

Daniel's Persistent and Triumphant Prayer



DANIEL 10:1-11:1

TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL HELPS

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DIVISION III

The History and Destiny of Israel: Five Prophecies or Pictures Clearly Seen in Daniel's Visions, [Daniel 8:1–12:13](#)

Daniel's Persistent and Triumphant Prayer: A Picture of the Spiritual Forces That Oppose Believers, [Daniel 10:1–11:1](#)

[Daniel 10:1–11:1](#) **Introduction:** cosmic spiritual forces seek to influence the affairs and events of human life every day—an astounding fact that is sometimes questioned by **agnostics, atheists**, and those who like to think of themselves as the *sophisticated* and *wise* of this world. Nevertheless, God Himself has revealed that there is a spiritual warfare being fought for the souls of people. Furthermore, the LORD issues a strong warning to us: we must prepare ourselves for the attack of Satan and his demonic forces lest we follow the evil seductions that are thrown across our paths throughout life.

This passage describes a vision that Daniel had in response to his fervent prayer for the Jews who had returned to the **Promised Land**. It shows how demonic forces were trying to prevent his prayer from being answered so the Jews could not fulfill their God-given purpose: to be the channel through whom God would send His Holy Word and the Messiah into the world.

This is the first of three chapters that deal with Daniel's final vision. The present chapter takes readers behind the scenes of world history to reveal the cosmic spiritual forces that seek to wreak havoc on the peoples of the earth, particularly believers.

This is, *Daniel's Persistent and Triumphant Prayer: A Picture of the Spiritual Forces That Oppose Believers*, [Daniel 10:1–11:1](#).

1. **Daniel's prayer and mourning prior to the vision: stresses the need to pray and fast (10:1-3).**
2. **Daniel's encounter with an awesome being: stresses the need to be humble and surrendered to Christ (10:4-9)**
3. **Daniel's need to understand the evil spiritual forces against the LORD and His people: stresses the need to put on the armor of God (10:10–11:1).**

1. (Daniel 10:1-3) Prayer, Need for, War; Suffering of People—Fasting, Need for, War; Suffering of People—Prayer, Example of, Daniel—Daniel, Testimony of, Prayer Warrior: Daniel felt an overwhelming need to pray and fast for his dear people.

It was shortly after this intense period of prayer that he received a revelation of troubling events that were certain to happen in the future. **Note the Scripture and outline:** It should be noted that [verse 1](#) is written in the third person and that it refers to Daniel's Babylonian name, Belteshazzar. Most likely, Daniel did this to give an official title to the vision and to highlight the importance of the revelation from God. In the next verse, Daniel once again speaks in the first person.

Daniel received this revelation in **536 B.C.**, around the same time that the LORD rescued him from the lions' den ([Daniel 6:1-28](#)). This was in the third year of King Cyrus' reign. Right after King Cyrus conquered Babylon, he had issued a proclamation of freedom allowing all Jews who wished to do so to return to their homeland. Almost 50,000 chose to return under the leadership of Zerubbabel. When Daniel received this revelation, the Jewish exiles had already returned to Palestine and were rebuilding their homes, shops, businesses, farms, and the temple.

As an official in the governments of Babylon and then Persia, Daniel had access to official records. Therefore, he had probably seen reports that construction of the temple in Jerusalem had stopped due to the opposition of the surrounding peoples (see [Ezra 4:1-24](#)). News of the severe opposition drove this saint of God to his knees. He was deeply concerned, burdened, heartbroken, and grieving for his people and nation. He was consumed with a desire to intercede in their behalf.

For three long weeks the prophet was in mourning. He says that did not eat any choice food during that time. He neither ate meat nor drank wine, and he did not anoint his body with oil.

He was totally consumed by his concern with the fate of his people, the Jews. Daniel prayed that:

1. the Jews would survive all the wars and the attempts to exterminate them down through the ages
2. the Jew would remain faithful and be strong witnesses before the LORD despite the coming wars and bitter oppression
3. the Jews would complete the purpose for which the LORD had chosen them: to be the faithful channel through whom God would send His Holy Word and the Messiah into the world
4. the Jews who had returned with Zerubbabel would remain faithful and not fail in their task of rebuilding the temple and nation

Thought 1. Daniel was a true prayer warrior. What a difference it would make if we would intercede for one another as Daniel interceded for his people! What would happen if we interceded for our fellow believers once a day for a year? How much change for the good would our prayers bring to our families, churches, communities, and nation? God promises to hear our prayers when our hearts are sincere and genuine before Him. When we intercede for others in accordance with His will, He will answer our prayers. He will bring about a phenomenal change in individual lives and pour out His richest blessings upon society.

