

God's Design in the Hebrew Scriptures: Daniel

Chapters 10—12, Beyond Desolation, Blessing Is Coming! – Part I

I. The Revelation's Preparation 10.1—11.1

A. Daniel's condition, 10.1-3

Note: 10.1 – the message was one of “great conflict” (NASB). The KJV takes an unusual and unlikely view that the word translated “conflict” (army, war, warfare, or service) speaks of something in the distant future, thus “the time appointed was long.”

B. Daniel's vision, 10.4-9

Note: 10.5 – The NIV translates “there before me” for an interjection which is better rendered “behold” or “look,” preserving the excitement of the amazing scene!

Cf Col 1.16; Eph 1.20f — “Mention has been made of five major representations of supremacy among these beings, namely, thrones (θρόνοι), dominions (κυριότητες), principalities (ἀρχαί), authorities (ἐξουσίαι), and powers (δυνάμεις). Since the Bible does not indulge in useless tautology, it may be believed that there is a specific meaning to each of these denominations, which meaning no doubt corresponds to earthly realities which bear these appellations. The revealed truth regarding the angels is not sufficiently complete for a full analogy to be set up. The term thrones refers to those who sit upon them, dominions to those who rule, principalities to those who govern, powers to those who exercise supremacy, and authorities to those invested with imperial responsibility.”

Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology, Originally Published: Dallas, Tex. : Dallas Seminary Press, 1947-1948. (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1993), 2:16-17.

C. Daniel's 1st strengthening and purpose/direction stated, 10.10-17

D. Daniel's 2nd strengthening and purpose/direction stated, 10.18—11.1

Angels

- ◆ Created beings, Col 1.16; Ps 148.2-5
- ◆ Vast in number, Heb 12.22; Matt 26.53; Ps 68.17; Rev 5.11
- ◆ Servants of God, Ministering Spirits, Heb 1.14, The Old Testament and New Testament terms are both well translated by “messenger.”
- ◆ Will be judged by the saints, 1 Cor 6.3, Heb 2.7
- ◆ Are not to be worshipped, Col 2.18
- ◆ Jesus clearly taught the existence of angels, Mat. 13:39, 41, 49; Mk. 12:25; Lk. 12:8-9; Jn. 1:51.

Does Paul Teach Spiritual Warfare?

Ephesians 3:10 does not teach that the Church proclaims a message to demonic powers. The key verb (“might be made known”) is passive. Instead of active involvement in warfare against spiritual powers, the very existence of the Church testifies to the helplessness of the dominion of darkness to stop the work of God!

While there is mention of a variety of evil spirits in Eph 6, there is no hint or encouragement of discernment of the hierarchies! Paul's point couldn't be further from this direction. His exhortation is to stand firm in Christ and resist the spiritual forces of darkness. The true battle in Ephesians is not territorial, it's personal! Our call isn't to penetrate the evil realms. Our call is to put on Christ!