

DIAMONDS FROM DANIEL

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CHAPTER TEN

MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Key:

“He understood.”

“He had understanding of the vision” (Daniel 10:1)

The time appointed was long

A close and careful reader of the Scriptures cannot fail to be impressed by the hints given here and there that the reign of Christ was to be in the far off future. In the parable of the vineyard the man who planted the vineyard and let it out to husbandmen, went into a far country, for a long time. The man was the Lord God, the far country was heaven, and he went into that far country FOR A LONG TIME. How long, of course is unknown and hence the necessity of WATCHING AND PRAYING. It is in God’s hands to cut the time short or prolong it as He pleases.

Daniel knew that the millennium was in the far away future. THE TIME APPOINTED WAS LONG. That there is a near and far fulfillment of prophecy may be clearly seen by comparing scripture with scripture.

Joel’s prophecy of the day of the Lord had its NEAR fulfillment on the Day of Pentecost. It shall have its more distant fulfillment after the rapture of the Church saints, when the Holy Spirit shall be poured upon all Israel and that for which Moses longed shall actually be accomplished, for all God’s people shall be prophets and shall be anointed with God’s Spirit.

The same truth applies to the king of fierce countenance in Daniel 8. The near fulfillment of the prophecy was accomplished in Antiochus Epiphanes. The distant fulfillment awaits the apocalypse of the more desolating and destroying Antichrist. Daniel 10:1 throws out the hint that the complete fulfillment of these things was yet in the dim distant future. “**The time appointed was long.**”

In the third year of Cyrus

Daniel must have been at least ninety years old when God gave him this remarkable revelation. During the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar and Cyrus, Daniel lived and labored for God and His people.

I ate no pleasant bread

Self-denial is almost a lost sacrament. Daniel was not only pure in heart but temperate in life. By precept and practice Daniel prevailed.

Set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands

When the great God of heaven manifests Himself to the saintliest of earth, comeliness turns to corruption and only one attitude befits a man in the presence of his maker. It is the attitude of a little pet dog at the feet of its master. UPON KNEES AND HANDS the Syro-Phoenician woman pleaded with the Savior of men.

Her attitude of humility and persistent believing prayer prevailed. Christ handed her the keys to the whole storehouse.

Stand upright

When God comes, we go down. When we go down in humility God comes closer and lifts us up. After he lifts up He gives strength to stand. The strength which he gives is intended to make us and keep us upright. The great problem of the world today as in the ages past has been the problem of sin.

How shall man be healed of the plague of sin and selfishness? What shall we do?

- "Let him alone," growls the Atheist.
- "Develop him," argues the materialist.
- "Educate him," advises the school man.
- "Church him," cries the ritualist.

All these human panaceas have been and are being tried and all have signally failed. Man needs a Divine power outside of himself to regenerate him and lift him up and stand him upon both of his feet and give him power to walk, run and mount up with wings as eagles. Man needs God in Christ to redeem him, save him, sanctify him wholly and keep him standing upright.

A man greatly beloved

Daniel was the beloved prophet as John later was the beloved apostle (John 13:23).

Daniel at this time was by the side of the great river Hiddekel the modern name of which is Tigris. He saw a man girded with the fine gold of Uphaz or Ophir and was informed that he was a man greatly beloved which must have greatly encouraged the prophet.

The prince of the kingdom of Persia

There are two great forces operating in our world.

The empires of earth and governments of the world are controlled and their activities governed by satanic forces. Satan is the god of this age. He is also the PRINCE of the power of the air. Over each kingdom, empire, nation and republic, there is an evil-ruling prince.

For three full weeks Daniel denied himself, mourned and prayed. From the first day that he set his heart to understand and to chasten himself before God in prayer and supplication, God heard his cry, and sent Gabriel to him but the evil prince of the kingdom of Persia withheld him and for twenty-one days this satanic prince hindered the answer to Daniel's prayer.

Not until Michael came to Gabriel's help were the evil purposes thwarted and the prayers of Daniel answered. Had Daniel not been persistent he would not have prevailed. Gabriel and Michael fought for God and Daniel.

- Michael is the prince who watches over the affairs and safeguards the interests of the Hebrew race.
- Gabriel is the prince who is especially and peculiarly interested in the good government of God in this world and is the strong supporter and contender for righteousness in the earth.
- Satan, the most powerful of all the spirit intelligences is the overlord of the world, evil, and kingdom of darkness.

