

# From War to Victory



## SABBATH—MARCH 7

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Daniel 10:1–21; Ezra 4:1–5; Joshua 5:13–15; Revelation 1:12–18; Colossians 2:15.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Then he said, ‘Daniel, don’t be afraid. God loves you very much. Peace be with you. Be strong now, be strong’ ” (Daniel 10:19, ERV).



**We are not alone in our fight against evil. Jesus joins us.**

**DANIEL 10** shows us Daniel’s final dream. This dream starts in chapter 10 and continues in Daniel 11 and Daniel 12. From the start, we are told that this dream is “about a great [important] war” (Daniel 10:1, NIV). Daniel 11 gives us more information about this war. Daniel 10 shows us what this war is about. It is a war between good and evil. Yes, the war in Daniel 10 is fought on earth. But it is a spiritual war too. As we study Daniel 10, we will see that our prayers are important in this war. When we pray, our prayers can change what happens. We are not alone in our fight against evil. Jesus joins us. He fights against Satan for us. In this war, we do not fight only against human powers. We fight against the powers of darkness.

Paul explains this important Bible truth: “Our fight is not against people on earth. We are fighting against the rulers and authorities [leaders] and the powers of this world’s darkness. We are fighting against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12, ERV). In the end, our success in this war rests on Jesus. He alone beat Satan at the cross.

**PRAYER AND EATING NO FOOD FOR A SHORT TIME  
(Daniel 10:1–3)**

**Read Daniel 10:1–3. What does Daniel do in these verses?**

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Daniel does not say why he is very sad. But for sure, Daniel is upset about the Jews. The Jews have left Babylon and gone back to Palestine.

**Read Ezra 4:1–5. What problems do the Jews have when they get home?**

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Ezra 4:1–5 shows us that the Jews start to build the temple when they get home. But their enemies try to stop them. The Samaritans send false reports to the Persian king. They lie about the Jews. The king believes the lies. He stops the work the Jews do on the temple. That is why Daniel prays to God. He eats only a little food for three weeks. He asks God to move King Cyrus’s heart. King Cyrus can allow the Jews to start building again.

At this time, Daniel is about 90 years old. Even so, Daniel does not think about his needs. He thinks only about his people and their needs. He prays for three full weeks. He does not give up. During this time, he eats very plain food. Then God answers Daniel’s prayer.

As we look at Daniel’s prayer life, we can learn some important lessons. (1) We should never stop praying. God may not answer us right away. But we should not give up. (2) We should pray for other people. Remember, “after Job had prayed for his friends, God gave him success again” (Job 42:10, ICB). (3) Prayer causes God to do something real and something we can see. So, let us pray always. Let us take everything to God in prayer (Ephesians 6:18).



**We should never stop praying. God may not answer us right away. But we should not give up.**

**A DREAM ABOUT THE PRINCE (Daniel 10:4–9)**

**Read Daniel 10:4–9. What happens to Daniel in these verses?**

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In Daniel 10:5, 6, Daniel sees someone who looks the same as the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13). This person wears linen clothes. He is dressed the same as a priest, or religious leader (Leviticus 16:4). He also is the same as the “ ‘Prince of Princes’ ” (Daniel 8:25, ERV). The Prince of Princes works to save God’s people in heaven’s temple. The Person Daniel sees in Daniel 10:5, 6 also wears gold the same as a king. He is as bright as lightning, fire, and brass. He has a powerful voice. He is a priest, a king, and an army leader. This person helps us remember the man who appears to Joshua before the war against Jericho (Joshua 5:13, 14). In a dream, Joshua sees the “ ‘commander [captain] of the LORD’s army’ ” (Joshua 5:14, ERV). The Hebrew word for “commander,” or captain, is the same word written as “prince” in Daniel 10:21 (ERV).



