***Daniel 10:10-21 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. 11And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. 12Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.” 15When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. 16And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, “My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength. 17For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.” 18Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.” 20Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.)***

When we left Daniel in verse 10 two weeks ago, we left him trembling on his hands and knees, no strength or vitality left in him. Tonight, we will pick up again in verse 10 and finish this chapter. Once again, God is giving a vision of the future and Gabriel has been sent to give understanding. The last half of this chapter makes it very clear that there is a war going on in the spiritual realm that we have a very limited awareness of. Many believers today don’t like to believe that there are spiritual realms and a battle raging there… yet, the Bible is very clear. Let’s be honest, if there were no battle or spiritual component to our existence, Jesus would not have come into the world to save us. God would have simply wished us good luck, as every battle was our own and depended on our worldly strength.

Verses 10-11 *Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. 11And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.*A hand touches Daniel. This hand most likely belongs to the angel Gabriel. It seems that Daniel is now in a crawling position. Gabriel reassures Daniel again that he is greatly beloved. Anxiety and fear is famous for blocking understanding and higher thinking. We move to a fight or flight thinking. Gabriel is soothing Daniel while inviting him to understand. Daniel stands upright, as told, but he is trembling from this overwhelming experience. Remember that Daniel is in his 80s. I cannot imagine what he is feeling at this moment.

Verse 12 *Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.*Fear not! This is a common greeting from a heavenly angel making an earthly appearance. Remember Luke 2 – Zacharias “Fear not”, Mary “Fear not”, the shepherds “Fear not!” Daniel is soothed and reassured by Gabriel. Gabriel reveals that, from the very first day that Daniel sought understanding in humble submission and earnest prayer, his words were heard. Gabriel says something very encouraging to us – I have come because of your words. When we pray and humbly seek God, He hears and, when it is in His will and His timing, we receive answers. How wonderful is our God to reassure us and hear us and answer us? He owes us nothing, yet gives us everything.

Verse 13 *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.*21 days – three full weeks. This should look very familiar to us. Verses 2 and 3, Daniel fasted for 21 days. The same 21 days that it took Gabriel to come to him. Why? Some suggest that the prince of the kingdom of Persia, which was Cyrus at that time, was withstanding Gabriel for the 21 days. I cannot believe that a mere man can withstand an angel that stands before God. This must refer to a dark angel assigned to Persia to withstand Gabriel. This is spiritual warfare, plain and simple. One of Satan’s greatest tools is to make a believer believe that there is no larger aspect than what is seen. If it’s all what is seen, we need no faith and we have the power to “control” our lives – pride! The battle is for mastery of Cyrus and the Persian empire. The struggle today is for mastery of the United States. Ultimately God will win… the only question is – will we be on His winning side as a nation? Hmmm.

Then Michael comes to help Gabriel. The struggle is passed to Michael. Michael is an archangel according to Jude 1:9 – where he disputed the devil over the body of Moses. His name means “who is like God.” He is referred to as chief of the princes, which adds weight to the belief that a dark angel is the prince assigned to Persia.

Verse 14 *Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.”* Michael remains with Cyrus. Gabriel comes to Daniel. He is there to provide understanding to Daniel of what will yet happen to the children of Israel. We can imagine that Daniel’s prayer is short term and immediate to his moment in time. He is seeking what will immediately happen to his people. Gabriel helps him understand that this vision will happen far into the future, concerning both short term prophecy, less than 1000 years, and long term, to the time of Antichrist.

Verses 15 *When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.*Daniel has been reassured to fear not. Now, in reverence and awe, he turns his face to the ground and becomes speechless. People like to believe that they’d be “up in the angels face”. We are belligerent and prideful. Faced with the glory of an angel, one that most likely glows as Moses did from being in the presence of God, pride, belligerence, strength fail.

Verses 16-17 *And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, “My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength. 17For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.”* The glory of Gabriel is too great! Gabriel takes on more of a likeness of a human being. This is not unusual. Genesis 18 and 19 tell the story of an angelic visitation. The wicked of Sodom and Gomorrah viewed the angels as men (Genesis 19:5). Hebrews 13:2 tells us - *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.* Gabriel touches Daniel’s lips and Daniel is able to speak. The sorrows of what Daniel has seen in the vision have overwhelmed him. He is shaken to his spirit. How can he speak to Gabriel? The vision is too much to bear. It leaves him breathless and weak.

I often wonder why so few have this heart for the lost we see all around us. How much time to we spend praying for the lost? We have a vision given to us through Daniel, Revelation, and all of the Bible. Only Christ can strengthen us to be brave and courageous and not grow hopeless and overwhelmed.

Verses 18-19 *Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. 19And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”*Gabriel touches Daniel again and strengthens him. He reassures Daniel again that he is greatly beloved and has no reason to fear. Be strong, yea, be strong. The words strengthened Daniel. He now had strength to hear.

How often do we pray for strength in our season? Many pray that the season pass. Many pray that the season be taken away. Few pray to be strengthened to endure the season. We ask that the cup pass from us rather than for strength to drink the cup given to us. Pray for strength.

Verses 20-21 *Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.)*Gabriel speaks to Daniel. Gabriel is asking – do you understand now why I came to you? Now, Gabriel must return to the battle. Notice that the battle for Persia continues and the battle for Greece, still 200 years in the future, has started. The dark angel that will contest for Greece is already planning trouble. Is there any doubt that there is an evil presence poisoning our nation? God blesses nations and cuts nations down. It is in our refusal to surrender to Him that brings our destruction. Before Gabriel goes, he’s going to tell Daniel the truth of the vision, giving him understanding – the Scripture of Truth.

Daniel is focused, fearless, and faithful. He is devout in seeking the Truth. Notice that God sends strength to endure in these cases and not help to escape. Often, our focus is relief from our whoa and not refreshment in our walk. Daniel sought refreshment, not relief. May we, as we continue in our walk, seek refreshment and not relief… strength and not escape… accepting our cup as Daniel did… Faithful, fearless, and focused – submitting our words to God, knowing that He hears.