Listen to what God's Holy Word says about prayer:

Matthew 26:41 (NASB)

“⁴¹ Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Luke 11:9 (NASB)

“⁹ So I say to you, *ask*, and it will be given to you; *seek*, and you will find; *knock*, and it will be opened to you.”

Luke 18:1 (NASB)

“¹ Now He was telling them a parable *to show that* at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.”

John 14:13-14 (NASB)

“¹³ Whatever *you ask* in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ If *you ask* Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.”

John 15:7 (NASB)

“⁷ If *you abide in Me*, and My words abide in you, *ask* whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

Ephesians 6:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ With all prayer and petition *pray* at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, *be on* the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NASB)

“¹⁷ Pray *without ceasing*.”

James 5:13-14 (NASB)

“¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then he must call* for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”

James 5:15-18 (NASB)

“¹⁵ And the prayer *offered in faith* will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, *and* pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer *of a righteous*

man can accomplish much.

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

Deuteronomy 4:29 (NASB)

“²⁹ But from there *you* will *seek* the Lord your God, and you will *find Him* if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NASB)

“¹⁴ And My people who are called by My name *humble* themselves and *pray* and *seek* My face and turn *from* their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Psalms 91:15 (NASB)

“¹⁵ He will call upon Me, and *I will* answer him; *I will* be with him in trouble; *I will* rescue him and honor him.”

Psalms 105:4 (NASB)

“⁴ Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually.”

Isaiah 55:6 (NASB)

“⁶ *Seek* the Lord while He may be found; *Call* upon Him while He is near.”

Isaiah 58:9 (NASB)

“⁹ Then you will *call*, and the Lord will answer; You will *cry*, and He will say, 'Here I am.' If you *remove* the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness.”

Isaiah 65:24 (NASB)

“²⁴ It will also come to pass that *before* they call, *I will* answer; and *while* they are still speaking, I will hear.”

2. (Daniel 10:4-9) Humility, Need for, Before Christ—Surrender, to the LORD, Example, Daniel: Daniel had an amazing vision and an encounter with an awesome being.

It was early spring, the twenty-fourth day of the first month when this breathtaking encounter took place. Daniel was possibly taking time off from his official duties in order to observe the season of the Passover and the feast of unleavened bread, which spanned the first month of the year. The Passover celebrated the release of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. And just recently, King Cyrus had released the Jewish exiles in Babylon from their captivity, and they had returned home.

Thus Daniel had reason to celebrate this particular Passover in some ways, but as just described in point one, his heart was still heavy with concern for his people.

Note the Scripture and outline:

According to [Daniel 10:4](#), Daniel was by the side of the Hiddekel, or Tigris, River when he suddenly saw a man who was more majestic and awesome than any person he had ever seen ([Daniel 10:5-6](#)).

Though he was speechless at the time, Daniel would never forget what the man looked like:

1. His clothing was linen.
2. His belt was made of the purest gold.
3. His body looked like a dazzling gem that reflected bright colors.
4. His face was as bright as flashes of lightning.
5. His eyes were like flaming torches.
6. His arms and legs gleamed like polished bronze.
7. His voice thundered like the roar of a multitude.

Who was this person? Some interpreters think that he was an angel; others think that he was Christ Himself.

Several facts support the view that Christ was the awesome being who stood before Daniel:

1. Daniel was helpless with fear in his presence, whereas he was not in the presence of the angel in the previous chapter ([Daniel 9:21](#)).
2. The description of him is very similar to Ezekiel's and the apostle John's descriptions of the glorified Christ ([Ezek. 1:26-28](#); [Rev. 1:12-16](#)).
3. He knew the future, and he swore a divine oath that only God could fulfill ([Daniel 12:7](#)).