**The Person Daniel sees in Daniel 10:5, 6 wears gold the same as a king. He is as bright as lightning, fire, and brass. He is a priest, a king, and an army leader.**

**Read Joshua 5:13–15 and Revelation 1:12–18. How is the picture of the Son of God in Joshua and in Revelation the same as the picture of God in Daniel 10?**

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Daniel tells us what happens to the people who are with him. They do not see what Daniel sees in his dream. But they are afraid anyway. Daniel himself becomes weak. Then he falls on the ground. Daniel’s dream shows that God controls history. As we will see, God tells Daniel the things that will happen in human history from Daniel’s time to God’s kingdom (Daniel 11 and Daniel 12).

## THE ANGEL TOUCHES DANIEL (Daniel 10:10–19)

Read about Daniel and the angel in Daniel 10:10–19. What happens each time the angel touches Daniel?

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The light coming from God causes Daniel to fall to the ground. Then an angel touches Daniel and comforts him. As we read the story, the angel touches Daniel three times.

The first touch helps Daniel to stand up. Then he can hear the message from heaven: “ ‘Daniel, do not be afraid. From the very first day you decided to get wisdom and to be humble [not proud] in front of God, he has been listening to your prayers. I came to you because you have been praying’ ” (Daniel 10:12, ERV). Daniel’s prayer moves God’s heart in heaven. So, we can see that God hears our prayers. We can trust God to help us in times of trouble too.

The second touch helps Daniel to talk. He tells the Lord what is in his heart: “ ‘Sir, I am upset and afraid because of what I saw in the vision. I feel helpless. Sir, I am Daniel your servant. How can I talk with you? My strength is gone and it is hard for me to breathe’ ” (Daniel 10:16, 17, ERV). What does this part of Daniel’s story show us? God wants to talk to us, yes. But God also wants us to tell Him about our feelings, needs, and hopes.

The third touch makes Daniel strong. Daniel is weak. So, the angel touches Daniel. The angel gives Daniel comfort and peace: “ ‘Daniel, don’t be afraid. God loves you very much. Peace be with you. Be strong now, be strong’ ” (Daniel 10:19, ERV). Remember, God sent the angel to Daniel in answer to Daniel’s prayers. So, the dream in Daniel 11 is part of God’s answer to Daniel’s prayer too. God gives Daniel the dream to encourage him. Daniel has been very sad about his people. Now God gives Daniel peace. We also can have this peace in hard times. God’s loving touch helps us to look to the future with hope.

“In everyday life, heaven may be very near.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 48, adapted. How will you live if you keep this truth alive in your heart and mind?



God sent the angel to Daniel in answer to Daniel’s prayers.

## THE BIG WAR (Daniel 10:20, 21)

What is shown to Daniel in Daniel 10:20, 21?

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The angel shows Daniel the war between good and evil that happens all during human history. As soon as Daniel starts to pray, a spiritual war starts between heaven and earth. Angels from heaven work on the king of Persia's heart. Heaven's angels try to convince the king to let the Jews continue to rebuild the temple. Daniel 10 shows us that the king of Persia is Cyrus. He fights against heaven's angels. A human king is not strong enough to stand on his own against an angel from heaven. So, we know that evil angels make the king's heart stubborn. That is why King Cyrus stops the Jews from rebuilding the temple.

We see the same thing happen with the king of Tyre in Ezekiel 28. The king of Tyre is a word picture for Satan. Satan is the power behind the human king in the city of Tyre. So, we should not be surprised that the kings of Persia include Satan and his angels. Michael, or Jesus, comes to fight against these evil powers.



As soon as Daniel starts to pray, a spiritual war starts between heaven and earth.

**Read about the fight in Daniel 10:13. What happens in this fight?**

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“Satan works hard. He causes the leaders in the kingdom of Media-Persia not to help God's people. At the same time, angels from heaven work hard to help God's people. All heaven is interested in this fight between good and evil. Daniel shows us what happens in this fight between good and evil. For three weeks, the angel Gabriel fights with the powers of darkness. Gabriel tries to stop the evil powers at work on Cyrus's heart. Before the fight ends, Jesus Himself comes to help Gabriel. ‘ “But the prince of Persia has been fighting against me for 21 days. Then Michael, one of the most important princes, came to help me because I was stuck there with the king of Persia” ’ (Daniel 10:13, ERV). Heaven does everything that can be done to help God's people. Heaven wins the war.”—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, pages 571, 572, adapted.

