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**C1238 – November 11, 2012 – Dan 10:1-21**

**The Angelic Conflict**

Question: on the prophecy of the seventy sevens the Ryrie Study Bible note on Daniel 9:25 said the decree of Artaxerxes was in 445BC and you said 444BC; (The MacArthur Study Bible does the same as does the Nelson Study Bible). Why the difference? The 445BC date was popularized by the masterful book of Sir Robert Anderson in the late 1800's, *The Coming Prince*. He set the decree of Artaxerxes on March 14, 445BC, adding the 483 years the dates worked out to the Messiah's crucifixion on April 6, AD32. This is problematic for two reasons. First, it requires a Sunday or Monday crucifixion which is untenable. Anderson saw the problem and used some tricky mathematics to try and smooth this over. Second, Anderson did not have available the more recent discovery that the Persians did not count the accession year as a regal year. Since Artaxerxes accession year was 465 he assumed the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes was 445. However, more recent research demonstrates they did not count the accession year. Therefore the first regal year of Artaxerxes was 464 making his 20<sup>th</sup> year 444BC. This resolves all of Sir Robert Anderson's problems. Adding the 483 years brings you to the Triumphal Entry on March 30, AD33 and puts the crucifixion on April 3, AD33 which was a Friday, the only tenable day of the week. Others have put the crucifixion in AD30 since that year also could support a Friday crucifixion. However, this does not leave enough time for the 483 years to expire so is untenable.

The fallacy of Sir Robert Anderson's 445BC date has been followed by many others including the famous Alva McClain, John Mac Arthur and Charles Ryrie in his study Bible simply because they did not have the most recent research on how the Persians counted regal years. Therefore I would be willing to bet everything I own that if you were to ask Charles Ryrie the starting date today he would say 444BC. I say that for two reasons. First, because his close friend and colleague, Dr Harold Hoehner wrote the gold

standard on the seventy sevens in his book *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*. Second, I know for a fact that his close friends and colleagues Dr Dwight Pentecost and Dr Tom Constable both hold to the 444BC date. So that's why I'm giving you 444 rather than 445. I try to never give you outdated information that has been found to be unreliable. I'm always trying to stay abreast to the most recent research and findings so that I can stay current in my own field of study and give you the most reliable information.

Alright, tonight the vision of Daniel 10 and lets make some introductory observations. First of all, Daniel 10 continues into 11 and 12. So really Daniel 10-12 are a single unit or vision and so don't pay much attention to the chapter divisions since they blind you to the continuity of these chapters. Second, we get the most detail here of any of the prophecies in the Book of Daniel. There are a lot of intricate details about the second and third Gentile kingdoms, particularly Antiochus Epiphanes who we met in Daniel 8, one of the Seleucid kings of the Greek Empire who foreshadowed the Antichrist. And when he comes and runs his course Israel will be restored to the place of blessing in God's kingdom program. So there are a lot of details here; don't lose the forest for the trees. Third then, the general picture we want to review. The general picture is given in both Daniel 2 and 7 where four successive Gentile kingdoms are predicted to rule and then a fifth kingdom will arrive wherein the Jews will be restored. The Daniel 2 picture is a shining metal statue that depicts the four kingdoms from the human view point as a great accomplishment of man; the head of gold is Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon; the chest and arms of silver are Medo-Persia; the waist and thighs of bronze are Greece and the legs of iron and feet partly of clay and iron are Rome. Daniel 7 is looking at the same four kingdoms but from the divine view point as ferocious beasts being stirred up by satanic forces. But in any case these four kingdoms have been given authority to reign as discipline upon Israel and they constitute the time our Lord referred to as "the times of the Gentiles."

