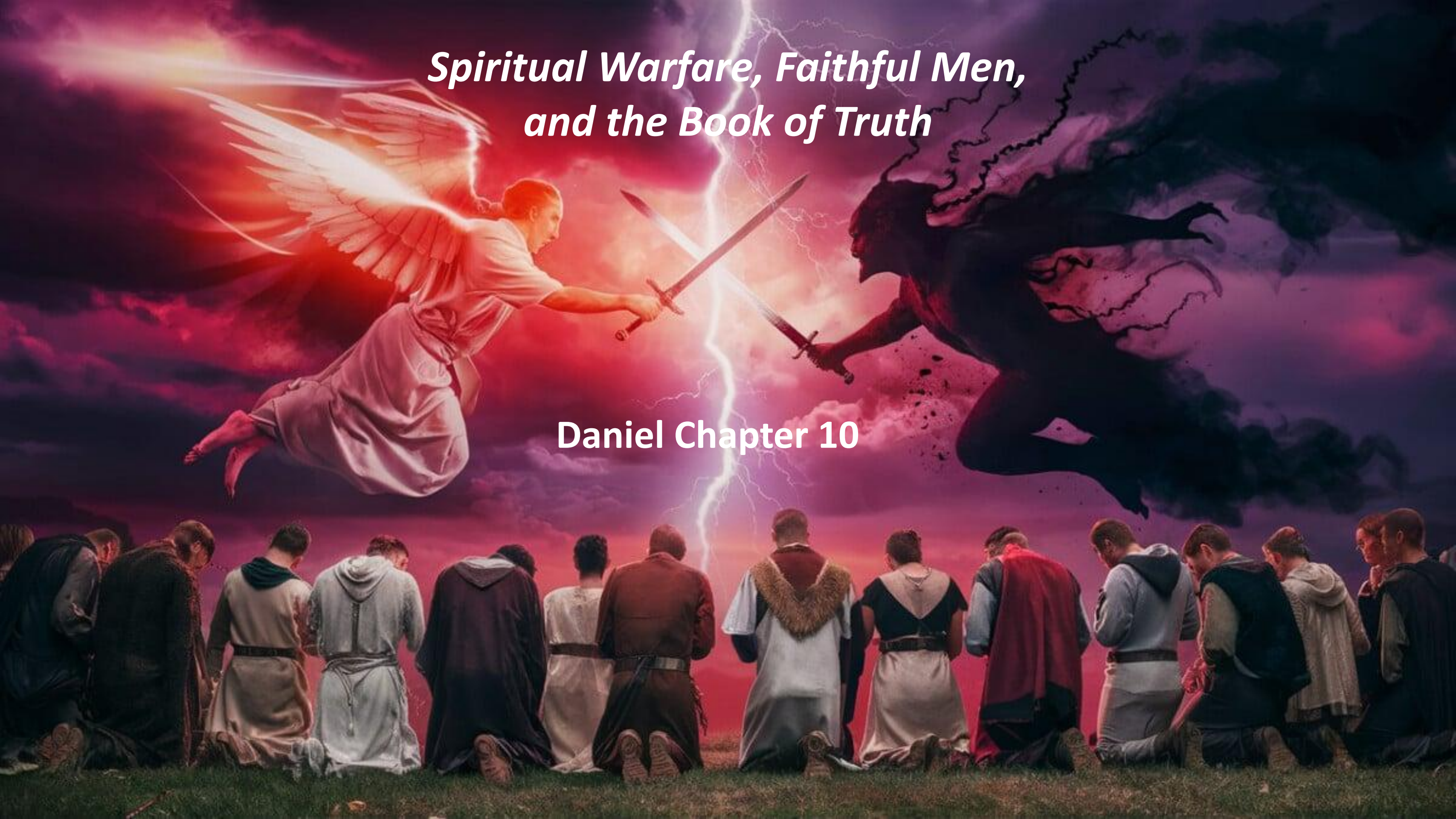


*Spiritual Warfare, Faithful Men,
and the Book of Truth*

Daniel Chapter 10



Dan 9:22 He explained to me, “Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. 23 The moment you began praying, a command was given. And now I am here to tell you what it was, **for you are very precious to God**. Listen carefully so that you can understand the meaning of your vision.

Dan 10:11a And the man said to me, “**Daniel, you are very precious to God**, so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you.”

Dan 10:19a “Don’t be afraid,” he said, “**for you are very precious to God**. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!”

Earthly Devotion Builds a Heavenly Reputation

“Daniel, you are very precious to God.”

