

“Daniel & His Friends” (Daniel Pt. 1 – Route 66)

Let’s turn to the Book of DANIEL... We have a FASCINATING STUDY ahead of us... And, I have DONE something that I have NOT YET DONE in this series... I have TAKEN THIS BOOK, and broken-it into a PART 1 and a PART 2 study...

There is a CLEAR DIVISION when it comes to the Book of Daniel... We have events surrounding **DANIEL & HIS FRIENDS** (which we’ll look at today)... But—starting in Chapter 7—we have **DANIEL’S PROPHETIC WRITINGS**... (which we’ll look at NEXT Sunday)...

Dr. Graham Scroggie writes: “*About half of [Daniel] is history, and [the other] half... is prophetic. The first half is narration, and the second... is revelation...*”

So, we will be—LARGELY—in Chapters 1—6 this morning, looking at THREE SPECIFIC INSTANCES... ONE that happens during the reign of the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar...

A SECOND that happens during the reign of the Persian King DARIUS... and a THIRD that happens in the reign of the Persian King CYRUS...

This is ONE of the things that makes the Book of Daniel SO REMARKABLE... Remember: “*Babylon invades Judah on 3 separate occasions before finally [destroying] it in 586 BC.*”

DANIEL and his friends were taken to Babylon during the FIRST INVASION, about 605 BC... Daniel was BELIEVED to have been about 20 years old... Again, Dr. Graham Scroggie writes:

“*Daniel’s ministry continues [beyond Babylon] and into the Persian period... covering about 72 years... Daniel must have been around 90 years old at the time of his death.*”

How does a person of God—not just SURVIVE—but **THRIVE** in TWO, SEPARATE UN-GODLY KINGDOMS like Babylon and Persia? – The Book of Daniel will SHOW us how...

Jon Courson writes: “*This book has TREMENDOUS LESSONS... for how we are to walk in this world in which we live.*” – Chapter 1 begins:

“**In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim... into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god... he brought the articles into the treasure-house of his god.**”

You may remember that we mentioned how King Hezekiah had SHOWN the Babylonians all the RICHES and ARTICLES of the **Temple of God** in Jerusalem... (that’s in 2nd Kings Chapter 20).

And, Isaiah—the prophet—was like: “*That’s a BAD IDEA.*” – He **TOLD** Hezekiah: “**The days are coming when all that is in your house... what your fathers have accumulated... shall be carried to Babylon... And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you... and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.**”

Daniel **OPENS** by showing EXACTLY what Isaiah had prophesied CAME TRUE...

We read: “**The king [of Babylon] instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel... young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, [with] knowledge and quick to understand... whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.**” – We read: “**The king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training... so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. [And] from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.**” – “**To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: to Daniel [he gave] the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.**”

The Babylonian tactics were VERY DIFFERENT from the Assyrians... the Assyrians were BRUTAL and BARBARIC—skinning their victims alive or making pyramids out of their skulls

The Babylonians would—essentially—try to **INDOCTRINATE PEOPLE** into their OWN culture... **PARTICULARLY the YOUNG PEOPLE...**

They would REMOVE THEM FROM THEIR FAMILIES... DRESS THEM in Babylonian CLOTHES... SPEAK TO THEM in the Babylonian LANGUAGE... EDUCATE THEM in Babylonian CUSTOMS...

The YOUNG MEN would often be IMASCULATED—STRIPPED of their SEXUAL IDENTITY... They would CHANGE THEIR NAMES to Babylonian names...

ALL OF THIS was done for ONE PURPOSE... to BREAK-DOWN... and COMMUNICATE to the individual: “*You are NO LONGER WHO YOU WERE.*”

In the case of Daniel and his friends—it was: “*You are NO LONGER HEBREW... You are NO LONGER one of God’s Chosen People... You are BABYLONIAN.*” – And MAKE NO MISTAKE

The SAME THING happens today... 1st John 5:19 says: “**the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.**” – We’re told “**not to love the world, or the things IN the world.**”

Now, WHEN the Bible SAYS this, it’s NOT talking about the PLANET, or HUMANITY – We know that GOD LOVES the world (John 3:16)... This is talking about “**The World System.**” – “*A secular, anti-God way of doing things that is typical of human society...*”

We might say “**WORLDLINESS.**” – And, **SATAN INFLUENCES ALL OF THAT...** He is called “**the god of this age**” in 2nd Corinthians Chapter 4...