Keep that general picture in mind because in Daniel 10 Daniel has had a vision that disturbed him greatly and he's going to go to prayer in hope that God will answer and he'll understand. And I think what we have in Daniel 10:1 is a summary after he has received understanding and an introduction to the situation that prompted his prayer. Verse 1, **In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was**

**named Belshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision.** It was the **third year of Cyrus**, which was 536BC. Cyrus had already made the decree for the Jews to go back to their homeland and rebuild the temple. A minority of Jews returned and as they rebuilt the temple they faced local resistance. However, Daniel was a part of the majority who did not return to the land. And he had chosen to remain at his administrative post. And while in his third year under **Cyrus the king of Persia** this **message was revealed** to him. Observe that the verse is careful to point out that this Daniel is the same Daniel we've been following all along since his name was **Belshazzar** and so we know this is the Daniel that reaches all the way back to Daniel 1. Observe in the middle of verse 1 the core of the vision he saw was **great conflict**. The Hebrew word **conflict** means "warfare" and what Daniel saw was great warfare coming for Israel. What Daniel actually saw is explained in Daniel 11 and 12. And if you read these two chapters they are a very detailed prophecy of great conflict during the Greek Empire. The vision started with Medo-Persia but quickly moved into Greece and Alexander the Great who rose quickly to power but died young upon which his kingdom was parceled out among his four generals. In particular two of the divisions of the kingdom would affect strongly the Jewish people, namely the Seleucid dynasty and the Ptolemaic dynasty. These two dynasties would engage in heavy military conflict eventually resulting in the Seleucid dynasty taking control. Out of this Seleucid dynasty would come several evil kings. One pre-eminent evil king whom we met in Daniel 8 known as Antiochus Epiphanes IV would commit great violence in the land of Israel. His career is set forth as foreshadowing the career of the anti-Christ who comes in the latter days to wage even greater warfare against the Jews; even committing the abomination of desolation and setting himself up in the temple as God and demanding the worship of all men. At that time the non-remnant of Israel will be destroyed but the remnant will be rescued and go into the kingdom. This is what Daniel saw but he did not initially understand it, only after the **message was revealed to Daniel** did **he understand the message** and thereby **understand the vision**.

So I take it that Daniel did not initially understand the vision but after the explanation he did understand it and we'll get into the details of that explanation in coming weeks but Daniel 10 sets the stage by explaining

Daniel's distress caused by the vision and his desire to understand and how he came to understand.

You see in verse 2 that Daniel was in a state of severe distress. So I'm suggesting in Daniel 10:2 that Daniel was nearing the end of his life and he wanted to understand what the vision meant. And so he set himself to get understanding by mourning and fasting and prayer. He says, **In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. 3I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the three weeks were completed.** Daniel was on a diet of bread and water for three full sevens of days or twenty-one days in order to try and get an answer from God. And verse 12 clarifies that mourning and fasting is how he humbled himself before God in prayer. We have to humble ourselves before God if we expect to get answers to prayer. And that is what Daniel did, he humbled himself.

Now we already know from Daniel 9 that prayers are heard instantaneously by God and you can also see from verse 12 that indeed God had heard his prayers from that very first day, and yet from Daniel's point of view God hadn't heard his prayer and so he kept on praying and praying, day after day after day for twenty-one days. And during this twenty-one days of prayer he didn't eat any **tasty food**. Tasty food was the fine, delectable food enjoyed by high administrative officials and Daniel didn't eat any of it. Nor did he eat any **meat or wine** which was standard fare. The point is that he was dedicating himself to prayer and therefore simply partaking of bread and water. **Nor** we are told, **did he use any ointment**. The **ointment** was oil that was typically put on the skin to moisturize and protect from sunburn. Oil was a sign of joy and gladness. And so if you were in mourning you would not anoint yourself with oil. And so Daniel was not joyful about what he had seen in the vision. He was mourning because the great warfare surrounding his people was extremely distressing and he wanted to understand. So for twenty-one days he humbled himself in hope that the Lord would respond to his prayer.

Now in verse 4 Daniel meets a person in the vision along the Tigris River and the identity of this person is debated. Observe, **On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the greater river, that is, the Tigris. 5I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a**

**certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. 6His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.** Who is this awesome person? Some think this is an angel and others think this is the Son of Man, the pre-incarnate Lord Jesus Christ. My take is that this is Son of Man appearing to Daniel because if we were to look ahead to Revelation 1:13-15 we'd see an almost identical description by John of One who is undoubtedly the Lord Jesus Christ. So I've put together a chart showing you the similarities so you can study these things yourself and see whether this isn't so.

