



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Daniel 10:1, 12-14; 11:1, 40; 12:1 CSB

- A Biblical Perspective
- **Bible Reading:** Daniel 10:1, 12-14; 11:1, 40; 12:1 CSB
- Context: Daniel, was in the Jewish exile under Babylon & Persia. He fasted & prayed for 3 weeks, then an answer came.
- 101 “In the third year of King Cyrus of Persia, a message was revealed to Daniel...The message was true and was about a great conflict. He understood the message and had understanding of the vision... [God’s angel said] 12 “Don’t be afraid, Daniel...from the first day... your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me ... 14 Now I have come to help you understand... I must return...to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I leave, the prince of Greece will come. 21... (No one ... support[s] me against those princes except Michael, your prince...111 In the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to strengthen and protect him.) ...40At the time of the end ...121 At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people [Israel], will rise up...” (Dan. 10:1, 12-14; 11:1, 40; 12:1 CSB)
- **SUMMARY:** Today’s wars—from the Middle East to Ukraine—remind us we live in a world on edge, raising urgent questions: What does the Bible say? Does prophecy speak to these events? And where should Christian allegiance lie? The book of Daniel unveils a deeper reality: behind earthly conflicts stands an age-old cosmic struggle. Spiritual powers—the “Prince of Persia,” the “Prince of Greece,” and “Michael, the Prince of Israel”—are portrayed wrestling for supremacy in a conflict influencing the rise and fall of nations.
- This reveals a sobering truth: our world is not only in geopolitical turmoil, but spiritual conflict as well. So, who are these “Princes,” where are they from? And, how should Christians respond to today’s conflicts? Should we align with any nation, including Israel, or has Christ redefined our

loyalties? Does our allegiance to Him transcend all national ties? What's our mission? In a world at war, how are we called to pray and live?

- **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Cosmic Conflict & Current Warfare

- a. Daniel 10 portrays angelic conflict connected with empires (Persia, Greece) & Israel. When you think about Iran's regime, the US government, & Israel's leaders today, how might this passage encourage you to see all of them—friend and foe—as influenced by spiritual powers, yet all still under God's ultimate authority?
- b. How did the “cosmic view” of human rebellion at Babel (Gen. 11), God's response (dispersing the nations under the ‘sons of God’), plus those guardian angels ‘going rogue,’ help Israel understand their situation in Daniel's era? To what questions did it provide them with answers? To which of our questions today, does it offer answers?

2. Spiritual Warfare, the Unseen Realm, & Prayer

- a. The messenger-angel was resisted for 21 days by “the prince of the kingdom of Persia” until Michael came to help (10:13). What does this reveal about an unseen spiritual dimension behind earthly empires and events?
- b. The answer to Daniel's prayer was sent ‘from the first day’ (10:12), yet delayed by conflict in the spiritual realm (10:13). How might this help Christians think about apparently unanswered prayer today?
- c. If there really is unseen conflict over empires, nations, leaders, how should that shape the way we pray—for leaders, governments, for mission, for the persecuted church, for suffering people? What could we pray differently?

3. Current Conflict & Bible Prophecy

- a. Some Christians publicly claim that current Iran–Israel–US conflict is direct fulfilment of specific prophecies and that we are “right on cue” prophetically. What dangers do you see in that approach?
- b. Many US evangelicals & their leaders are strongly supportive of military force, often tying it to theology and God's purposes. How does Daniel's posture—mourning, fasting, interceding in weakness, rather than cheering for one empire—challenge or correct these evangelical instincts about war and “our side”?

4. Michael, Israel, and “Your People”

- a. In Dan. 10:21–12:1 Michael is called “one of the chief princes” & “the great prince who stands watch over your people” (Israel). What does Michael's role as ‘guardian’ over Israel teach us about God's faithfulness to His people in history?
- b. If Michael is the guardian prince over Israel, how might his role anticipate or contrast with Christ's role as head of the church made up of all nations? In what ways does this highlight both God's particular care for Israel and His global plan to reclaim all nations?
- c. Today, Christian believers in Christ are God's people; Is Michael our “guardian angel” today? Why or why not?
- d. Today, the nation/state or Israel & the Church both exist; Is Michael the ‘guardian’ of Israel &/or the Church?

5. Jesus' Mission to “Reclaim the Nations”

- a. Given the cosmic conflict (Dan. 10), the Great Commission (Matt. 28), the language of “principalities & powers” (Eph. 6) & Jesus' mission of “reclaiming the nations” from hostile spiritual rulers, how might Daniel 10–12 encourage the church's mission in light of that cosmic “turf war”?