The WORLD SYSTEM... wants to TELL US... WHAT to THINK, how to SPEAK... what to EAT, WHAT to WEAR—I mean, this is the **BASIS** behind ADVERTISING... Even to CHANGE OUR SEXUAL IDENTITY... That’s very POPULAR nowadays, and it HAPPENS ALOT with YOUNG PEOPLE... when they FIRST LEAVE their FAMILIES...

The WORLD SYSTEM wants to do the SAME THING as the Babylonians... to STRIP US of our identity, and say: "*You are no longer uniquely created in the image of God.*"

But DANIEL KNEW WHO HE WAS! – Daniel NEVER refers to himself by his Babylonian name in this book... He calls himself "**DANIEL**"—which means "*God is my Judge.*"

And, Chapter 1, Verse 8, says: "**Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies...**" – Daniel DREW a line...

You I have to DO THE SAME... We have to KNOW WHO WE **ARE**... and WHERE OUR IDENTITY RESTS... and there are CERTAIN THINGS that we **WILL** or WILL **NOT** DO...

And yet—THROUGH all of this—"God... brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs." – By the END of Chapter 1, we read: "God gave [Daniel and his 3 friends] knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams." – Verse 20 says: "in all matters of wisdom and understanding... the king... found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm." – Verse 21 says: "Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus."

CHAPTER ONE... SETS-UP the REST of the Book... It shows the HEART and CONVICTION of Daniel and his friends... We see their PROMOTION in Babylon throughout the following Chapters... By the end of Chapter 2—VERSE 48—we read: "**the king promoted Daniel...**"

He: "**made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon... chief administrator over all the wise men... ALSO... Daniel petitioned the king, and... set Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon...**"

Now, this DOES NOT MEAN that their time in Babylon was WITHOUT CONFLICT, or WITHOUT TRIAL... In Chapter 3, Nebuchadnezzar erects "**an image of gold,**" which was—ROUGHLY—90 feet HIGH and 9 feet WIDE... It was BIG... We read:

"a herald cried [out], saying: whoever does not fall down and worship [the image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up] shall be cast... into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

We READ: "**certain Chaldeans came forward and accused... Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego,**" saying they "**have not paid due regard to you [O king]. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.**"

And Nebuchadnezzar is **FURIOUS**... He commands "**that they [should] heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.**" – And "**bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, and cast them into the burning fiery furnace.**"

We read they were: "**bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the... furnace.**" – The fire was SO hot that it "**killed those men who [threw in] Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego.**"

“And these three men... fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.” – But “Nebuchadnezzar... [said] to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men... into the midst of the fire?” – He says: “I see four men... walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and... the fourth is like the Son of God.” – We read:

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.” – “these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.”

“Nebuchadnezzar [said]: ‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him... I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything... against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces... their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.’ And he “**PROMOTED** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.” – ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!

Now—in Chapter SIX—we see a SIMILAR thing with ‘*Daniel in the Lion’s Den*’... But—BEFORE we get there—I want to **SET THE STAGE** by talking about the HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of Daniel Chapter 5... [So, INDULGE me for a moment]...

Daniel Chapter 5 **OPENS** by saying: “**Belshazzar the king made a great feast...**” – Okay, **WHO** is BELSHAZZAR? – What happened to NEBUCHADNEZZAR? – Where did **HE** go?