<b>Daniel 10:5-6</b>	<b>Rev 1:13-15</b>
A certain man	A son of man
Dressed in linen	Clothed in a robe
Waist girded with pure gold	Girded across chest with a golden sash
Face like lightning	Face shining like the sun
Eyes like flaming torches	Eyes like a flame of fire
Arms and feet like gleam of bronze	Feet like burnished bronze glowing
Words like sound of tumult	Voice like sound of many waters

Observe that Daniel saw a certain man and John saw a son of man. Daniel said he was dressed in linen and John said he was clothed in a robe; Daniel said his waist was girded with pure gold and John said he was girded across his chest with a golden sash. Daniel said his face was like lightning and John said his face was shining like the sun and so forth, there are many similarities. The last one is not listed on the chart but when John saw Him in Revelation 1 he says, "I fell at His feet like a dead man." And if you glance down to verse 8 Daniel says, "no strength was left in me...my natural color turned to a deathly pallor...I retained no strength. 9But I heard the sound of his words and as soon as I heard...I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground." So the similar descriptions and the similar responses to the Person's appearance lead me to conclude that the person in vv 5-6 is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ in awesome appearance. And therefore the word **Man** in verse 5 ought to be capitalized and the word **His** in verse 6 ought to be capitalized so that you are clear that this is the Son of Man.

Now that is why when Daniel saw Him it just about killed him. The reason is because the Lord Jesus is so holy and we tend to have a very shallow view of His holiness but if we were to come face to face with His holiness while we were still in our sinful body it would reveal in remarkable contrast the putrid vomit that you and I are in comparison to Him. And that's what you're seeing here when Daniel about dies; he's coming face to face with the Lord Jesus who is Light and the darkness that Daniel was in comparison was exposed and the repercussions of that realization are very difficult to deal with. It put Daniel into a coma. He literally in verse 9, when he saw this awesome Person he **heard the sound of his words** but **as soon as he heard the sound of his words** that was it, he went into a coma.

Now there were other men with him on the banks of the Tigris River as you see there in verse 7. **Daniel, alone saw the vision while the men who were with him did not see the vision;** they were all on some governmental business over near the Tigris River; **nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves.** It's very interesting. They didn't know what was going on, they knew something was going on; maybe they looked at Daniel and saw his demeanor change radically. We're not told, all we know is a sense of **great dread** came upon them **and they ran away** and hid. There was something about that area that they wanted to get away from. So now Daniel is **left alone** and that's when he saw this awesome Person, the Second Person of the Trinity and he went into a coma right there on the ground, face first. Verse 9 says. **I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.**

Then in verse 10 I think we meet another being, I don't think this is the Lord Jesus Christ, From what is said about this being down in verse 13 I think this is someone less than the Lord Jesus Christ. **Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you."** Now this being helps Daniel compose himself, helps him at least come out of the coma and sit up on his **hands and knees**. There's a recovery here that has to take place before Daniel can understand the message this angel has, which is the explanation for the vision of great conflicts that Daniel saw earlier. That's his mission. And if you ask me why there are two different

beings that appear to Daniel I think the Lord Jesus appeared to him to impress upon Daniel that He is the ultimate revealer of the explanation that this second being is going to give. So Daniel is going to conclude in verse 1 that **the message was true** because it ultimately came from Him who is truth.

Now the second being here is a messenger. Who are God's messengers? Well, they could be men or they could be angels. I take it this is an angel because of the heavenly conflict this angel wages in verse 13 and the fact that Michael comes along to help him in this conflict. So this is an angel who has been sent by the Lord Jesus to reveal the explanation of the vision to Daniel. Now we are about to have our minds opened as to the complex role that angels play in history. History is not just human movements, angels are a part of history too and they influence and vie for power. And Daniel 10 is one of the most insightful chapters on the creaturely influences involved in shaping history. So be prepared to have your eyelids peeled back because this chapter enables you to see that there is much more going on behind the scenes than just human politicians and nations involved in giving shape to history under God's sovereignty. There are angelic powers much greater than human beings that in some way are able to manipulate human beings and nations. And I suspect this is not a surprise to those of you who were paying attention in Daniel 7 because there we saw four great beasts coming up out of a sea that was being stirred up by the four winds of heaven. And we did a little study of the four winds and the sea there and concluded that the four winds are the influences of demonic beings upon the sea of nations. The nations like water are very unstable places, easily stirred up and the influence that stirs them up is demonic beings. That's the picture we get from Daniel 7 and that's the picture we get from Daniel 10. And this casts a whole new light on how you think about our nation and the turmoil that we are going through right now. There is tremendous demonic influence going on in America and what is very interesting is that the zones of intense demonic influence are the urban areas. There is a strategy to demonic influence and it involves demonic activity focusing in the high population centers and working out from there into the rural areas. I also see that human governments are a high focal point of demonic activity because of the influence human governments have on the rest of the nation.



