

“受苦神学：属灵争战 (5)” (以弗所书 6:10-13; 但以理书第 10 章)

- ※ 在真理和当代文化的讨论专栏里, Jim Denison 说: 政府和社会越来越压制宗教 - 特别是有关基督教的观点、信念和代表性的符号。譬如,
- 挪去十诫的石碑、十字架, 和圣诞节马槽的摆设; 最近: 美国邮政局宣布今年不再发行以宗教节日主题的新邮票… 很明显的, 这是要把 “宗教从公众场合完全赶出去” 的作法”。不知道你是否会想:

这样敌对基督教的仇恨源自何处?

- ※ 如果你是个军人: 要被差到阿富汗, 或叙利亚/伊拉克的前线 - 若你还不醒觉处境的危险, 那就实在太愚蠢了。你可以正面看得见、向你放枪的敌人, 远不及那些藏在暗处、你看不见的敌人来得更危险。对信徒来说, 也是如此。圣经告诉我们:

虽然我们活在一个眼睛可以看见的物质境界里,

然而另有一个眼睛看不见、却同样实在, 环绕我们四周的属灵境界

- ※ 彼得, 或许在回想耶稣被钉十字架的事件, 在彼得前书 5 章勉励教会的长老和信徒:

- 正如耶稣把毛巾围在腰间来洗门徒的脚, 门徒 “也要… 彼此以谦卑为装束因为神敌挡骄傲的人, 赐恩给谦卑的人” (v 5)
- 也正如耶稣, 在他被当局逮捕之前, 曾经在客西马尼园祷告时警告门徒要 “警醒祷告、免得进入试探”, 彼得提醒门徒:

“⁸... 要谨守、警醒: 你们的仇敌魔鬼, 好像吼叫的狮子走来走去, 寻找可以吞吃的人。⁹ 你们要用坚强的信心抵挡他, 因为知道你们在世上的弟兄, 也经历过同样的苦难” (vv 8-9)
- 看不见的撒旦和它的邪灵在地上很活跃的工作、要藉着苦难和迫害来打败门徒。故此, 门徒要谨守、警醒, 以谦卑依赖神的信心, 来抵挡仇敌魔鬼

- ※ 上次信息: 和大家谈论到 “道成肉身” 的奥秘和救主受苦的奥秘… 首先: “道成肉身” 的奥秘在 OT 中, 神所设定 “近亲代赎” 的规矩里应验了… 救赎主必须要成为人、与人类认同
- 其次: 我们救主受苦的奥秘, 不但是为了买赎人类的罪、要成为完美

的祭物,而他整个做人的经历、让他能够明白门徒受苦的感受,特别是当他们为基督受苦的感受

- 以前信息中也提到过,受苦的源头出自撒旦与神的冲突.今天:

从眼睛看不见的境界之冲突、

来帮助我们对基督徒受苦和逼迫有更深一层的认识

I. 假设有一个人住在荒山野岭: 由于受到地方、距离的限制,他对外界发生的事情不能知晓. 不过,如果他有一个好的接收器、他能够收到从空中声波远处传播过来的新闻. 人类也是这样… 我们对物质世界许多事情的知觉、认识已经相当受局限了,那就更不必提属灵的境界了;若要能够知道属灵界的事,必须要来自启示. 在 OT/Daniel 10,

我们稍为可以看到一些、在眼不可见之境界里的属灵争战

※ 但以理书的作者但以理是一个犹太人, 著写的时间约是公元前第六世纪的中叶. 当巴比伦王尼布甲尼撒在公元前 605 年攻破耶路撒冷时, 他还在少年时期就被放逐到巴比伦. 许多年后, 波斯王古列于公元前 539 年打败巴比伦帝国, 但以理就在波斯政权之下生活

- 那时, 但以理看到神藉着先知耶利米多年前预告的应许得以实现: 神感动了波斯王允许被放逐的犹太人可以从巴比伦回归耶路撒冷. 虽然但以理可能因年纪老迈、而不能回家乡, 那些回去的犹太人开始重造圣殿, 耶路撒冷人口增加, 全国好象有太平的迹象. 但是…

但以理却从神得到一个关于以色列大战争的启示

- 身为一个爱国的犹太人, 但以理禁食祷告、悲伤了三个星期, 等候神澄清这个有关他犹太人同胞命运的信息…

※ 21 天后, 天使, 可能是迦百列 - 他曾经在 8:16 被神差遣到但以理那儿传讯, 现在再次向但以理显现. 迦百列对他说, “¹¹…大蒙眷爱的但以理啊! 你应当留意我要对你说的话”. 又说, “¹²…自从你第一天决心要明白这些事, 又在你的神面前谦卑自己, 你祷告的话已蒙垂听了; 我就是因你祷告的话而来的.” ¹³但波斯国的护卫天使拦阻我二十一天; 后来有护卫天使长中的一位米迦勒来帮助我, 我就留他在那里, 和波斯众王在一起. ¹⁴现在我来是要使你明白日后所要发生在你的同胞