Well, from the Bible Archeology Report, we read: “*Prior to the middle of the 19th century... Belshazzar was unknown to history, allowing critics to question the... the book of Daniel. Ancient historians—such as Berossus—record that Nabonidus was the last king of Babylon. This changed in 1854, when J.E. Taylor discovered four cylinders in... a ziggurat at Ur which contained a prayer of Nabonidus... which says: ‘As for me, Nabonidus, King of Babylon... grant me as a present a life of long days, and as for Belshazzar, my oldest son... may he be sated with a life of plentitude.’ In 1924, the Persian Verse Account of Nabonidus was discovered... during which [Nabonidus] “entrusted the army to his oldest son, his first born... He... entrusted the kingship to him, and... started out for a long journey.” These inscriptions affirm [that] Belshazzar... served as a co-regent of Babylon. Thus, a king [just] as Daniel records.*”

David Guzik writes: “*According to Babylonian records, Belshazzar [continued as] co-regent... until 539 B.C. It is most likely that at the time of Daniel 5, Nabonidus had gone out to fight the Medo-Persian army and had been already captured. Those armies now surround Babylon, and were looking for a way into the strongly defended city.*”

So, Daniel Chapter 5 records the famous “*Writing on the Wall*” passage, where Belshazzar is having a DRUNKEN PARTY, and they SEE “**the fingers of a man’s hand appear and [write]... on the plaster of the wall...**”

We read Belshazzar’s: “**countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened...**” – Which MAY be a POLITE way of saying that he went to the BATHROOM on himself... “**his knees knocked against each other.**”

The QUEEN is, like, “**T**here is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God...” – “King Nebuchadnezzar... made him chief of the magicians, astrologers... and soothsayers...” – She says: “**L**et DANIEL be called, and he will give the interpretation.”

So, they CALL FOR DANIEL, and he says: “**G**od sent this message...” – It says: “**G**od has numbered your kingdom, and finished it... You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting... Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Now, TAKE NOTE of that phrase that Babylon would be “**GIVEN to the Medes and Persians.**” – HISTORY RECORDS that Babylon—as GREAT of an empire as it was—was TAKEN “without battle.” – Again, the Bible Archeology Report states:

“The Nabonidus Chronicle—from 556-539 BC records that... “On the 14th day Sippar [which was a city on the east bank of the Euphrates] was captured without battle... On the 16th day, Ugbaru, governor of Gutium, and the army of [the Persians] without battle... entered Babylon.”

David Guzik writes: “*The ancient Greek historian Herodotus relates that the [Persians] conquered Babylon by diverting the flow of the Euphrates into a nearby swamp. This lowered the level of the river so [that] troops marched through the water and under the river-gates. They... would not have been able to enter [Babylon] had not the bronze gates of the inner walls been left inexplicably unlocked. This was exactly what God predicted in Isaiah 44 & 45 and Jeremiah 51. God opened the gates of the city of Babylon for [the Persians], and put it in writing 200 years before it happened.*” – Bible commentator Alec Motyer writes: “...the taking of Babylon was as **bloodless and effortless** as Daniel Chapter 5 implies.”

Historians: “*Xenophon, Herodotus, and Daniel agree that the city was taken by surprise, at the time of a festival, and without much loss of life. The Cyropaedia states that a father and son were both reigning over Babylon when the city fell, and that the younger ruler was killed.*”

And so, the LAST TWO VERSES of Chapter 5 read: “**T**hat very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. – **A**nd Darius the Mede received the kingdom...”

So, by the time we get to Daniel Chapter 6, Daniel is living under a DIFFERENT KING... In fact, it's NO LONGER the **BABYLONIAN EMPIRE**... it's the **PERSIAN EMPIRE**... [And, this is when the Book of ESTHER takes place]...

Daniel 6 is a LOT like Daniel Chapter 3... But, where Daniel 3 involved Daniel's FRIENDS... Daniel 6 involves Daniel himself... Once more, Verse 3 says that:

“Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.” – And so...

“The governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel... but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful... [They] said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”

And so, THEY CONVINCE THE KING “to establish a royal statute and... a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except [Darius should] be cast into the den of lions.” – And so, “when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before... God...”

