**The Book of Daniel
Chapters 7-12**

**Lesson 9**
*"The Lord changes the time and the epochs...and gives wisdom to the wise."*

**Daniel Chapter 10**

v.1 536 BC The third year of Cyrus king of Persia – the year of the vision in chapter 10

Two years after the first group of Jews had returned to Jerusalem to start to rebuild the

 temple

v. 2: Daniel had mourned and fasted delicacies and oil for three weeks

v. 5 Daniel saw "a man clothed in linen…gold…with the appearance of lightning…eyes like flaming

torches...his words like the sound of a multitude."

Maybe this "man" was a theophany…an appearance of Christ.

Or, more likely, the "man" is an angel reflecting the glory of God

 v. 14 "I have come to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter

days.. For the vision is for days yet to come."

v. 14-17 Daniel was weak, breathless, speechless before the angel

v. 18 The angel touched Daniel and encouraged and strengthened him

The Hebrew word for angel is *mal`ach*, and the Greek word is *angelos*.

Both words mean “messenger” and describe one who executes the purpose and will of god, who

they serve

There are myriads of them

They are spiritual beings who help believers

Heb. 1:14

"Are not the angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

Angels are invisible to the human eye, but can be "seen" and "sensed" by the human spirit

Angels sometimes "manifest" and then can be seen by human's physical eyes *(their "glory" appears)*

Angels perform tasks commanded by the Lord

 As messengers *(to Abraham; Gabriel to Daniel and to Mary)*

 As the spirit who puts lies in the prophets of Ahab in the story of the true prophet Micaiah

As warriors *(Archangel Michael who helps an angel fighting the Prince of Persia in the book of Daniel)*

Michael appears to be a guardian angel over Israel

He contends with Satan over the body of Moses

 He also throws Satan out of heaven

Angels often are not first recognized as angels but are thought to be men by Abraham and the people of

Sodom by Mary Magdalene at Jesus' tomb

Heb. 13:2

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing, some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

When "angels" have wings, then they are other types of spiritual beings--involved with 24-7 worship of

the Lord

 Seraphim are described as having six wings

 Cherubim are describes as having four wings and four faces They move the Lord's throne: His glory

 around

 "Living creatures" are describes as having six wings, four faces (of four different animals) and Many

eyes

Angels are not cute children *(cupid-like)*

Holy angels are not humans who have died

Angels refuse worship when men try to worship them

Colossians 2:18

Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels

Angels appear as young men *(but are likely sex-less: they "do not marry")*

 They do not age or die

They have personalities--they rejoice: (*demons fear and tremble)*

Angels Sometimes have regular clothing

 Sometimes very white clothing

 Sometimes brilliant, blinding garments

Angels, even though they are spirit beings and are very powerful, are not omnipotent, omniscient, nor

omnipresent.

 They are created beings

 They cannot be everywhere at once.

 They are "stuck in time and place" like we humans

Angels may be assigned to churches *(individual or regional)*

Angels are observing, watching events on earth *(they are called "watchers" in Daniel)*

 Jesus' birth, death, resurrection

Sinners repenting *(angels rejoice)* what we are doing!

I Peter 1:12

… regarding the things now announced to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things angels long to catch a glimpse of.

We each may have a "guardian" angel

Psalm 91:9-12

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling—my refuge, the Most High—no evil will befall you, no

plague will approach your tent. For *He will command His angels concerning you to guard you* in all your

ways. They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Matt 18:10

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven

always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”

Matt 18:6

"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have

a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

Angels can be frightening and threatening

 The angel of the plague that befell David and Israel

 The angel of the Passover plague

 The angels of the seven trumpets and seven plagues in Revelation

Demons *(fallen angels)* are described as spirits

 Matt. 8:16; 12:45;

 Luke 7:21; 8:2; 11:26;

 Acts 19:12; Rev. 16:14

Matt.25:41

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and *his angels*!'"

Some argue that *demons* are spirits of deceased humans, or spirits of the Nephilim *(and not fallen*

*angels)*

 Some fallen angels are bound in Tartarus

 Some are free to roam earth

 Some possess humans

Angels *(holy and unholy)* have organization and rank

 Archangels; chief princes; ruling angels

 Principalities and powers

This third vision of Daniel's of an angel occurred after the Jews with Zerubbabel have

gone to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and temple

There was spiritual warfare against the rebuilding effort *(documented in the books of Ezra and*

*Nehemiah)* in which Palestine residents *(some Arabs)* under the rule of Persia, opposed the Jewish effort.

 Indeed, the Jews by this time may have given up the temple rebuilding effort *(until Haggai and*

 *Zechariah exhorted them)*

Here, demonic principalities were at work trying to stop God's plan for a reestablished Israel and a rebuilt temple preparing the way for the Jew's Messiah and our Savior 500+ year later

So, the angel who spoke to Daniel and who was helped by Michael was warring against the demonic principality over Persia that was resisting the rebuilding of the temple.

v. 9-11 Daniel fainted from awe and fear but then was awakened by a touch from the angel

"O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you…"

v. 12 "Fear not, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humble yourself

before your God your words have been heard."

v. 13 The "prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me 21 days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me."

Recall that Daniel fasted and prayed for these same 21 days

Jude 9

But even the archangel Michael, when he disputed with the devil over the body of Moses, did not presume to bring a slanderous charge against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

Rev. 12:7

Then a war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon

and his angels fought back. But the dragon was not strong enough, and no longer was any place found in heaven for him and his angels. And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

The struggles we see on earth reflect conflicts in the heavens:

 For individuals: demon are behind our temptations

 For churches: churches have angels assigned to them, and likely demons as well

 For nations: wars are fought by principalities and powers while wars are fought on earth

v. 20 The angel stated that "I will return to fight against the prince of *Persia*, and when I go out,

behold, the prince of *Greece* will come."

The angel predicted that he would soon have to fight with the prince of Greece

Greece would be the next empire that ruled Israel

And would include the successors to Alexander the Great including "kings of the north," "kings of the

south," and Antiochus Epiphanes IV

V. 21 "But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is no one who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince."

Next, the angel preceded to tell Daniel in detail *(in Chapter 11)* how the lineages of kings from two of

the four resulting kingdoms after the breakup of Alexander the Great's empire would war over Israel

and mistreat them

 The "kings of the north" from the Seleucid empire

 The "kings of the south" from the Ptolemaic empire

**Daniel Chapter 11**

v. 1 538 BC; The *first year* of Darius the Mede the year after the last year of Belshazzar, after the

 fall of Babylon two years before Daniel's current vision

 Why? The angel is recounting what *he* did two years before

"And as *for me (the angel)*, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him."

V. 2 Three more kings shall arise in Persia. The fourth will attack Greece *(King Xerxes)*

V. 3 A mighty king shall arise: Alexander the Great

V. 4 His kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not to his posterity...but shall go to others

V. 5 The king of the south: Ptolemy I Soter

V. 6 – v. 20 The kings of the north (Seleucids) vs. the kings of the south (Ptolemaic)-- scholar can explain each one in detail