身上的事，因为这异象是关于将来许多的年日的…”

- ※ 从迦百列的话里，我们看到一件非常奇妙的解释、就是为什么但以理的祷告要等 21 天神才回答。事实上，但以理一开始禁食祷告，神已经差派迦百列传信息给他了，但是迦百列被波斯国的护卫天使阻扰、耽搁了。这个护卫天使… 显然是一个职位很高、被撒旦指派到波斯国的邪灵。为了要阻挡迦百列把信息传给但以理，这个波斯国的护卫邪灵就攻击迦百列，争斗了三个礼拜、一直到神的护卫天使长中的一位米迦勒来参与和波斯国的护卫邪灵的争战，迦百列才能够离开、到但以理这儿来传达有关以色列的将来之事
- 信息是关于以色列和她周围的国家战争的详细预言启示，一直到以色列的平安之王降临后、才再得到的真和平。此外，迦百列在 vv 20-21 说，“²⁰… 现在我要回去和波斯的护卫天使作战…

我一离去，希腊的护卫天使就要来。但你知道我为什么到你这里来吗？

²¹ 我来是要把那记录在真理书上的事告诉你…”

- 迦百列 “要把那记录在真理书上的事告诉但以理”。真理书是什么？很可能是关乎神普遍的记载，这儿则是指神对以色列的计划：首先，

是在短期内在波斯和希腊帝国将要成就的事件 (11:2-35)，其次是长期、后未来要成就的事件：包括灾难时期 (11:36-45)，和千禧年国度 (12:1-4)

- ※ 从历史来看：以色列曾经被四个外邦帝国统治过…

巴比伦，玛代-波斯，希腊和罗马

- 从时间年代来看，但以理的放逐是在公元前第七世纪后期到第六世纪中期，前两个帝国巴比伦、波斯的朝代。在但以理死后，希腊在亚历山大大帝于公元前 334 年到 330 年征服小亚细亚，叙利亚，埃及和玛代-波斯后，才开始兴起、成为世界极的帝国，然后罗马于公元前 63 年打败希腊、成为第四个帝国。但以理在世著写这本但以理书时，希腊和罗马还没有出现！这是神特别的启示！

- 请留意 v 20 节的记载: 在迦百列告诉但以理信息之后, 他还要回去和波斯国的护卫邪灵作战, 并且要打败它。然后希腊的护卫天使、邪灵 - 另一个被撒旦指派的邪灵要来。这里我们看到,

在外邦帝国的背后, 有一群被撒旦指派的邪灵, 在抵挡、对抗神的计划

II. 能够知道一些关于属灵冲突、争战的事是挺有趣味的, 但是属灵的争战对你、我又有什么意义? 我们学到的功课如下:

第一: 从记载的天使-邪灵冲突, 我们可见撒旦的能力很大。有许多邪灵听从它 - 就是那些和它一起背叛神的堕落天使, 他们要推翻神的旨意。自从神宣布将有一位 “女人的后裔” 要来作 “人类的救主” 之后, 撒旦用尽方法来消灭义人的后裔、要令神的应许落空:

- 义人亚伯被该隐谋杀, 但是… 神另立了一位塞特、来取代亚伯
- 后来撒旦败坏人类的道德, 但是… 神却在普世性的洪水里保存了挪亚和他的全家
- 亚伯拉罕被神选召, 但是没有儿子… 一直到他一百岁时、自己不能生孩子了, 神才赐下以撒
- 埃及法老王想要灭绝以色列人, 他下令淹死新生希伯来男婴, 但是… 神挽回了摩西, 把他放在法老王女儿的手下抚养成人; 结果摩西把以色列从埃及的奴役之下拯救出来, 而摩西的继承人约书亚、带领以色列进入神的应许之地
- 在神拣选大卫做救主弥赛亚的祖先之后, 以色列因对神不忠贞而被放逐到巴比伦。到了波斯的朝代, 恶人哈曼设计谋要除灭在波斯所有被放逐的犹太人, 但是… 神早就预备了一位美貌出众的犹太女子、后来成为以斯帖皇后。以斯帖揭发、并且除去哈曼的阴谋, 因此保存了犹太人不致灭种
- 在希律大帝时代: 因希律忌妒、要除灭 “犹太人的王”, 而谋杀了许多伯利恒的婴儿。但是… 神吩咐约瑟, 马利亚和耶稣离开, 逃脱撒旦的计划、要除去 “女人的后裔” - 就是弥赛亚耶稣