“These men... found Daniel praying... And they went before the king, and [said]: ‘Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god... within thirty days, except you... shall be cast into the den of lions?’”

They say: “That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard... for the decree that you have signed [O king], but makes his petition three times a day.”

And when king Darius “heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and” he actually “set his heart on Daniel to deliver him...” – But “the law of the Medes and Persians [was] that no decree or statute which the king established [could] be changed.”

And “So... they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king” actually “spoke [to Daniel], and said: ‘Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.’”

And “a stone was... laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his... signet ring,” and then “the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting.” – We read that “his sleep went from him.”

And “Then the king arose very early in the morning and went... to the den of lions. And... he cried out with a lamenting voice... “Daniel... has your God... been able to deliver you?”

And Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! – My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.”

And “the king was exceedingly glad... and commanded that they should take Daniel... out of the den.” – And the king “brought those men who had accused Daniel, and... cast them into the den of lions...”

Now, that’s an AMAZING STORY, right? – I mean, we could make a LOT of APPLICATION... The part that’s MOST AMAZING to me is when King Darius makes a decree:

“that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God... His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and rescues... He works signs and wonders... Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.” – And—once more—we read: “Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.”

You know... I RUFFLED SOME FEATHERS a few weeks ago when I talked about how the Bible says we are to: “submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake...” –

That “every soul [is to] be subject to the governing authorities.”

And—to QUOTE myself—I said: “*MANY CHRISTIANS seem to have become the FIRST IN LINE to wave the banner of ‘Civil Disobedience’ and claim it as the WILL OF GOD.*”

And, what a lot of people **DO**, is they POINT to the Book of Daniel, and say: “*See? Daniel did it. Daniel disobeyed the king.*” – And it’s TRUE, he DID. But Daniel **didn’t dishonor the king**.

David Guzik writes: “*Daniel [broke] the king’s law, but he did not go against the king or against the king’s best interests. Daniel is an example of obedient disobedience.*” – I like that...

Because—a LOT of times, what I observe—nowadays—is Christians often don’t WANT to submit to governmental authorities, but then they wanna turn around and—on TOP of that—speak DISPARAGINGLY of the government. Or incite protests, or picket political offices.

Daniel didn’t do THAT. Daniel didn’t call for Darius to be deposed... He didn’t say: “*Hey, as somebody high-up in the Persian government, I’m starting a petition to change Darius’ decree.*”

Daniel SUBMITS to an authority that was HIGHER than Darius... But he also found a way to honor Darius. – Another thing, too...

When Daniel & his friends choose to submit to the higher authority of God... When the punishment comes for their disobedience... They TAKE it... they SUBMIT to it...

And this one of the things that I think is DIFFERENT about the “spirit of civil disobedience” with a lot of Christians today... They DON’T want to submit to the laws of the land... But there’s not a PEACE about it... There’s a REBELLIOUSNESS to it—or an ARROGANCE...

Daniel & his friends weren’t **REBELLIOUS** in their ATTITUDES or ACTIONS. They HONOR their earthly authorities, even though they KNEW they were called to a higher authority.

So, I would say... if ever we are faced with those instances where we KNOW there is a higher authority than the law of the land that we know we need to obey... the **WAY** in which we do it is so important... I think 2nd Timothy Chapter 2, Verse 24 speaks to this... Paul says that:

“A servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition.” – I believe Daniel & his friends EMBODY this attitude... And THIS is why God CONTINUES to promote them throughout this book.

Now, to SHIFT GEARS a little bit... let’s talk about PRAYER from Daniel Chapter 10... There’s TWO THINGS that I want to notice here... **PRAYER REALLY WORKS...** and **SECOND, PRAYER RELEASES WARFARE...**

I’m just going to READ SEVERAL VERSES... I don’t have time to read EVERY SINGLE ONE of them, but ENOUGH for us to get a GOOD OVERVIEW of this Chapter...

Verse 1 says this was “**In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia,**” and that “**a message was revealed to Daniel...**” – So, Daniel now lives under a THIRD KING—CYRUS...