Now what this does to your view of history is it opens it up tremendously. All down through history and right now all across the world there are great heavenly conflicts going on between good angels and evil angels for the influence of people and nations. As one author says, "...the truth revealed here ought to open our spiritual eyes to the fact that beyond human politics and wars there is fierce and intense warfare within the unseen angelic ranks. There are forces that promote God's agenda in this world and those that resist it. And those human leaders who abandon God's truth and God's agenda become pawns in the wicked hands of these powerful spirits."<sup>i</sup> I cannot put it anymore succinctly than that. I know of no better biblical analysis of what is happening in our nation. Our nation's leaders have abandoned God's truth and thereby become pawns in the hands of wicked spirits.

Now, in verse 12 we see how good angels can influence a nation for God's truth. And the angel explains this by saying, **"Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days.** Now there are many keys to interpreting history here. The first one is simply to recognize that there is heavenly conflict going on between good and evil angels. This good angel was sent by God but when he got over the air space of Persia he was met by a demonic angel referred to as **the prince of the kingdom of Persia** and they engaged in combat for **twenty-one days**. The evil angel obviously did not want to permit God's influence into the nation. The second thing I want you to observe is that prayer is a means by which God sends good angels to influence a nation in the right direction. If it wasn't for Daniel's prayer to understand the course of history then this angel would not have been sent. So prayer is a means God uses to send good influence upon a nation. Third observation, notice that Daniel's prayer was heard by God the very **first day** it was uttered. It didn't take twenty-one days of prayer for that prayer to get to God, it got to God immediately and God heard the prayer. The fourth thing to recognize is that a good angel was sent to answer the prayer. Isn't it interesting that God sometimes uses angels to answer our prayers? And that when they are sent to answer our prayers they may be interfered with when they reach the air space over the country of the one praying. Now you can see from this that angels don't just sit there and play



harps on clouds. Angels are very powerful beings that carry out the commands of God. So a fifth thing is that I would argue that angels are involved in our lives all the time. Heb 1:14 says angels are sent out to render service for those who will inherit salvation. So angels minister to you; angels minister to me. They've probably done all sorts of things for you and me and one day God is going to point out case after case after case where various angels did things in your life. And then you're going to be shocked how involved angels were in your life.

So here we have a good angel in verse 12 sent by God to minister to Daniel on the very first day of Daniel's prayer, and we know from Daniel 9 it only takes about three minutes for an angel to travel from the throne room of God in the third heaven to planet earth, but notice in verse 13, when this angel got into the air space over Persia he was met with opposition. **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me.** This angel couldn't break through, he couldn't defeat the demon and so **Michael** joined him. And this shows you that just because he's a demon doesn't make him weaker than a good angel. All angels were originally created in a rank or hierarchy and Ephesians 6 refers to this hierarchy as the rulers, the powers and world forces of darkness. Those are ranks of authority and power and when a third of the angels fell Satan became the king of all the fallen angels no matter what rank they originally held under God. When they fell they didn't lose their power and abilities, they only used them in an evil direction. And so some of them are stronger than good angels and Satan appointed them to certain nations to guard the air space around those nations and not permit good angels to enter and influence a nation for good. And so here is this good angel trying to get into Persian air space to get to Daniel so he can influence the nation of Persia in a good direction and he's immediately engaged in combat by this demon and it takes **Michael, one of the chief princes coming in to help.** This was a very powerful demon. Now together they were able to defeat him temporarily and get through because you see down in verse 20 that this angel went through to Daniel but he couldn't be there long, he had to go back and continue fighting against this demon. So I take it that **Michael** is keeping this demon tied up while the other angel makes his way through to Daniel to give him the message. The final observation, and the chief one in vv 12-13 is that the delay in getting an answer to prayer was due to the angelic conflict above. It took this angel