To strengthen Daniel to receive the vision and to stress the tremendous importance of its message, the LORD Himself appeared to the prophet in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Daniel and his companions' response to the amazing vision was sheer terror ([Daniel 10:7-9](#)). Only Daniel actually saw the vision. His companions did not see the awesome person, but they did sense his presence. And they fled in terror. When Daniel caught a glimpse of the glorified person, he was emotionally overwhelmed and physically weakened. His face turned deathly pale, and he became utterly helpless. Falling to the ground, he heard the awesome, glorified Christ speaking. At the sound of His voice, Daniel swooned and fell asleep.

Thought 1. Here is a lesson for us about being *humble* and *surrendered* to Christ. If we are to truly know Christ and serve Him, we must be as humble and surrendered to God as Daniel was. When we rebel against the Lord or disobey His holy commandments, we create a great gulf, a frightening separation, between Him and us.

Being separated from God means that when we face crises or hardships, the Lord is not present to help. We are left on our own to plow through the crises the best we can. Only those who surrender and humble themselves to the Lord can expect to have His help. But this is the wonderful news of the Holy Scriptures: God will help those who surrender and humble themselves before Him.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NASB)

²⁸ Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and You will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Matthew 18:4 (NASB)

⁴ Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Romans 8:1 (NASB)

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:35 (NASB)

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

Romans 8:37-39 (NASB)

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

James 4:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”

1 Peter 5:5-10 (NASB)

⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

¹⁰ After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who

called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.”

Revelation 3:20 (NASB)

“²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”

Proverbs 22:4 (NASB)

“⁴ The reward of humility *and* the fear of the Lord Are riches, honor and life.”

Isaiah 1:18 (NASB)

“¹⁸ Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”

Isaiah 57:15 (NASB)

“¹⁵ For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell *on* a high and holy place, And *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Hosea 6:1 (NASB)

“¹ Come, let us return to the Lord. For He has torn *us*, but He will heal us; He has wounded *us*, but He will bandage us.”

3. Daniel 10:10–11:1 Spiritual Warfare, Described, to Daniel—Spiritual Warfare, Between Angels, Over Nations; Over Believers’ Prayers—Angels, Evil, Work of, to Prevent Prayer—Armor of God, Need for, in Prayer—Satan, Work of, to Prevent Prayer; to Control Nations—Nations, Dangers to, Evil Forces Controlling—Angels, Work of, Help Believers’ Prayers; Combat Demonic Forces: Daniel needed to understand that evil spiritual forces stand against the LORD and His people.

Daniel’s reference to “**a hand**” reaching down to touch him indicates that another heavenly being has entered the scene, perhaps Gabriel. There suggests a significant break between verses nine and ten, as though the awesome, glorified person of verses four through nine has now left the scene.

Note the Scripture and outline:

a. Still weak and trembling from his encounter with the awesome person (Jesus Christ) described in **Daniel 10:4-9**, Daniel was strengthened by this angel (cf. **Daniel 8:15-16**; **Daniel 9:21**). The angel told the dear prophet that he was highly esteemed in the eyes of the LORD; therefore he was to listen carefully to the special message that was now to be given him. Hearing this, Daniel stood to his feet, trembling but fully alert.

b. The angel now gave Daniel a very special, captivating insight into the spiritual warfare constantly being waged between the forces of good and evil. Apparently, the focus of Daniel's prayer for three weeks had been the future of Israel. Now the angel informed the prophet that his prayer had been answered on the first day that he had begun to fast and pray. God's heart had been touched by the prayers of his dear servant, so the LORD immediately commissioned the angel to go reveal the future to Daniel.

However, evil forces had delayed him ([Daniel 10:13](#)). For twenty-one days the demonic prince of Persia had resisted God's angel, delaying the delivery of the answer to Daniel's prayer. As the conflict and delay continued, God finally sent Michael, one of the chief angelic princes of heaven, to help the angel combat the demonic forces of Satan. Soon thereafter, the angel was able to leave the combat long enough to bring God's answer to Daniel ([Daniel 10:14](#)). Now the angel was going to explain what would happen to the Jewish people in the future, for the message from God was a revelation of events yet to come.

