




# Daniel 63 – Spiritual War Explored in Lion's Den

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Daniel 11:1



# Prologue: Underlying Spiritual Battle – The Unseen Determines the Seen (He 11:3-4; Jn 3:6-9)

- ▶ This is the only glimpse God gives of the spiritual forces at work behind this reality giving NEW meaning to the work of the angels (He 1:14)
  - ▶ This angel has the task of being the general of God's restraining forces against the Satan's general over Persia
- ▶ This implies that every culture has both demonic and godly spiritual forces at work
  - ▶ Demonic forces trying to unrestrain man's culture to eliminate God's influence
  - ▶ God's forces restraining demonic forces to prevent elimination of the Gospel
- ▶ Spiritual forces are non-empirical and thus undetectable to man
  - ▶ Science {Reasoning} captive to their influence seeking only empirical causation
  - ▶ Works-based religions captive to self justification and rejection of God's truth of causation {Supply their own truths {Lies}} (Ro 1:17-28)



# Prologue: History is Written – The Problem of Understanding Choice

- ▶ Angel tells Daniel that these events, future, are *written*, probably since before Creation (Ep 1:3-14)
  - ▶ Man rebels at mechanistic election; negates personal responsibility for sin
  - ▶ Man *believes* he is completely free to choose; unbiblical (Ro 9-11)
  - ▶ Man sees these opposing views as mutually exclusive; either one or other
- ▶ Problem: Man has reduced infinite God to his level (Is 55:8-9)
  - ▶ Man perceives in three dimensions and struggles with time
  - ▶ God is infinite, able to understand EVERY aspect of every situation simultaneously
  - ▶ Man *decides* based on his limited understanding
  - ▶ God *knows* because He sees EVERY influence which guides man's choice
  - ▶ For man it is choice and thus responsibility; the unseen determines the choice



# Vision Begins with Darius

- ▶ Angel begins with Darius, suzerain, requiring the reader, and Daniel, to understand how the spiritual forces work behind the curtain of reality
  - ▶ Angel *confirmed* Darius - קִיָּן; ḥāzāq in hiphil voice meaning, “to have one’s strength proven;” in other words, the angel gave Darius strength not unlike Daniel was given strength by Christ
  - ▶ Angel *fenced* in Darius - טִיָּן; mā’ōz, noun, actually means that the strength the angel gave Darius turned him into a fortress of strength
- ▶ Look at the one scene in Daniel which features Darius to see the spiritual forces at work behind the scene of reality (Da 6)
  - ▶ These two accounts linked by the phrase, “*first year of Darius*”
  - ▶ Can the reader see the strengthening of Darius, turning him into a fortress?



# Darius a General: Not a Politician

- ▶ As discussed, Darius a capable Median general given the honor of ruling Babylon to maintain Cyrus' relationship with his Median kingdom partners
  - ▶ Darius at this stage is simply using the Babylonian administrative system to restore order, collect taxes and promote internal harmony: common tactic (Da 6:1-2)
  - ▶ Darius soon sees Daniel's godly character at work and determines to set him over the entire administration: trustworthy (Da 6:3)
  - ▶ This will upset any corruption and graft inherent in the system as these people will have ties to the populace and continue enriching themselves {Politicians}
  - ▶ Since Daniel knows these people, the political system and the people who would pay for access to power; he would put an end to this corruption (1Pe 4:12-15)
  - ▶ Temptation: Daniel could adopt their ways becoming one of the system to steal from the conquerors; except, God requires honesty (1Pe 4:3-4)



# Demonic Spiritual Forces: Make the First Move

- ▶ Demonic forces works through LOST people against God's people
  - ▶ The entire political bureaucracy becomes united against Daniel; notice, they are not against Darius specifically as he is lost at this time
  - ▶ Darius will simply be a tool motivated by pride and lust for Control through an empty symbolic gesture that will actually rob him of Control
  - ▶ Daniel's character unassailable; therefore, the demonic forces attack him over his faith and devotion to daily prayer to God: personal devotion not in the Law
  - ▶ The bureaucracy *decides* to approach Darius with their plan which requires Darius to acquiesce to his sinful pride, also under demonic influence
  - ▶ Darius succumbs and signs the binding law with *clouded* vision due to demonic influence
  - ▶ Notice: everyone is personal responsible for their choices; demonic spiritual influence is not mechanistic determinism – Captive to their sin (Ro 6:19-21)



# Daniel Tempted: Angelic Spiritual Forces at Work

- ▶ Once the edict was signed, Daniel was tempted knowing that disobedience would mean a gruesome death
  - ▶ Angelic spiritual forces gave Daniel strength to remain true even though not specifically mentioned in the text: This is the logical inference from the angel's previous elucidation with Daniel (Da 10:12-13, 20; 1Pe 4:12-13, 16)
  - ▶ Daniel had no expectation that God would spare his life any more than his three friends concerning the fiery furnace; it was not about miracles, it was about faithfulness for to be absent here is to be with the Lord (Da 3:16-18; Lk 16:19-23)
  - ▶ The bureaucracy accused {hasatan} Daniel to Darius who was bound by his edict or face questioning about his competence by Cyrus; guilty of faithfulness
  - ▶ Darius, weak in character which is a characteristic of sin, throws a knowingly innocent man to the lions; herein is where the angel begins his work on Darius



# God's Work of Character: Never about Magic or Blind Faith

- ▶ God did not have the angel simply give Darius strength which would have been ineffective as he was Lost
  - ▶ Darius came under both demonic and angelic influence during the night Daniel was in the lion's den
  - ▶ God works through our crises bringing one to understanding of Him; nowhere in Scripture is salvation simply a magic wand swish moment – *Birth from above* (Jn 3:3)
  - ▶ I believe Darius reached his *salvation* moment when he knew Daniel had been kept safe by God
  - ▶ Hence, Daniel remained alive, not because he expected it; but because it confirmed God's truth to Darius bringing saving faith (Da 6:19-23)
  - ▶ Ferociousness of the lions confirmed by the destruction of the two other administrators and few satraps that remained in Babylon: Lesson to Satan (Mt 8:29)





# This is NOT a Battle: Implies Doubt of Victory

- ▶ While this spiritual warfare continues, it is not about who wins the struggle
  - ▶ Angelic forces under God's direction simply prevent the demonic forces from becoming completely self-destructive (Jude 6)
  - ▶ Yet, God slowly pulls back his restraining forces so Man can experience the full impact of a *world without God* (2Th 2:3-12)
  - ▶ The Bible records the victory always belongs to God: because, God
  - ▶ Christ endured these same spiritual forces at work on Himself when He came in the flesh and they believed they won when they killed Him; they were the instruments of securing their own destruction and our salvation (Ro 3:21-26; He 2:14-18; 12:3)
  - ▶ We are to *humble* ourselves under God who does what is right by us and for us knowing He cares for us; thus, we will not be ashamed on that Day (1Pe 4:15-19; 5:6-11)