**twenty-one days** to break through and get to Daniel from the day Daniel started praying. Now you have at least one explanation for why it took God so long to answer some of your prayers. Maybe an angel assigned to answer your prayer was tied up in a heavenly conflict! Now I know this may sound new to your ears but look what this does to your whole view of history and its movements and prayer and its involvement in history. It opens a window to another dimension of involvement that is just as real as the dimension you were already aware of and a very powerful dimension as well. There is a heavenly conflict waging behind the scenes for the hearts and minds of people and for nations.

Verse 14, **Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.** So now, after twenty-one days of prayer the reason for this angel's appearance becomes clear. He is going to give Daniel **understanding** of the **vision** of great conflict. The vision pertains to Daniel's **people**, particularly **in the latter days...days yet future.** Now when we go into Daniel 11 and 12 he starts with Medo-Persia and then Greece's Alexander the Great who rapidly defeated Medo-Persia, but it quickly moves the conflict between the Seleucids and the Ptolemies and comes to Antiochus. After that the vision centers on **the latter days...far future days** when one like unto Antiochus, the anti-Christ, comes to persecute Israel and attempt to take over the world at which time he will come to his end and the remnant of Israel will go into the blessing of the kingdom. The angel is going to explain all of this to Daniel and he is going to understand that he will die before all this takes place but will be resurrected at that time to enter into kingdom blessing.

Verse 15, **When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.** Upon realizing that his people would face more warfare before the kingdom arrived Daniel was struck dumb. He literally could not speak. The current partial restoration to the land under Cyrus and the current rebuilding of the temple would not be the final one, much more conflict was decreed for Daniel's people and upon hearing this I'm sure he felt much like most of us felt this morning upon realizing the direction of our country. He **turned his face toward the ground and became speechless.**

Verse 16 **And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips;** this I take it was the same angel and he touched Daniel's lips which gave him strength to speak. **then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, "O my lord,"** as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. I take it that Daniel is still reeling from the earlier vision of the Son of Man and he is having a difficult time composing himself for the angels explanation. Verse 17, **For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord?** Daniel is astonished that this angel can speak to his ultimate Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ because his merely seeing Him has completely exhausted him. And so I think **Lord** in verse 17 should be capitalized whereas in verse 16 when he addresses the angel as **lord** I think it's just a title of respect, something like our "sir." Verse 18, **Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me.** He's trying to help Daniel regain his composure so he can receive the explanation of the vision.

Verse 19, **He said, "O man of high esteem,"** and here I want to comment on Daniel's character once more. Daniel is referred to as a man of high esteem three times in the book and it points to God's evaluation of Daniel. Daniel was not sinless but Daniel was a man after God's own heart. He was sensitive to his sin and confessed it accordingly. He was humble and fasted and prayed accordingly. He was a man of the word of God and he studied to show himself approved. Therefore God was interested in answering this man's prayers. God is not answering all believers' prayers. There are conditions for answered prayer. Just as an example, James says you must have right motives; Jesus says you must abide in His words; James says you must ask without doubting. There are many conditions we must meet for God to answer our prayers. Daniel met those conditions. Daniel was a **man of high esteem.** So the angel was sent to answer and he says in verse 19, **do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!** And that is what I say to you with respect to the course of our nation; **do not be afraid, peace be with you, take courage** and perhaps most importantly, **be courageous!** That was the angel's counsel in light of the fearful things that awaited his nation. So I give you the same counsel in this hour of our nation knowing that fearful things are coming, **do not be afraid,** you know in whom you have believed and that He is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think.