c. When Daniel learned that spiritual forces had opposed his prayer, he was completely overwhelmed ([Daniel 10:15](#)). In utter weakness he collapsed to his knees, completely speechless. Through prayer he had been involved in a cosmic spiritual warfare, and he was totally unaware of the conflict, totally unaware of the importance of *his individual prayer*. But his prayer was so important that the LORD had sent some of the most powerful angels of heaven to make sure his prayer was answered. **How important prayer must be! What a lesson for us to seek God's face in behalf of others, both individuals and nations!**

d. Once more God's angelic messenger encouraged Daniel ([Daniel 10:16-19](#)). Touching Daniel's lips, the angel enabled the prophet to speak ([Daniel 10:16-17](#)). Daniel told the angel that he was terrified at the spiritual warfare that is fought over prayer. He was deeply troubled and filled with anguish, so much so that he could hardly breathe. **Again, what a lesson for us about the importance of prayer!**

Seeing how emotionally drained and weak Daniel was, the angel again touched him and gave him supernatural strength ([Daniel 10:18](#)). He then instructed Daniel not to fear because he was greatly loved. He was a man who was faithful in prayer and consistently obeyed the commandments of God. Therefore, the LORD highly favored Daniel and held him in the highest esteem imaginable. Pronouncing peace upon Daniel, the angel again infused him with strength. The prophet was now strengthened enough to receive the message of the prophecy that was about to be given (**chapters eleven and twelve**).

e. The angelic messenger asked Daniel if he knew why he had come to visit him ([Daniel 10:20-11:1](#)). Interestingly, before Daniel could respond, the angel stated that he would soon return to fight against the prince of Persia. Then sometime later, when the Grecian Empire arose, he would have to fight against the angelic prince of Greece. It would take nothing less than the angels of God opposing these two demonic angels to restrain and control evil on the earth.

Apart from God's righteousness and the restraining power of the holy angels, evil would run rampant across the face of the earth and destroy humanity.

Before the angel could leave Daniel, he first had to tell him why he had come. He had to reveal to Daniel the events in the *Book of Truth* ([Daniel 10:21](#)). Evidently this is a book that covers God's plan for world history, part of which was to be *revealed in chapters eleven through twelve*. In closing the revelation, the angel again stated that he and Michael had been opposing the demonic forces since the first year of King Darius' reign over Persia ([Daniel 11:1](#); also see [DEEPER STUDY # 1—Daniel 10:12-14](#) see [page # 13 for more discussion](#)).

Thought 1. As much as any passage in Scripture, this chapter teaches the supreme importance of prayer. God answers prayer. If we are sincere and fervent—genuinely craving for God to move and act—He will. God moves the events and affairs of society as well as the citizens and leaders—all in answer to prayer.

Because of prayer, God will.....

1. strengthen and help us
2. save us and our families
3. free us from the bondages and enslaving habits of life
4. rescue our marriages and friendships
5. give us understanding and wisdom
6. help us financially, educationally, professionally
7. give us and our loved ones the hope of heaven and life everlasting
8. deliver us **either from or through** whatever trial or temptation confronts us, even through the crisis of death

There is nothing that God will not do for the person who truly believes and seeks Him. The fervent prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective ([James 5:16](#)). However, we must always keep in mind the teaching of the present Scripture. Because of the power of prayer, the demonic forces of hell will oppose us. Satan will do everything he can to keep us from praying or continuing in prayer, receiving the answers to our prayers, living righteously and following the LORD.

Satan will do all he can to cut the heart of God, which he does by tripping us up and causing us to sin. If we are true prayer warriors, every enticing temptation imaginable will be thrown across our path. We will be seduced to give in to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life ([1 John 2:15-16](#)). For this reason, we must prepare ourselves to stand against the satanic onslaught.

We must put on the whole *armor of God*:

1. the belt of *truth*
2. the breastplate of *righteousness*
3. the boots of warfare that are fitted and readied with the *gospel of peace*
4. the helmet of *salvation*
5. the sword of the Spirit, which is the *Word of God*
6. prayer and intercession for others

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NASB)

¹⁰ **Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.**

¹¹ **Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

¹² **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.**

¹³ **Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.**

¹⁴ **Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,**

¹⁵ **and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

¹⁶ **in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.**

¹⁷ **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

¹⁸ **With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”**

Thought 2. There have always been people who have scoffed at the idea of a personal devil or demonic angels who actually exist in a so-called spiritual world. These individuals feel they are too educated and intelligent to believe such nonsense. They proclaim that these ideas are outdated and belong to the dark ages, when people were too ignorant and superstitious to know better.

