

# The Prince of Persia Withstood Me!

## ***A Revealing Statement in Daniel 10 Suggests ‘Behind the Scenes’ Spirit-Level Interactions Not Considered in ANY Secular Historical Accounts .***

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Incidental to a key prophetic narrative given to Daniel, who for a brief interval just before its fall, was named ‘*Third Ruler in the Kingdom*’ of Babylon,<sup>1</sup> a great world power of that age, almost as an aside, a great Being mentioned to Daniel a serious difficulty He’d encountered with an opposing great being, whom He calls ‘the prince of the kingdom of Persia’. In Daniel 10:13 it says, “*But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.*” When we realize who the Speaker is, and who else is referred to in the Book of Daniel as a ‘prince’,<sup>2</sup> we realize the significance of this ‘opponent prince’ who is inspiring and empowering opposition to the Speaker by the king of Persia. Things of this nature, though perhaps ‘incidental’ to this narrative, provide insight into ‘another world’, one no less real, operating unseen, to direct and set the course of history, that the involved individual players have no direct awareness of!

### **The Most High Rules!**

This glimpse, though small and seemingly insignificant, makes us aware of the underlying truth and ultimate reality of an earlier affirmation, in Daniel 4 that: “*the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will*”.<sup>3</sup> Note particularly verses 32 to 37. No less so does the Most High rule in the kingdom of men, as Daniel 4:17 states, “*This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the*

*basest of men.*” We are inclined to ask, Who are the ‘watchers’? And Who are the ‘Holy Ones’? (Is there more than one Holy One? It’s plural after all!) Do the ‘watchers’ monitor the activities on Earth on their behalf? We should have at least some conception in this area. God inspired this particular chapter to make specific mention of this **fact**, and He did so in the context of and during the demise of the first world empire, that being Nebuchadnezzar’s Empire, the ‘head of gold’ as we find in Daniel 2:38.

### **Who IS the Speaker?**

Another article<sup>4</sup> addresses itself more specifically to the identity of the Speaker, He being the one who some 500 years later would become Jesus Christ. For brevity, I will here proceed on that basis: that the Being revealing this prophesy in Daniel 10 & 11 is He! With that awareness, we are then drawn to the realization that the prince of the kingdom of Persia must be someone at the approximate high-power spirit-level as another ‘prince’ named, that being Michael. (Daniel 10:21)

An interesting glimpse is revealed in the previous verse. Our Speaker, after taking this break from the action, was to return into the background and resume His shaping of world history, allowing up the Persian Empire, but limiting its successes, and setting the stage for the succeeding empire; Greece. “*Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.*” So, once the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia is successfully subdued, the way was clear to enter the realm of the physical prince of Persia, and to facilitate the way for another subsequent physical prince to

<sup>1</sup> Daniel 5:16 & 29

<sup>2</sup> Archangels **Gabriel** and **Michael** (Dan. 8:16 & 10:21)

<sup>3</sup> Repeated in 4:17 & 25 & 32, verse 17 adding: “*and setteth up over it the basest of men.*”

<sup>4</sup> “*Did Daniel See and Speak with GOD?*” Compare Daniel 10:5-7 with Revelation 1:13-17

arise, (Alexander of Greece), generations into the future, to succeed these Persians!

(As this 'succession' wouldn't be yet for another couple of centuries, we can see that the molding and shaping of world history is an ongoing behind-the-scenes activity.)

Another glimpse is found in Daniel 11:1 where it is revealed that this same Being intervened to 'confirm and strengthen' the ascendancy of Darius the Mede, (the military leader of the Medo-Persian alliance) while not long thereafter He's seen acting to restrain the leadership of this same Empire.

Now, the premise presented earlier is that the One speaking to Daniel, "...a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. (Dan. 10:5-6, (compare Revelation 1:13-16)) was the very Being who would enter and exist of the physical dimension some 500 years later, and be born of humankind! In other words, the One who would become known as Jesus Christ.

