

Our God is Greater

Daniel 10

Unseen Dangers

- What are some dangers that might be hard to see?
- Prayer: help us see the hard-to-see dangers in our spiritual lives

Ideas from Daniel 7-9

God will destroy & judge all evil
but... trouble may still be great and severe
even against God's people
for seemingly far too long

Reasons:

Sins of God's people
An unexpected source...

Daniel 10

1-3: Context: After rebuilding started...and stopped

Anticipation then Disappointment

Jeremiah's warning: 70-year exile
Daniel was among the first to be exiled
Then the temple was destroyed
70 years later: King Cyrus sent Jewish people back to Jerusalem to rebuild!
They went back and started: Isaiah 40:1-5 begins
Then there was trouble...a lot of trouble
and the rebuilding stopped!!

"At that time, I, Daniel mourned..."

It seems, he fasted through Passover

A celebration of God's deliverance
At the time when God wasn't delivering!

4-9: Daniel was overwhelmed by messenger's glory

10-14: Message: encouragement, yet difficulties

The overwhelmingly great messenger was effectively resisted by an evil spirit (prince)

15-11:1: Message: encouragement, yet difficulties

Daniel was strengthened to receive and to accept the message

God's infallible plans involved the determined collaboration of angels who had to fight against evil spirits (princes)

The Big Idea

**There is an invisible yet powerful spiritual realm of good and evil
where great conflict is real
yet God will eventually win the victory
for those who put their hope in God / Jesus Christ**

Ephesians 6:10-18

Some of the surprising ways we make the devil's job easier

- hold on to anger: Ephesians 4:26-27
- fail to forgive: 2 Corinthians 2:10-11
- be greedy: 1 Timothy 6:9
- lie: John 8:44

The problem is: we are weak, and we keep failing

The solution: Jesus overpowers the devil

Jesus drove a demon out from a man



When questioned about His power over Satan, He said:

“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.”

Luke 11:21-22

Application

Be wise and strong

Spiritual evil is real and powerful

A big difference between being courageous and foolish

Trust in our “strong man” Jesus

Don’t live in fear/“be strong and courageous”

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome [the evil spirits], because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

Put on God’s spiritual armor

Don’t give the enemy a foothold!

- belt of **Truth**
 - breastplate of **Righteousness**
 - boots of the **Gospel of peace**
 - shield of **Faith**
 - helmet of **Salvation**
 - sword of **God’s word**: the Bible
 - always **Pray in the Spirit**
- **Be wise and strong**
 - **Hope in Christ by living in God’s spiritual armor**

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Some people may be too quick to emphasize spiritual battle, and some people may be too slow to emphasize it. Which direction do you think might be a greater danger for you? Why might that be?
2. What experiences have you had (if any that you know of) with supernatural evil? And of angels and the Holy Spirit? How does Daniel 10 help you make sense of it? What other passages in the Bible are particularly helpful?
3. Which aspect of God’s spiritual armor is something that is an important one for you to work to ‘put on’ in these days?
4. How does Jesus’ illustration of Him being “someone strong” who can overpower the devil bring courage and strength to you? How can we encourage and strengthen each other in Christ?