### THE PRINCE WINS (Colossians 2:15)

The most important Person in the book of Daniel is the “Son of Man” (Daniel 7:13, NKJV). He also is named “God, the commander [captain] of heaven’s armies” (Daniel 8:11, ICB). Later, we learn that His name is Michael (Daniel 10:13). Michael means “Who is like God?” Michael comes to help Gabriel in the war with the king of Persia (Daniel 10:13). Gabriel tells Daniel that this Person from heaven is named “Michael your prince” (Daniel 10:21, KJV). So, Michael is the Prince of God’s people. Later in the book of Daniel, Michael is the One who stands for God’s people (Daniel 12:1). Jude 1:9 shows us that Michael is the top angel in heaven. He fights against Satan and wakes Moses up from the dead. Revelation 12:7 shows us that Michael is the leader of heaven’s army. Michael and this army beat Satan and his evil angels. So, Michael is Jesus. The kingdom of Persia has a top leader who stands behind the king. This leader is a spiritual power. It is Satan himself. God’s people also have a top leader. He is Michael, their Captain. He fights for them. He wins the war against evil for them too.

**Read Colossians 2:15. How has Jesus won the war against good and evil for us?**

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We also must fight against evil on this earth. As we do, we can have faith in Jesus. He beats Satan when He starts His work for God on earth. Yes, Jesus beats Satan in the desert. Jesus also fights against demons during His work on earth. Jesus frees His people from the power of the devil. Jesus’ final words to His followers show that His death also is part of the war against evil. Jesus’ death is another win against Satan. “ ‘Now the ruler [leader] of [on] this world [earth] will be thrown out. I will be lifted up from the earth. When that happens, I will draw all people to myself’ ” (John 12:31, 32, ERV).

Sometimes we look at life around us. Things look very bad. Yes, an enemy fights against us. This enemy is not made of flesh and blood. But Jesus fights for us. He stands for us as our Prince and Holy Leader in heaven’s temple.



**Michael and heaven’s army beat Satan and his evil angels.**

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** “For three weeks, the angel Gabriel fights with the powers of darkness. Gabriel tries to stop the evil powers at work on Cyrus’s heart. . . . Heaven does everything that can be done to help God’s people. Heaven wins the war. Jesus and His angels stop Satan and his evil angel for as long as Cyrus is king and during the time of Cyrus’s son Cambyses too.”—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, page 572, adapted.

“God shows a lot of honor to His servant Daniel. Daniel is very afraid. So, God comforts Daniel. God tells Daniel that his prayer has been heard in heaven. Then God answers Daniel’s prayer. God sends Gabriel to work on the heart of the king of Persia. The king refuses to listen to God’s Spirit for three weeks. During that whole time Daniel prays and does not eat much food. Then Heaven’s Prince, Michael, goes to King Cyrus. Michael works on Cyrus’s stubborn heart. This work happens because of Daniel’s prayer.”—Ellen G. White, *The Sanctified Life*, page 51, adapted.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:



Jesus and Gabriel stop the evil powers at work on King Cyrus’s heart.

① As Seventh-day Adventists, we believe in the worldwide war between good and evil. We believe that all heaven is part of this big war between Jesus and Satan. We also believe that every human also is part of this war. Many people who are not religious also believe there is a war going on between good and evil on this earth. What has been your experience in this war? How has it changed your life? What have you learned? How can your experience encourage and help other people in this war?

② Read Ephesians 6:10–18. Paul talks about a battle suit. What does Paul tell us to do in these verses to win the war against evil?

③ Twice the angel says to Daniel, “ ‘God loves you very much’ ” (Daniel 10:11; Daniel 9:23, ERV). What do the angel’s words tell us about the close tie between heaven and earth? How does it show us that God loves His people very much? What is the Bible’s view of humans? What about people who do not believe in God? What is their view of humans? Compare these two views. How are they different? What hope does the Bible view give you?