



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Cosmic Conflict: US-Israel versus Iran (Persia)

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

- A Biblical Perspective
- **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?

I. Biblical Background

A. The Supernatural Unseen Realm

B. Signs of the Supernatural: The Divine Council

1. Real spiritual beings claim authority over nations – e.g., “Princes of Persia, Greece, etc.” (Dan. 10:13, 20)
2. God gives divine beings (or ‘gods’) authority & responsibilities
3. God consults with angels/gods/divine beings to carry out his will & purpose (Ps. 82:1; 95:3).
4. Supernatural beings (angels, etc.) called “sons of God” (Job. 1:6; Ps. 29:1; 89:6)

C. Significance of Seventy (or 72) Nations (Gen. 10)

1. Jesus sends out the 70 or 72 Disciples (Luke 10:1, 17)
2. Seventy (or 72) Nations (Gen. 10)

D. Three Rebellions

- “Dt. 32:8–9 frames the Babel event of Genesis 11 &...[implies] 3 rebellions (Gen 3; 6; 11).” –Joel Muddamalle
 - The First Rebellion –The Fall (Genesis 3)
 - The 2nd Rebellion –The Sons of God, Nephilim, & Demons (Genesis 6)

II. The 3rd Rebellion — Tower of Babel; Dispersion of Nations under powers/’princes’ (Gen. 11)

A. God’s Response to Babel: Assigning 70 Nations to the ‘Sons of God’ (Dt. 32:7-9)

- “Deut. 32:8-9 reveals a supernatural dimension to the aftermath of Babel (Gen. 11): Yahweh disinherited the nations and allotted them to lesser elohim [’gods’] while choosing Israel as His own.” — D. Gene Williams Jr.
 1. 70 Nations assigned to 70 ‘sons of God’
 - “After God divided the 70 nations at Babel & established where each nation would be located, he then ‘gave the nations as an inheritance to the sons of God.’ ... This would make the nations subject to the “sons of God” as their respective [guardian] patron deities.” –Daniel Porter
 2. Supernatural ‘sons of God’ in the OT (Job 1:6; Ps. 89:6; Dt. 32:9)
 3. Each Nation assigned to a ‘lesser god’
 - God “assigned each of the 70 nations to the fallen ‘sons of God’ ... Each pagan nation was overseen by a [’lesser god’] inferior to Yahweh.” –Michael Heiser
 4. At Babel God ‘disinherited’ the Gentile Nations as His own People
 - “In early Jewish perspective the gods/angels’ rule over the nations was the outcome of the rebellion of Adam’s [descendants] at Babel resulting in God’s disinheritance of the [nations].” –David Burnett

III. Rebellion of the Lesser gods, the Guardian National-Angels

A. Guardian-Angels becoming Pagan gods of the Nations

- “After...Babel, the disinherited nations allotted to the sons of God worshiped these cosmic beings [the ‘sons of God,’ ‘lesser gods’], & as an act of cosmic rebellion, the sons of God accepted their worship and established themselves as the patron deities of various nations [–the ‘gods of the nations’].” –Joel Muddamalle

IV. The LORD Judges the Lesser gods (Psalm 82)

A. In Psalm 82 God Judges the Fallen ‘Sons of God’ (’Princes’)

- “Michael Heiser...demonstrated that another world exists ...[in] Ps. 82, where ‘gods were being condemned in their administration of the nations of the earth’.” –Colton Allen, et. al.