### Who Could Dare?

If this Being is in fact God, what other being would oppose and stand against Him? What power would have the will to, and for twenty-one days successfully continue to, oppose God? Only one with the mistaken notion of being able to succeed in doing so! The 'prince of the kingdom of Persia', then, must be a being very high in the spirit realm! A power that could for twenty one days withstand! It speaks volumes as to the power of this Adversary!

But withstand in what way, and to what end? Did this adversarial spirit being have 'other ideas' regarding how he wanted human affairs to play out? Had he made a "deal" with the king of Persia that he was striving to deliver? We are reminded of the boastful claim of Satan, that he was able to deliver power over nations. "*And the devil,... shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this **power** will I give thee, and the glory of them:*

*for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.*" (Luke 4:5-7) (Satan to Jesus on the high mountaintop!)

Another place shows God at first intervening in the ascendancy of Persia. Daniel 11:1-2 "*Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.*

*2: And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.*" Not only knowing what powers would arise in the future (here some 200 years into the future), but also playing a part in their rise and fall, limiting their military successes in the interim.

### What Would Have Happened?

We take for granted that world affairs follow their 'natural' course. What Daniel 10 & 11 reveals is that certain historical developments are not without the directly intervening hand of God. These extraordinary passages speak to that intervention.

But, think what would have happened had Persia conquered and overrun mainland Greece. Consider what the ancient world and for that matter the modern world would have been like without the cultural developments of ancient Greece. What **IF** Greece and Macedonia had become "Persian" (and later Islamic)? What if Alexander had never conquered not only Asia Minor, but the entire 'cradle of civilization' from western India into Egypt?

How would the world today be different had the Greek tongue never become the language of the ancient world's commerce and civilization? What if the concepts of democracy that flourished under Greek culture had never been tolerated? What would Rome have been like without the pre-existing foundation of Greek culture, philosophy or art and architecture?

For that matter, in what language would the New Testament have been so well preserved in or had there never been a Septuagint? What language would have had the linguistic precision or nuances

of definition inherent in Greek?

Under negative consideration, how would apostate ‘christianity’ and pre-first century Judaism differed in belief structure had *Greek Gnosticism* not entered into them from the Hellenistic cultural main stream? This saying nothing of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy structured around the four successive world empires given in Daniel 2.

These considerations give greater meaning to the revelation in Daniel 10:20, that He must return to the engagement with the prince of Persia, in order to limit its massive armies exploits from extending into the ‘wrong’ areas of the world. Left unrestrained, Persia could have cut off the existence of Greece as a viable future culture!

Our world would be very different had the guiding hand of God ( by the power given the pre-incarnate Christ ) not been promoting some historical developments and restraining others. It is no mean statement then, that “...*the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.*” Jesus’ show-stopping rebuke to Pilate in John 19: 10-11 emphasizes the same theme. “*Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?*”

*11: Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: ...”*

The Apostle Paul affirms the same, though in a different context: Rom. 13:1 “*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For **there is no power but of God**: the powers that be are ordained of God.*”

### Prophecy Reveals God’s Hand

All of the supposed ‘prophets’ throughout history, whether accurate or not, have no ability whatsoever to intervene in the fulfillment of what they predict. Bible prophecy is *different* in that the ultimate revealer has the power to shape events making the outcome a certainty. That’s the point of what Christ said to Daniel in 10:11. “*But I will shew thee **that which is noted in the scripture of truth**: and there is none that holdeth with me in these*

*things, but Michael your prince.*” Bible prophecy is Scripture, thus it is Truth! God’s **purpose** is revealed in them!

Isaiah 46:3 “*Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, ...*

*4: And even to your old age **I am he**; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.*

*5: To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?...*

*8: Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors.*

*9: Remember the former things of old: for **I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,***

*10: Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”* Potent words!

This seemingly minor glimpse into the behind-the-scenes goings-on in the spirit dimension given in the book of Daniel chapter 10, verses 13 & 20 is more profound than we give it credit for being.

We should appreciate Bible Prophecy, not just for its prediction of future events, but also for its power to substantiate God’s existence and the veracity of His Word! That afternoon in the third year of the king of Persia on the banks of the River Tigris is profoundly revealing in more ways than just one. Ω

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