In Verse 2, he says: “**I, Daniel, was mourning [for] three full weeks.**” – He says: “**I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.**” – So, Daniel is FASTING and PRAYING during this time...

In Verse 5, he says: “**I... looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze... and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.**”

Now, so this should go without saying, but... THIS IS NOT A HUMAN BEING that Daniel is seeing... This is some sort of ANGELIC REPRESENTATIVE... And Daniel becomes AFRAID!

But the ANGEL SAYS to him—in Verse 12—“**Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. BUT,**” Verse 13... “**the prince of the kingdom of Persia withheld 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.**”

THEN—in Verse 20—when the Angel FINISHES DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE, he says: “**Now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.**” – Okay...

Back in Verse 12, the Angel SAYS: “**From the first day... you set your heart to understand... YOUR WORDS WERE HEARD... And I HAVE COME BECAUSE OF YOUR WORDS.**”

David Guzik writes: “*We can't pass this over lightly. An angel was dispatched because of Daniel's prayer. [It] is another reminder that prayer matters. It isn't just a therapeutic exercise.*”

So, if Daniel's WORDS WERE HEARD “**from the first day**” he prayed... And the ANGEL is DISPATCHED “**because of [his] words...**” – Why did it take 3 WEEKS for the Angel to arrive?

Well, he says to DANIEL—in Verse 13... “**I have come because of your words. BUT... But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withheld me**”—how long?—“**twenty-one days...**” – How long is 21 days? – It's THREE WEEKS, right?

Now, we're TOLD—back in Verse 1—that Cyrus is “**king of Persia**” at this time... Now, do we HONESTLY THINK that this Angel—with “**the appearance of lightning,**” and “**eyes like... fire,**” and “**arms & feet like... bronze,**” OF WHOM DANIEL IS TERRIFIED...

Do we HONESTLY THINK this Angel is saying he had to WRESTLE with king CYRUS for 3 weeks??? – I WOULD SUGGEST that when this Angel says “**the prince of the kingdom of Persia withheld me... 21 days,**” he is NOT TALKING about a **HUMAN** LEADER...

The word “**prince**” in this passage just has the idea of a ‘**ruler or authority**.’ – And this is NOT the ONLY place—in Scripture—where the term “**prince**” represents, or speaks of, either an ANGELIC or DEMONIC being...

For instance—IN THIS PASSAGE—Michael, who we KNOW from OTHER passages is an Archangel, is referred to in Verse 13 as one of the “...*chief PRINCES*...”

Satan is called the “...*Prince of the power of the air*...” – In fact, on three separate occasions, Jesus calls Satan either the **RULER** or the “...*prince of this world*...”

Jesus is called the **PRINCE of PRINCES**... We’re told that He is ABOVE all “**principalities [and] powers**.” – That He “**disarmed principalities**” on the cross... My POINT IS...

To SEE and TALK about the “...*prince of the kingdom of Persia*...” as being some sort of a DEMONIC... TERRITORIAL... SPIRIT... rather than an EARTHLY leader... is NOT an idea that is UNIQUE to this passage... Now, somebody might ask: “*What’s a ‘territorial spirit?’*”

We KNOW from SEVERAL passages... that the angelic realm is highly organized, and divided into ranks and structure... We could go to passages like Ephesians Chapter 1, Colossians Chapter 1 or 2... Ephesians 6 says:

“...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **PRINCIPALITIES**” – Which is RELATED to the word “**prince**”... “against powers, [and] the rulers of the darkness of this age... spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places...” – One author writes:

“*Paul [uses] a variety of terms to refer to our spiritual enemies. We should regard them as being on many different levels and of many different ranks... They are all part of a spiritual army that is [highly] organized and established... under the headship of Satan...*”

And—in this ONE PASSAGE this morning—there SEEMS to be some kind of POWERFUL SPIRIT... **RESISTING** this Angelic Messenger... who is CALLED the “...*prince of Persia*...” – In Verse 20, there is ANOTHER called the “*prince of Greece*...”

