**DCF 29 05 22 Dan 10:1 – 11:4 Daniel’s Vision *of the Glorious Man***

***10 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. 2In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. 3I 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.***

Cyrus is obedient to God’s command to rebuild Jerusalem. So, by the time of this vision, thousands of exiles had returned to Jerusalem. The time of the vision extended a long way into the future. We know from the books of Esther, Ezra and Nehemiah that there was much opposition to the returning of the Jews to the land God had given them. This opposition was very visible in the last century, by Turkey, the UN and even the UK.

These times of batterings require much prayer. Daniel was affected physically by the warfare in prayer. Our priority is not physical wellness, but serving God, and doing His will. Sometimes this takes a toll on our well-being, finances, time and pride. These 4 things are the currency of spiritual battle. In these times of uncertainty, the church will be attacked. Paul warns us of the falling away of the church in 2 Thess 2:3. ***Let no one deceive you by any means: for that day will not come, unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God, in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.***

Daniel was now about 84 years old, so for him to accompany the people returning would have just put an extra burden on them. He stays and prays. Old people who pray are vital for the welfare of the church and family. Daniel fasts and prays. Fasting cancels the flesh as a priority. I encourage you to try a small fast for the prayer that God puts on your heart. Start by giving up something small, like a coffee, so that every time you think of it, you pray instead.

**Dan 10:4 *4Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, 5I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! 6His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.***

We saw in the homework, the possibility that this could even be Jesus. God chooses to use even us, to achieve His purposes. He does this out of kindness. It feels good to be useful! We saw last time, how Paul teaches us about the celestial body***. 1 Cor 15:40 40There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.***The celestial body is a reality. We will be changed, instantly. ***1 Cor 15:51 We shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.***

**Dan 10:7 *7And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.***

Daniel alone saw the vision, even though others were with him. Even the invisible presence of God is perceived by the invisible spirit of men. These men could not see what Daniel saw, but they knew terror. Perhaps as we pray for our prodigals, we pray for any manifestation of the presence of God – even if it is terror. As long as it achieves its purpose of salvation. The terror of God is proof that He is real.

**Dan 10:8 *8Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. 9Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.***

The spirit overrides the flesh. Dan was completely without strength. We understand a part of this when we are hit with grief. When God made man in His own image, He implanted in each of us a spirit. God is Spirit. ***John 4:24: “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.*** Animals do not have a spirit. They may have a personality, but when they die, they are no more. So, God permits the sacrifice and eating of some animals. To make animals and pets as important as people is idolatry.

When Jesus dies, He knows His spirit lives on. ***Luke 23:46 46And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last.*** The spirit supersedes the flesh.

**Dan 10:10 *10Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. 11And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.***

This spiritual being is capable of having a physical side. His hand touched Daniel. It also strengthened him enough to enable him to stand. The spirit is able to speak, to be visible, to be feelable. When Jesus appears to His disciples, He invites Thomas to touch Him. ***John 20:27  Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”*** Also, Mary Magdalene touched the risen Jesus***. John 20:27 17Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, …*** Another example was when the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire. ***Ex 3:2 2And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”***

So, we learn that the spirit has dominance over the physical. Mental illness is not the root of evil. Spiritual illness requires salvation. With the fall of Adam through disobedience, came death and both the prominence and the limitations of the flesh. Adam and Eve were banished from the garden, lest they eat the Tree of Life, and perpetuate our batterings. But our God has incredible mercy. He has rescued us through Jesus, so that one day, we will be with Him in glory.

As, frightened as Daniel was, it must have been indescribable to be addressed by God as ***Daniel, man greatly beloved.*** This is the immeasurable jewel of salvation. God loves us. **Spurgeon writes: I know of no greater blessing that can happen to any man and woman here, than to be assured by the Spirit of God that they are greatly beloved of the Lord.”**

When I wrote the words of my song “God chose you, and loves you forever”, if I could leave any message as a foundation in your heart, after nearly 5 years as your pastor, that is it**. God chose you, and loves you forever.**

**Dan 10:12 *12Then he said to me, “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. 13But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood 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. 14Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.”***

Our prayers are heard without delay - ***from the first day.*** However, the response toDaniel’s prayer was delayed 21 days. Too often we forget or ignore the fact that we are at war with satan. Too often it is easier just to ignore the battle and keep our witness squashed. So, we fail to mention words like ‘Jesus’, ‘God bless you’, ‘I will pray for you’, ‘salvation’, and especially ‘hell’. Daniel was not a man who gave in to political correctness – that’s how he got sent to the lion’s den. Our prayers are essential for the war against evil. Prayer brings to the front of our mind, the battle and tactics and doors that need to be shut or opened.

The ***prince of the kingdom of Persia,*** was a demon of high rank. Jesus refers to satan as the prince or ruler of this world. John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11. We see from this, that satan has high ranking demons whose command is over countries. Ephesians 6:12 refers to these rulers as principalities. To be persecuted by the enemy for Jesus, is an honour.

In Ex 23:20 God assigns an angel to guard and lead Israel. ***20“Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. 22But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. 23For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.***

Angels are a reality. Hebrews 13:2 cautions us: ***Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.***

There are satanic rulers over Australia, WA, and Darlington, just as there are guardian angels assigned to care for us. We must be active in battle against these forces, and remember to pray ‘Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done’. Otherwise, you may never be sent to the lion’s den, to know the deliverance of God. Compromise is such an easy road. But Jesus says in ***Matt 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.*** We cannot be passive. There is no neutral ground.