But note a significant fact: these same people readily accept the ideas that.....

1. *the sub-conscious* affects people’s mind and body
2. *unseen and uncontrollable forces* greatly affect people’s behavior
3. *cosmic forces* affect and determine people’s futures
4. *blind fate* controls what happens to people

But God—because He is God—tells us the truth. He cannot do otherwise. Therefore, God reveals to us the fact that there is an evil force that has access to the spirit of man and that can influence people to do evil. He is called Satan, and he rules over *the darkness and spiritual wickedness of this world*.

Luke 4:6 (NASB)

“⁶ And the devil said to Him, I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.”

Luke 22:31 (NASB)

“³¹ Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat.”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NASB)

“³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

Ephesians 6:12 (NASB)

“¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.”

1 Peter 5:8 (NASB)

“⁸ Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

F.F. Bruce words it well:

[Satan and his demonic forces] *rank among the highest angel-princes in the hierarchy of the heavenly places, yet all of them owe their existence to Christ, through whom they were created [Col. 1:16], and who is accordingly the head of all principality and power' [Col. 2:10]. But some at least of the principalities and powers have embarked upon rebellion against God and not only seek to force men to pay them the worship that is due to Him, but launched an assault upon the crucified Christ at a time when they thought they had Him at their mercy. But He, far from suffering their assault without resistance, grappled with them and overcame them, stripping them of their armour and driving them before Him in His triumphal procession [Col. 2:15]. Thus the hostile powers of evil which Christians must encounter are already vanquished powers, it is only through faith-union with the victorious Christ that Christians can make His triumph theirs.*

DEEPER STUDY # 1

(Daniel 10:12-14) Angels, Fallen—Evil Angels—Evil Spirits—Demons or Demonic Angels: these verses paint a graphic description of the spiritual warfare that is constantly being waged between the forces of good and evil.

In studying this passage, we need to understand **several facts** concerning the demonic angels.

1. According to Scripture, Satan was the highest angelic being created, but he chose to rebel against God, and he convinced a host of other angels to follow him. As a result, he and the angels who followed his leadership were condemned by God and cast from their exalted positions (see [Isaiah 14:3-23](#)).

2. Apparently God has given angels, including Satan and his demonic forces that fell with him, the power to choose between good or evil, somewhat like he has the human race. However, God never allows Satan or his demonic forces to go beyond a certain point. They are not allowed to tempt people beyond what they have the ability to resist. But the power to resist can be found only in the Lord Jesus Christ, by our trusting Him for strength and following Him. If a person fails to trust and follow the LORD, choosing instead to continually give in to the temptations of life, the person can obviously come under the controlling power of a demonic spirit. Both Scripture and actual cases of humans being demon-possessed are clear evidence of this fact. But the truth to be remembered is this wonderful promise of God: if we truly trust and follow Him, no power on earth or heaven can tempt us beyond what we have the ability to resist:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" ([1 Cor. 10:13](#)).

- a. Since Satan's fall, his purpose has been twofold. First, his purpose is to secure as much of the power and worship of the universe as possible ([Isaiah 14:12-17](#); [Ezekiel 28:11-17](#)).

He goes about this **in three ways**:

1. He opposes and disturbs God's work in the world ([Isaiah 14:12-17](#); [Ezekiel 28:11-17](#); [Job 1:6](#); [Job 2:1-6](#); [Matthew 4:10](#); [Mark 1:13](#); [Luke 4:8](#); [Revelation 12:7-9](#)).
2. He discourages believers through various strategies (see [Luke 22:31](#); [Ephesians 6:10-12](#)).

3. He arouses people to sin and to deny and rebel against God. And when they do, God's justice has to act. God has to judge people to the fate of their choice, that of living with Satan eternally (see [Matthew 12:25-26](#); [John 13:31-32](#)).

b. Second, Satan's purpose is to hurt and cut the heart of God. Why? Because the LORD has condemned him for rebelling against Him. Therefore, Satan does all he can to get back at God. The best way he can do this is turn the hearts of people away from God and lead them to sin and follow the way of evil (see [Rev. 12:3-4](#); [Rev. 12:7-9](#); [Rev. 12:10-11](#)).