Daniel 12 refers to “**Michael**” as “**The great prince who stands watch over the sons of [Daniel’s] people**” – That would be ISRAEL...

Even a SECULAR website like Wikipedia says: “*Considering the fact that Michael is generally recognized as an angel, it is likely... that the ‘Princes’ mentioned in Daniel Chapter 10 from Greece and Persia are also spiritual beings. The fact that these spirits are given names in reference to location suggests that these demonic spirits had a geographical oversight.*”

Now, **WHEN** ARE THESE SPIRITS, these DEMONS... GIVEN this ‘**TEMPORARY TERRITORIAL RULERSHIP**?’ – It SEEMS as though it happened at Babel...

We don't have time to do a DEEP DIVE into this TODAY, but—if you're interested—I refer you to a study on our website or YouTube Channel called '**The Divine Council & a Deuteronomy 32 Worldview.**' – We go ALL into this, it's PRETTY FASCINATING...

But, **WHAT** would these 'Territorial Spirits' be FOR? – What do they DO? – It seems they have INFLUENCE over the LEADERS and EVENTS in THOSE REGIONS...

We KNOW that SPIRITUAL BEINGS can INFLUENCE LEADERS and EVENTS... In 1st Kings 22, the Lord is: "**sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by...**"

The LORD asks: "**Who will persuade [king] Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?"**" – And "**a spirit came forward and... said, 'I will go... be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.'** And the LORD said, '**Go... and do so.**'"

In Revelation 16, John sees "**three unclean spirits like frogs...**" – He says: "**they are spirits of demons... which go out to the kings of the earth... to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... Armageddon.**" – Again, we know that...

"**the whole WORLD lies under the sway**"—or the INFLUENCE of—"the WICKED ONE." – So, DOES THAT MEAN... That there is a "*prince of the United States?*" – A "*prince of the State of California?*" – Even a "*prince of Yuba City?*"

A demonic spiritual ENTITY ASSIGNED to wreak havoc & bring about deception and bondage in THIS part of the world... I think it's not only POSSIBLE—but very LIKELY...

Daniel Chapter 10 provides a SNAPSHOT into the kind of TRUE "**SPIRITUAL WARFARE**" that is **UNLEASHED** through the PRAYERS of God's people...

What if Daniel had only prayed ONE time? – What if—when Daniel DIDN'T get an IMMEDIATE RESPONSE to his prayers—he simply STOPPED praying?

There's ANOTHER OCCASION... When the "**king of Syria**" sends "**horses and chariots and [and]... army**" to CAPTURE the prophet Elisha... his SERVANT wakes up and sees "**an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots.**" – And he **FREAKS OUT!**

But, ELISHA PRAYS, and says: "**Lord, open his eyes that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw.**" – That—in REALITY—"the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire"—ANGELS—surrounding the army of the Syrians...

There is a SPIRITUAL BATTLE going on... And WE—as GOD'S PEOPLE—have been called to ENGAGE IN—and INFLUENCE—THAT BATTLE through **PRAYER...**

"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal..." "We do not war according to the flesh." – The church's weapons ARE NOT FACEBOOK... or POLITICS...

The weapons of OUR warfare are “mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...”

This is how DANIEL and his friends THRIVED in—and we could say CONQUERED—while living in Babylon... their tactics were **SPIRITUAL**...

May God OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE... not only the REALITY of the Spiritual War around us... but how we ENGAGE in—and INFLUENCE—that battle through PRAYER...

Now, **NEXT** WEEK... Daniel’s Prophetic Writings... there is SO in the coming Chapters... I REALLY encourage you guys to spend time this week reading the BACK-HALF of Daniel...

Maybe BRUSHING-UP on the Book of Revelation... These two go hand-in-hand... And, I think we’ll see—as we dive INTO Daniel’s writings NEXT week—there is SO MUCH that is TIMELY, and RELEVANT, and APPLICABLE to the day-and-age in which we live...

So, come back next week! – That is where we’re headed... when Route 66 continues...