

Spiritual Warfare: A Look Behind the Veil

The “Break Through” Series – Part 04

Hook:

There’s a scene in the movie “Wizard of Oz” where Toto locates the “wizard” working the controls of his machines from behind a curtain. Having been discovered, the less-than-wonderful wizard shouts into his microphone: *“Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!”* With one look behind the curtain, the spell of the Wizard was broken. The person everyone thought was the great and powerful wizard was simply an ordinary man, who was only capable of performing some clever tricks.

In the model prayer, Jesus taught us that a proper posture in prayer will include a desire that God’s will be done...“on earth as it is in Heaven” -Matt. 6:10. The good that human kind has experienced in its brief history, originated first in God’s eternal Kingdom. Behind the curtain that separates the spiritual world from the physical world, resides a truly all powerful, knowing God who desires to hear from His creation, and accomplish His will on earth through us.

We find in our study of the book of Nehemiah, that the man who was called of God to lead in the rebuilding of the broken walls and gates of Jerusalem would soon face great threats and opposition in completing the task. Pastor Brandon shared that when we desire a breakthrough, we must look beyond ourselves and our circumstances, to the One who gives us purpose, value, and the power for victory.

In our study today, we will look to one of the few examples in the Bible where we get a glimpse of the activities in Heaven...a look behind the veil.

Book: Daniel 10:1-21 NLT

In the third year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) had another vision. He understood that the vision concerned events certain to happen in the future—times of war and great hardship. 2. When this vision came to me, I, Daniel, had been in mourning for three whole weeks. 3. All that time I had eaten no rich food. No meat or wine crossed my lips, and I used no fragrant lotions until those three weeks had passed. 4. On April 23, as I was standing on the bank of the great Tigris River, 5. I looked up and saw a man dressed in linen clothing, with a belt of pure gold around his waist. 6. His body looked like a precious gem. His face flashed like lightning, and his eyes flamed like torches. His arms and feet shone like polished bronze, and his voice roared like a vast multitude of people. 7. Only I, Daniel, saw this vision. The men with me saw nothing, but they were suddenly terrified and ran away to hide. 8. So I was left there all alone to see this amazing vision. My strength left me, my face grew deathly pale, and I felt very weak. 9. Then I heard the man speak, and when I heard the sound of his voice, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground. 10. Just then a hand touched me and lifted me, still trembling, to my hands and knees. 11. 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." When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling. 12. Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. 13. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. 14. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come." 15. While he was speaking to me, I looked down at the ground, unable to say a word. 16. Then the one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing in front of me, "I am filled with anguish because

of the vision I have seen, my lord, and I am very weak. 17. How can someone like me, your servant, talk to you, my lord? My strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe." 18. Then the one who looked like a man touched me again, and I felt my strength returning. 19. "Don't be afraid," he said, "for you are very precious to God. Peace! Be encouraged! Be strong!" As he spoke these words to me, I suddenly felt stronger and said to him, "Please speak to me, my lord, for you have strengthened me." 20. He replied, "Do you know why I have come? Soon I must return to fight against the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia, and after that the spirit prince of the kingdom of Greece will come. 21. Meanwhile, I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one helps me against these spirit princes except Michael, your spirit prince.)

Look:

What prompted Daniel to spend an intense time in prayer and fasting?

Who is the individual described by Daniel in verses 5-6?

Why was there a delay of 21 days in Daniel hearing from God?

What does the angel reveal about spiritual warfare in the heavenly realms?

Read verse 11 and 19 again. How does the angel refer to Daniel? How did the angel encourage Daniel? How should this encourage you?

Is it a difficult task for even angels to be involved in spiritual warfare? Why or why not?

How do you look differently at - 1) spiritual warfare, and 2) your own struggle - as a result of reading Daniel 10?