3. The angels, both those who serve God and those who follow Satan, seem to be highly organized in positions of leadership, somewhat like the human race is. For example, the interpreting angel sent to minister to Daniel needed the help of Michael, who is definitely said to be one of the highest ranking of God's angels. The demonic angel is said to be the king or prince of the Persian kingdom ([Daniel 10:13, 20](#)), and later the demonic angel or prince of Greece is mentioned ([Daniel 10:20](#)).

Other Scriptures teach that the demonic angels are highly organized into a government or hierarchy of evil, some of whom have enormous authority, position, and rule.

1. the principalities (*arche*): the first ones, preeminent ones, leaders
2. powers (*exousias*): the authorities, the demons of Satan in the lower atmosphere who constitute his kingdom in the air
3. the rulers of the darkness of this world (*kosmokrator*): Satan and his demons

4. Now, why would God allow Satan and his demonic forces to oppose believers, even to the point of delaying their prayers? To strengthen us and to teach us endurance.

So says the Bible, God's Holy Word:

[Romans 5:1-5 \(NASB\)](#)

“¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
²through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.
³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;
⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;
⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

James 1:2-4 (NASB)

**“² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.**

⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

When we are suffering a hardship or crisis or not receiving the answer to our prayers, we are driven to stay on our knees.

As we continue to pray.....

1. we learn to draw closer to God, to fellowship and commune with Him more. Fellowship is one of the basic reasons God created us.
2. we learn to trust the LORD more, depending upon Him for the strength to plow through life.
3. we learn to praise and glorify the LORD even through the trials and sufferings of life.
4. we learn to become stronger witnesses for the LORD by demonstrating His power to strengthen us.
5. we learn more about the pain and corruption of this world and the need to place our hope only in the LORD.

5. Jesus Christ has broken the power of Satan (see [John 12:31-32](#); [John 16:11](#); [John 8:44](#); [Colossians 2:15](#)).

He did this in two ways:

- a. First, Christ broke the power of Satan by never giving in to his evil temptations ([Matthew 4:1-11](#)) and by never sinning ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). Christ overcame sin. He was righteous, sinless, perfect.
- b. Second, Christ broke the power of Satan by destroying his power over death. When Christ was crucified upon the cross, death could not hold Him in its grip ([Hebrews 2:14-15](#)). He arose from the dead and ascended to God's right hand.

Through His death on the cross, Christ triumphed over the powers of darkness. He took away their weapons and made a public spectacle of them ([Colossians 2:15](#)). This means that Satan and his demons have already been defeated. Because of what Christ has done, no human being ever has to fear the power of Satan and his evil, demonic forces...not if the person places his faith and trust in Christ.

Romans 8:31 (NASB)

“³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NASB)

“¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
¹⁵ and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

1 John 4:1-4 (NASB)

“¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;

³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

⁴ You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world[*note this last statement*].”

6. Where do these battles between the warriors of heaven and the warriors of hell take place? **Gleason L. Archer, Jr.** asks this interesting question. What this excellent commentator has to say is well worth quoting:

*“Where do such battles take place? [Revelation 12:7](#) suggests that they are waged up in "heaven, for we read: "There was war in heaven. Michael and the angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back." The subsequent verses relate that in that future contest (which apparently will take place during the Great Tribulation), the dragon (i.e., Satan himself: cf. [Rev.20:2](#)) will be vanquished and cast out of heaven, compelled to confine his activities to the earth alone. At present he enjoys the status of "ruler of the kingdom of the air ([Eph. 2:2](#)). We have no way of knowing how bodiless spirits—heavenly or hellish—fight one another or what weapons they use. But the Bible tells us that they are organized into various provinces or domains, which are referred to in the New Testament as *archai* ("governments," "rulers"), *exousiai* ("authorities" and enjoy the status of *kosmokratores* ("world rulers," "powers of this world"). Without flesh and blood. They are evil spirit-beings who occupy assigned super terrestrial regions (cf. [Eph.6:12](#)). "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm"). It is encouraging for God's people to know that he has mighty champions among the holy angels whose task is to defend the saints against the attacks of the evil one.”*