Middle of verse 19, **Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”** Daniel is now prepared for the explanation, his composure has been restored. Speak. Verse 20, **Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold the prince of Greece is about to come.** The angel reveals that his mission is to go back and continue fighting with this demon and that it will not be long before this demon is defeated and another demon that is assigned to Greece will come and then he will be engaged in fighting him. There are awesome battles currently waging in the heavenlies over political influence in nations. And when a nation rejects God it is a welcome doormat for evil spirits to gain a foothold and direct it's evil rulers.

**However,** the angel says, **I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth.** Before he goes he will reveal what is written in the decrees of God concerning the great warfare that is going to impact Israel. **Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.** Now here it is revealed that the warfares that are stirred up against Israel are ultimately stirred up by demons. All the anti-Semitism that results in hatred and military attacks on Israel is being caused by demons inciting world leaders to commit evil against Israel. And there is no one but this angel and **Michael** the archangel who stand against them. Daniel 11:1 and this should connect with Daniel 10, there is no chapter break here, the angel is still speaking and the angel says, **In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him.** That is, this angel **arose to be an encouragement and a protection for Michael** so that these two angels are protecting and guarding Israel. Verse 2, **And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches** and so forth, the angel goes on to explain the vision such that Daniel understands and we'll be looking at that explanation in Daniel 11 and 12 in the coming weeks.

Now, in conclusion what can we learn from this chapter. There are many, many lessons here. First, God answers prayer. Some things in history are even conditioned on human prayer. And thus if humans didn't pray they wouldn't happen. Of course God also prompts men to pray. Second, God

considers the character of the man praying. And it's the prayer of a "righteous man" that availeth much. Daniel was a man of high esteem and when these kinds of men pray it gets God's attention. It makes you wonder how many men of high esteem are in our country today praying. In the end, there are conditions that man must meet for answered prayer. And God is not interested in answering the prayers of believers who aren't interested in Him. Daniel was interested and therefore God listened to his prayers and answered them. Third, don't be discouraged. Daniel was discouraged when he saw the future wars impacting his nation but the angel gave him counsel saying, do not be afraid, peace be with you; take courage and be courageous. We need to be courageous, we need courageous leadership. We need men who will stand up for truth and not be afraid of the powers that be! Fourth, God answers some prayers through angels. He doesn't always do this but God sent an angel to Daniel to reveal the meaning of the vision. Hebrews says angels are ministering spirits sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation. Fifth, some delayed answers to prayer are due to angelic conflicts in the air space over the nation. Unanswered prayer may not be due to a wrong request but a wrong timing of the request and at the proper time, when the good angel wins the field then you'll get your answers. Sixth, and most importantly, there are great angelic conflicts going on in the heavenlies for the hearts and minds of people and nations. It took the angel twenty-one days to reach Daniel. There is much more to history than meets the eye. And I think we have to walk away from this chapter understanding the intense demonic activity that is released within a nation when a nation and its leaders turn away from God. The chief consequence of which is turning against Israel, partaking of evil intent and malicious warfare against Israel. At the same time there can be good influence from good angels if the leaders turn to God. As in the case of Cyrus the Persian who was highly influenced by Daniel. He was influenced positively by an angel when he permitted the Jews to go back to their land and rebuild the temple. God said of Cyrus, "He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire." I would say that a good angel stirred up Lord Balfour who was committed to Israel and the Scriptures to write up the Balfour Declaration in 1917 making provision for Israel to go back to their Promised Land. And I would say Harry Truman who was an avid student of Israel was stirred up by a good angel when he was the first to recognize the new State of Israel on May 14, 1948. Truman made a remarkable statement to a number of Jewish dignitaries in New York's Theological Seminary when his long-time associate, Eddie Jacobson

introduced Truman as “...the man who helped create the State of Israel.” Truman then exclaimed, “What do you mean, ‘helped to create’? I am Cyrus. I am Cyrus.”<sup>iii</sup> Today only if our president would be a Cyrus we could be enjoying the blessing of God. But as it is we are coming under the cursings. May God raise up courageous men who will lead this country back to Him and to the love of Israel.

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<sup>i</sup> Paul Benware, *Daniel's Prophecy of Things to Come*, p 221-22.

<sup>ii</sup> **lord** is an address of respect, something like our “sir.”

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.kavehfarrokh.com/cyrus-the-great/president-harry-s-truman-i-am-cyrus/>

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