



**Series:** Daniel, Living for God in a Pagan World

**Passage:** Daniel 10, Ezra 1

**Title:** Prayer and the Spirit World

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard, 10/20/2024

**Discussion Starter** – 2 Corinthians 4:18 tells us there is an unseen world. Why is it important to us? How do we understand and account for the unseen world in our day-to-day life? What unseen forces are continually working in our world? What can we learn about the unseen world from Daniel’s experience in this chapter?

**Read Ezra 1:1-6 and Daniel 10:1-3**

1. What event significant event does Ezra record? When does it occur?
2. How many Israelites respond to Cyrus’ decree, (Ezra 2:64-67)?
3. Only a small remnant returned to rebuild the temple. What factors might have contributed to many Jews choosing to stay in Babylon?
4. When does Daniel 10 occur? Why do you think Daniel had not returned with Ezra’s group?
5. We commonly think of mourning as a response to a personal loss. What was the specific cause of Daniel’s strong mourning? How did he respond?
  - a. Have you ever been in mourning to the point of fasting? Did you have a specific request of God? Did you receive a specific response?
  - b. Prayer and fasting are usually linked together, how does fasting reflect the intensity of Daniel’s mourning through prayer?
  - c. Is there cause for mourning over the spiritual state of our country today?

**Read Daniel 10:4-9**

6. Daniel’s fast and prayer is answered with a magnificent and specific vision. Describe what Daniel saw. How did he react?
7. What was the reaction of the others who were with Daniel at the river?
  - d. How does God speak to you? How do you recognize His voice?
  - e. Why do you think the vision was not seen by all?

**Read Daniel 10:10-17**

8. Pastor David highlighted three keys to effective prayer: setting our hearts to understand God's will, humbling ourselves before God, and persevering in prayer. Which of these do you find most challenging, and why?
9. Who or what is “the Prince of Persia”? What is he doing in this passage?
10. What is the message that Daniel is to receive? How is this message an answer to Daniel’s original mourning or concern?

**Read Daniel 10:18-21**

11. Who is the “Prince of Greece”?
12. Why is Michael described as “your prince”?
13. Describe the physical interaction Daniel has with this messenger? Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. How does Paul describe strength and weakness in the seen and unseen world?