(Daniel 9:22, 10:11, 10:19)

Uncompromising Purity

Educated in Babylon but refused to defile himself with unclean food or compromise to get ahead.

Long-Term Consistency

Faithfully served God despite opposition under three to four different foreign kings, up through Cyrus of Persia.

Scriptural Grounding

Intensely studied the scriptures (like Jeremiah's 70-year prophecy) to understand God's timing.

Dan 9:2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. 3 **Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.** 4 I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession.

Dan 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision. 2 In those days I, Daniel, **was mourning for three weeks.**

Should Christians Fast?

Matt 9:14 One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, “Why don’t your disciples fast like we do and the Pharisees do?”
15 Jesus replied, “Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.



Fasting Positions the Heart to Hear from God

What Fasting ISN'T ✘

- Trying to force or manipulate God's hand.
- A public display of righteousness to be seen by others (Matthew 6:5-6).
- Merely punishing the physical body.

What Fasting IS ✔

- Positioning ourselves to hear from God and gain spiritual understanding.
- Subjecting fleshly desires to prioritize eternal matters.
- Longing for closeness with the Groom (Jesus in Matthew 9:14-15).
- A continuous practice for the Church (Acts 13 sending Paul/Barnabas; Acts 14 commissioning elders).

The Daniel Fast

Daniel's 3-week mourning involved avoiding all delicacies, meat, wine, and lotions to sharpen his spiritual focus.

An Invitation to Step into the Unseen

1

The Pre-Work (This Week)

Practice the discipline of fasting to seek God's direction for yourself, the church, and the city.

Choose a method: forego delicacies (the Daniel fast), skip a daily meal, or undertake a complete fast for a day or two.

2

The Event (This Weekend)

ACC Overnight Prayer Time.

When: Saturday 6:00 PM continuously through Sunday 6:00 AM.

Where: ACC

What is Spiritual Warfare?

*Dan 10:12 Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for **from the first day** that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. 13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”*

From the first day...

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

James 5:16b The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



Earthly Delays May Be Heavenly Battles

Track 2: Heavenly Realm

From the first day your words were heard (Dan 10:12). The angel is immediately dispatched.



Daniel begins to fast, humble himself, and seek understanding.

The angel is intercepted and fiercely resisted by a demonic force known as the Prince of Persia.



Daniel mourns in silence, waiting for an answer.

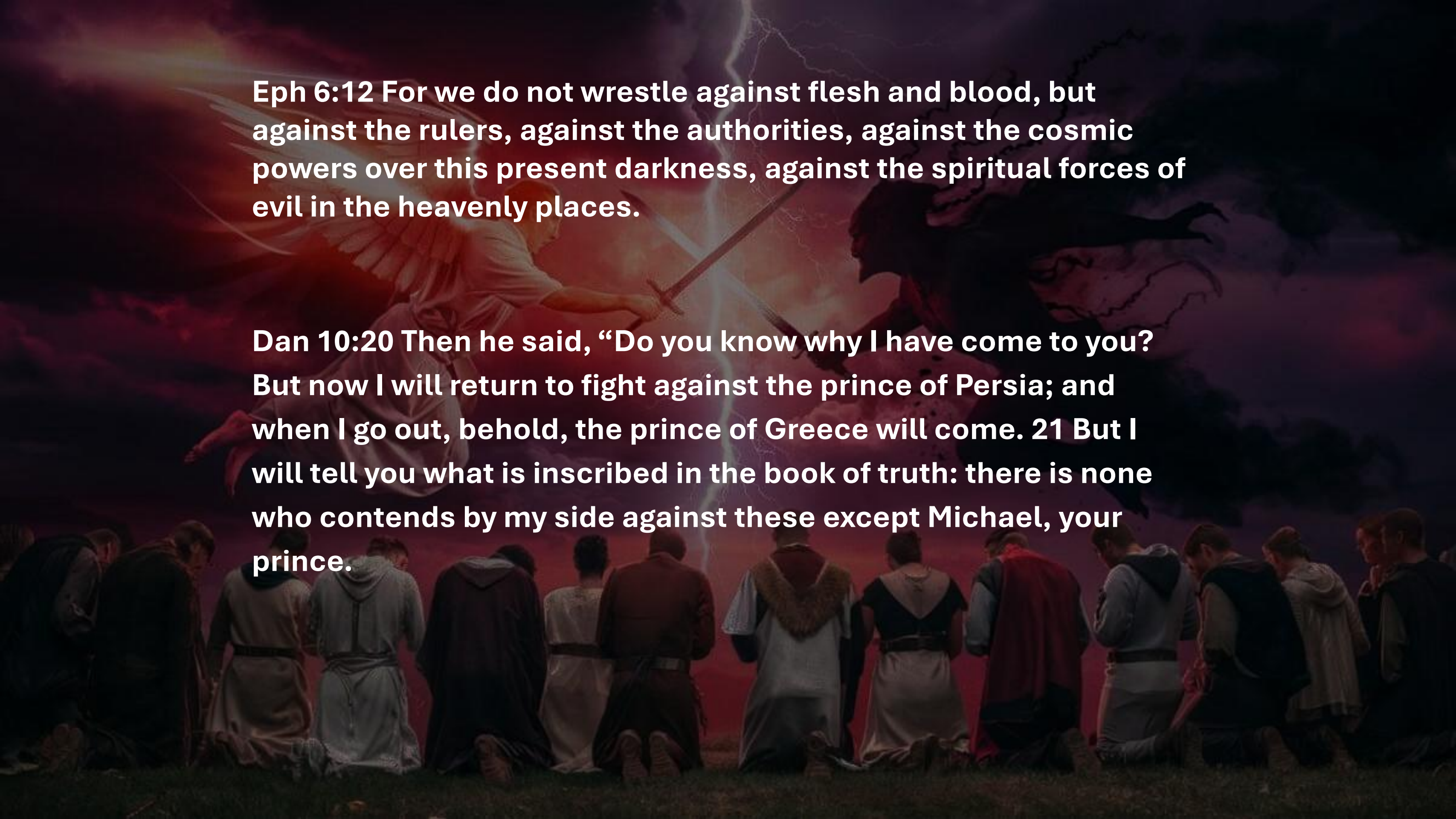
The archangel Michael arrives to assist. The veil parts, and the angelic message breaks through.