B. Angel Rulers’ Autonomy brings Responsibility & Judgment

- “At some point, the sons of God transgressed Yahweh’s desire for earthly order & just rule...sowing chaos in the nations.” –Michael Heiser

V. ‘Princes of Persia, & Greece:’ Supernatural Beings governing Regions & Empires

- A. The 'sons of God' (Deut. 32) equal 'Princes' in Daniel 10
- B. Cosmic Conflict in the Unseen Realm (Daniel 10)
- C. The 'Princes' –Territorial Spiritual Powers– & Cosmic Conflict
- D. Supernatural Cosmic Powers behind Geopolitical Nations & Empires
- E. Rebellious Territorial Spirits – 'Princes of Persia, Greece'
 - "Daniel 10...is extremely significant...It presents a conflict between rebellious territorial spirits – the 'prince of Greece' & the 'prince of Persia' –& God's angels, including the 'chief prince,' Michael." –Michael Heiser
- F. Unseen Cosmic Conflicts behind Earthly Warfare
 - "Some spiritual forces are associated with major nations or powers...Whatever conflicts are going on among the kings of the earth...something related is happening unseen among the celestial host." –John Gilhooly
 - "All [Gentile] nations of the earth are given over into the control of angelic powers'...There's...a direct correspondence between the outcome of the angelic battles & the fortunes of the corresponding nations." –Clinton Arnold
- G. Cosmic Conflict Mirrors Earthly Warfare
 - "The conflict on earth is mirrored by warfare between angel figures & their opponents...[the] national enemies of Israel..." –Jesse Nickel
 - "Earthly battles against evil mirror and reenact cosmic battles against evil...For the ancient Israelites, there was no [divergence] between what occurs 'in heaven' and what occurs 'on earth'...What occurs on earth...is a replica and a mirror of what occurs in heaven." –Gregory Boyd

VI. The 'Prince of Persia (Iran)' –Relevant Today?

- In Daniel 10 "the prince of Persia...refer[s] to an evil spiritual entity that wielded authority over the ancient kingdom of Persia... In this passage, 3 spiritual entities are mentioned in relation to 3 earthly nations: the prince of Persia, the prince of Greece, & the prince of Israel (Michael)... It seems that, as events play out on earth, there is corresponding activity in the spiritual realm. [It seems the prince of Persia's] job was to keep the Persian Empire in a place of dominance over... Israel. [Ultimately,] he failed...Iran is modern Persia, and the leaders of Iran still want to dominate or obliterate the nation of Israel. As a Shiite Muslim nation, Iran persecutes Christian believers as well—so perhaps the spiritual prince of Persia is still active today." ["Who is the Prince of Persia in Daniel 10?" GotQuestions.com]
- "What we are seeing in Iran...is once again geopolitical spiritual warfare being played out... At the center of the bull's eye are still people, made in the image & likeness of God..." –Joel Muddamalle

VII. Michael the Archangel, 'Prince of God's people, Israel' (Jude 9; Dan. 10:21)

- A. Michael assigned to National Israel
- B. Aiding &/or Punishing Israel
- C. Not as Subordinate, but as 'Commander of the Lord's Army' (Josh. 5:13-14)
 1. OT: Michael –Prince of God's people; Israel isn't victorious, but rather suffers (Dan. 11)
 2. NT: Michael– Prince of National Israel; but Jesus is Lord/Head of the Church
 3. In the NT, Michael is Subordinated to Christ

VIII. Jesus' Victory over Supernatural Evil Forces

- A. Jesus' Death, Resurrection, & Ascension addresses the 3 Supernatural Rebellions
- B. Christ Conquered the Cosmic Powers through the Cross (Col. 2:13-15)

C. Rule of the Powers (Princes) Delegitimized

- “The jurisdictional [legal] authority of these ‘sons of God’ [‘gods’] has been nullified by the resurrection & ascension of Christ.” –Michael Heiser

D. Already/Not Yet: Dark Powers Delegitimized, but still active

- “At the cross, the dark powers were disarmed, but they did not dissolve. These dark powers have been stripped from their ability to blind the nations. But they can still deceive humanity...” – Joel Muddamalle

E. Should NT Believers’ Directly Confront Territorial Spirits?

IX. How Should We Pray? Watchman Nee’s Prayer at the 1938 Keswick Convention

Cosmic: “Prince of Persia” <-> “Prince of US”? and Michael: “Prince of Israel” JESUS
Earthy: IRAN (Persia) <-> United States and Nation of Israel CHURCH