Satan has his evil princes at strategic centers throughout the world and only by persistent prayer and faith may God's people prevail. Neither nations, presidents, monarchs nor men are free to do as they please. Gentile nations are superintended and controlled by fallen, wicked, sinful super-spirits among whom Satan is chief. The prince of the kingdom of Persia was one of these powerful agents of Satan.

Too mighty for Gabriel to handle alone Michael hastened to help him. Together they prevailed and Daniel's prayer was answered. It is instructive and awe-inspiring to remember that Satan was mightier than Michael (Jude 9) and the prince of Persia more powerful than Gabriel and that the world in which we live and the air with which we are surrounded is full of fallen-spirit-intelligences bitterly engaged in opposing God, God's will and God's people.

One and twenty days

Delay is not necessarily a sign of denial.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Several times in the scripture of truth the veil which separates this world from the unseen world is lifted. Satan is clearly revealed as the prince of this present evil world, the god of this age and the prince of the power of the air. Satan has his obedient subjects both in this world and in the unseen world. There is a fully organized kingdom of evil and darkness, over which Satan rules and reigns.

One of Satan's lieutenants was appointed to watch over the kingdom of Persia and take care of all the interests of his satanic master. He hindered the answer to Daniel's prayer for three weeks and but for the assistance of Michael the Archangel who flew to the help of Gabriel, Daniel's prayer may never have been answered nor this important truth revealed. To show the dreadful presence and power of such diabolical intelligences it is only necessary to bear in mind that Gabriel and Michael are the most powerful of all holy angels and yet it took both of them to overcome one of Satan's lieutenants and get God's answer down to Daniel. Selah!

Michael, one of the chief princes

Michael is the only archangel mentioned In the Bible. He is Israel's generalissimo—prince—watcher. The last time his name appears is in Revelation 12, where he declares an aggressive war on Satan and casts him out of his kingdom in the heavenlies and flings him to the earth, preparatory to his arrest by Christ, and his incarceration in the bottomless pit.

Thy people

Both God and Gabriel disown the children of Israel because of their willfulness, waywardness and wickedness. They are DANIEL'S people, not God's people. In Daniel's prayer to God he prayed THY people. In God's answer it was THY people. It is tremendously important to notice this play upon the word THY.

What shall befall thy people in the latter days?

Here is an intimation clear and plain that this prophecy while describing at length the doings of Antiochus the Old Testament Antichrist, reaches to the concluding calamities of Israel's history through the Great Tribulation prior to their full restoration at Christ's Second Advent. Thus Antiochus Epiphanes was but a shadow of the coming Antichrist.

The prince of Persia

All earthly kingdoms have a reigning evil prince who acts as an agent of Satan in the affairs of government. Satan is the prince of the power of the air, the god of this age, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience, the accuser of the brethren, and the enemy of God. He has special agents attending to his affairs, one of which was the prince of Persia. The Medo Persian Empire conquered Babylon and was in turn conquered by Greece.

All Bible students should make an exhaustive study of the Satan of the Bible:

- (1) His fall, Isaiah 14:12-14
- (2) His work, Luke 4:1-3, 5-7, 9
- (3) His agents, Luke 8:30
- (4) His Power, Job 1:14-16, 2:7, Luke 13:16, II Corinthians 11:14, Acts 5:3
- (5) His Doom, Revelation 20:10.

- Who is it that stirs the nations to hatred and jealousy of other nations?
- Who is it that unleashes the dogs of war?
- Who is it that stirs up the musses and messes in Cuba? Mexico? Japan? France? Germany?

There is no way to account for the hellish holocaust of 1914-18 apart from satanic subtlety and influence. No one knows who started that Great War and nothing but evil resulted therefrom. Satanic princes were at the bottom of the whole baneful business.

Who is it that keeps America and Japan at loggerheads? There is only one satisfactory answer. The evil prince of Japan like the evil prince of Persia and the millions of other evil princes stationed by Satan at strategic centers around the world, seek to stir up strife and sink the ships of state with all on board, into the blackness of darkness forever.

Michael your prince

Michael is the only archangel mentioned in the Bible. He is the angelic head of the Jewish people and their special angelic guardian. He contended with the devil about the body of Moses and he is to fight against Satan in defence of the Jews in the latter days (Revelation 12). He helped Gabriel against the evil prince of Persia and but for his help Daniel's prayer would have been unanswered.

~ end of chapter 10 ~

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