Daniel remains steadfast in his discipline.

Track 1: Earthly Realm

A delay is not God's indifference. God knows what he is doing.

A dramatic scene with a dark, stormy sky. In the upper left, a winged angel in white robes is shown in profile, holding a sword aloft. In the lower foreground, a group of people in medieval-style clothing are kneeling on a grassy field, their backs to the camera, looking towards the sky. The overall atmosphere is one of spiritual warfare and divine intervention.

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Dan 10:20 Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.

The Cosmic Architecture of Human History

The Book of Truth

God's sovereign, overarching decree and plan for all of history.

Spiritual Forces: "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood..." (Eph 6:12).

Angelic Messengers
e.g., Michael, Gabriel

Demonic Authorities
e.g., Princes of Persia and Greece

Human Empires: Earthly kingdoms that rise and fall.

Babylon

Medo-Persia

Greece

The rise and fall of earthly empires is overseen by heavenly forces, yet absolutely bound by **God's sovereign Book of Truth.**

The Cross Publicly Disarmed Spiritual Powers

Colossians 2:13-15

- **The Forgiveness:** We were dead in our sins, but God made us alive, forgiving all offenses.
- **The Cancellation:** He cancelled the record of charges against us by nailing it to the cross.
- **The Victory:** Jesus completely disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He publicly shamed them by his victory.

Key Insight

How do we wrestle with spiritual powers? Never from our own strength. Our power against the unseen realm is strictly positional, rooted in the finished work of the Cross.

“We’re not waiting for world events to happen, we are the event!”



“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the world, and then the end shall come.”



GC²

The Great Commandment – Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

The Great Commission – Make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything Christ has commanded.

Engaging Heaven by Praying Scripture



Pray for Open Eyes (1 Cor 4:3-4)

Pray against the god of this world who blinds the minds of unbelievers. Ask God to reveal the light of the gospel.



Pray for Boldness (Acts 4:29-31)

Pray for empowerment. Ask God to stretch out His hand with miraculous signs and to give His servants great boldness in preaching the word.



Pray for Transformation (2 Cor 3:17-18)

Pray for the Spirit's freedom. Ask God to remove the veil and change us more and more into His glorious image.



Pray for Direction (Acts 16:6-10)

Pray for closed and open doors. Just as the Spirit directed Paul to Macedonia, ask God for exact direction in completing our mission.

Acts 16:6-10

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had **prevented** them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus **did not allow** them to go there. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas.

That night Paul had a **vision**: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, **pleading** with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"

So **we decided** to leave for Macedonia **at once**, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

The
Blocked
Paths

The
Revelation

The
Response



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

An Invitation to Step into the Unseen

1

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