three weeks.
- Daniel 10:4—The vision came on the 24th day of the first month while he was standing along the bank of the Tigris River.
- Daniel 10:5-6—When Daniel looked up, he saw a glorious man.
- Daniel 10:7-8—None of the men with Daniel saw the vision.
- Daniel 10:9-11—Daniel's knees buckled as he saw the image and heard a voice.

Notice the words of verse 11.

Daniel 10:11—"And he said to me, 'O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.' While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling."

It was Gabriel

When Bible students ask about the identity of the speaker in Daniel 10:11, they find the answer in the previous chapter.

Gabriel had previously introduced himself to Daniel in Daniel 9:21-23.

Daniel 9:21-23—"Yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached

me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, 'O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision.' "

Titanic battles

■ Daniel 10:12-13—Gabriel told Daniel that he came because of Daniel's words—but that he was delayed for 21 days.

An interesting question is this: Why did it take Daniel three weeks to receive this vision?

Daniel 10:13—"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia."

This must have been quite a battle. The enemy must have been strong, battling Gabriel for 21 days. It took the help of Michael to subdue the enemy.

Gabriel gave some insight into additional battles.

■ Daniel 10:20—Gabriel told Daniel that he had to return to fight with the prince of Persia and with the prince of Greece.

■ Daniel 10:21—Gabriel mentioned that no one besides the angel Michael helped him against those two princes.

Spiritual battles

Someone could ask: What do these scriptures have to do with us today?

At this time, I want to ask the question: Is it possible that Gabriel, Michael and other protective spirits are engaged at this time in battling the negative behavior of various evil spirits?