When we pray, we may have little idea of what is delaying answers to our prayers. So, we need to keep praying. We must persist in prayer. ***Pray without ceasing. 1 Thess 5:17***

When Daniel is told ***what will happen to your people in the latter days (v14),*** it is focused on the end times, with a precursor for the Antichrist coming as Antiochus Epiphanes. God has organised history so that we look and learn. The war in Ukraine, is a stark lesson on the absolute destruction and hideous evil of war. It is intrinsic to the character of satan.

***Dan 10:15 15When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. 16And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, “My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength. 17For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.”***

Whatever our physical limitations are, God can empower us. The angel touches his lips so he can speak. Daniel is without strength and can barely breathe. He is 84 years old, and has suffered much. Even given all these limitations, he continues. To have such an encounter with a heavenly being, is amazing. Daniel is a humble man. He exclaims: ***how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord?*** We cannot approach God with pride. Repentance smothers pride.

**Dan 10:18 *18Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So, when he spoke to me, I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”***

***20Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince. 11 “Also in the first year of Darius the Mede, I, even I, stood up to confirm and strengthen him.)***

Daniel was in spiritual battle for Israel. What are you in battle for? Many of us are in battle for prodigals. We have a nation and society that is bent on normalizing evil. We know non-believers who have been damaged by experiences in a church. We know people who have not read the Bible and think that the only blessings are health, wealth, and lots of fun.

The example of Daniel, opens to us the reality of a trembling relationship with God. God says in ***Isaiah 66:2*** ***On this one I will look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.*** This heavenly warrior was doing battle with the princes of Persia, and Greece. Who are the princes we must fight against? We find them in the culture of our community. The values of our culture become blatantly clear in election campaigns. In your homework I asked you to look at Josiah. We need a leader who will courageously stand against porn, abortion, LGBT, entertainment that uses the name of Jesus as a swear word, the idols of sport, the part truths of the media, and everything that causes people to turn their backs on God. Sport is a god in our land. Gambling is advertised so much, because the government makes money out of it. Porn destroys respect for people and imprisons the minds of people. Entertainment glamourizes and has released into our community violence. Also, Satan often chooses ‘good’ things, and ‘good’ people, to push God out of 1st place.

***Dan 11:2 2And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece. 3Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. 4And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these***.

After the Roman empire there was no major empire until Britain. The 3 kings were Cambyses the son of Cyrus, who was overthrown by Smerdis, who was followed by Darius Hystaspses. But the 4th king was Xerxes the Great. He stirred up Alexander the Great, who went on to conquer the known civilized world. Alexander’s kingdom was divided amongst his 4 generals after he died in his early thirties.

When we place our trust in wealth and prestige and influence and power, we are foolishly mistaken. History should teach us, that great nations can crumble. The peace and prosperity we experience in WA, may not last. Political commentators are warning Australia that war can happen in this decade. It would be unimaginably difficult, to live in a war savaged country and lose everything. But Jesus corrects the foolish phony believers in Matt 7:23. They thought if they prophesied, cast out demons and did wonders, that it was enough. He says: ***I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you’.*** He goes on to teach us that the wise man, builds his house on the rock.

Relationship is essential. We must know God and be known by God. That is relationship. Daniel was old, but he was a man of uncompromising faith. He was a man of prayer. He was a man greatly beloved by God.

Some weeks ago, I set you a nightly assignment, which I have tried to keep myself. Before you shut your eyes at night: Thank God for something, Apologise and repent, for something, Ask Him if there is something you can do for him tomorrow. And, ask Him for something, He can do for you tomorrow. That is relationship. Let Jesus say, I know this person. So that when the western world crumbles as the fall of Babylon in Rev 18, we still stand on the Rock of Jesus.

Last song: I will never ever leave you.

HOMEWORK for 15/5/22

HW Read Ezra 1,2 to see how Cyrus fulfills the purpose of God.

HW Read of the opposition to Ezra in Ezra 4,9, 10

HW Read Rev 1:12-16 Could this person in Dan 10:4 have been Jesus? Some commentators think it may have been. Others think it could not be Jesus as this person needed the assistance of Michael in 10:13.

HW Read Ezekiel 9:2 to see another sighting of angelic beings clothed in linen.

HW The spiritual vision is seen by the spiritual people. See examples of angelic intervention in these examples. Elisha – 2 Kings 6:14-18, Jesus – John 12:29, Paul – Acts 9:7, Peter – Acts 12:7-10.

HW Read John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11 to see the authority Satan has as the prince or ruler of the world.

HW Read about Josiah in 2 Kings 22,23. He was a king who restored true worship. 2 Kings 22:13 tells us he knew the wrath of God was released on the people for disobedience. 2 Kings 23:25 tells us that there was no king like him, who turned to God with all his heart, soul and might.

This is the leader we want for Australia. Josiah stood against the murder of children 23:10, and the sexual worship of Ashtoreth 23:13.

HW Read 2 Kings 6:14-19 to see how the spiritual forces are hidden from our natural eyes.