- 当犹太领袖藉罗马政府杀死耶稣，撒旦的计划似乎成功了。但是神却在第三天将耶稣从死里复活。因耶稣的死，反倒成全了神永恒救赎人类的计划
- 当基督在十字架上之死、偿还了人类的罪，撒旦终于知道、它已彻底失败。但它把愤怒转向教会，要想用逼迫的手段来压制门徒、来减少教会广传福音的果效。从罗马帝国时代开始，通过政府的政策、或文化潮流的影响来迫害教会，直到今天。但是当神的子民愿意为基督受苦时，撒旦的阴谋就不得逞，而神的旨意越发扩张、兴旺…

※ 每当门徒看到政府，报章媒介，工作场合和当代文化敌对我们的时候，我们需要张开信心的眼睛来认清：敌对神的子民基本上是出自灵界中的邪灵势力，因为它们掌控了世界上的国家，州，城市和社区发生的大、小事件。当门徒一旦立志委身于寻求和遵行神的旨意，从魔鬼和它的邪灵同伙来的攻击也更激烈。但是如果门徒忠于神的召唤… 神必定会差遣帮助、并且通过他的子民来完成他的旨意

第二：当门徒受到不公平的苦难，不论来自政府也好，或出自那些反对基督教信仰的人苦待也好… 受苦的信徒很容易忘记、在逼迫他们之人背后的真正邪恶势力。使徒保罗对属灵争战的认识很清楚。在以弗所书 6:10-13，他说：“¹⁰ 最后，你们要靠主的大能大力，在他里面刚强。

¹¹ 要穿戴神所赐的全副军装，使你们能抵挡魔鬼的诡计。¹² 因为我们的争战，对抗的不是有血有肉的人，而是执政的、掌权的、管辖这黑暗世界的和天上的邪灵。¹³ 所以要穿起神所赐的全副军装，使你们在这邪恶的时代里可以抵挡得住，并且在作完了一切之后，还能站立得稳”

- 保罗知道真正的战争乃是在看不见的属灵境界如火如荼的激烈进行。地上发生的事、只不过是天上境界战争、满溢出来的事而已。当门徒在受人逼迫之下挣扎的时候，要记得：真正的敌人不是在地上逼迫他们的人；这样，信徒就可以更加预备好去宽恕、去为他们的敌人祷告，并且向他们分享福音

第三，我们真正的敌人不是血肉之体，故此：我们不能凭自己的力量与它们抗衡。由于撒旦能力很强大，信徒要有两方面的准备、才能抵挡它…

- 信徒必须 “靠主的大能大力, 在他里面刚强”, 每天与神交往亲近, 与神密切同行
- 信徒必须 “穿戴神所赐的全副军装”. 在 Eph 6:14-20 – 两次提到神的军装:

⇒ 真理 – 明白神的话; 公义 – 做神的事工; 预备平安的福音 – 随时

准备作见证; 信心 – 胜过怀疑、疑惑; 救恩 – 肯定永恒的归宿... 这些主要都是防守的武器

⇒ 攻击的武器包括: 圣灵的匕首 – 能够正确运用神的话、近身搏斗; 祷告的权柄. 要记得, 神回应祷告, 就象他回应但以理的祷告一样

※ 反思. 从今天的消息, 学到: 基督徒正参与属灵的争战, 也有一点认识属灵的敌人. 不过, 希望没有人在离开前认为基督徒 “疑神疑鬼” 专喜欢讲一些看不见的属灵境界的事. 一方面, 我们固然相信却有属灵的境界, 因为圣经是这么说, 而且神话语的真实性 – 特别是但以理书, 证实它在对未来外邦帝国历史的记载实在准确. 另一方面, 我们不是神经质的整天不顾正事, 只是 “疑神疑鬼”

※ 我们都听到过 “真基督教会得罪人”, 我们所处的世界似乎很容易被我们的信仰得罪. 基督教的历史中有很多例子、看到一群群的男女信徒为了他们对罪的立场, 以及他们对宣告耶稣的救恩、因此殉道 – 这些事的起因是属灵的冲突. 虽然如此, 要记得:

我们正参与属灵的争战, 而且... 我们已在得胜的一方!

- 许多今天听到信息的人大多数不至于会殉道而死. 最多不过... 被人排斥, 受不公平待遇, 被耻笑和经历一些不便而已. 不要惧怕他们

虽然我们不惧怕人, 我们却是为他们害怕

※ 我们为他们犯罪要承担的后果忧伤... 后果是永恒的. 世界上的人或许不喜欢我们的信息; 但是我们是神的传讯人, 因此必须要继续爱世界上的人: 要以爱心说实话 (Ephesians 4:15)

你是否爱**丧失的人**到一个地步,愿意以恩慈和谦卑、
去告诉他们入门之路… 引领他们找到神呢?

“The Theology of Suffering: Spiritual Warfare (5)” (Ephesians 6:10-13; Daniel 10)

In his forum on **Truth & Culture**, Jim Denison quoted Mark Sharp, legal counsel for the **Alliance for Defense of Freedom**, that we’re seeing more & more, a government/society that’s **Silencing & Censoring of Religious Views, Beliefs & Symbols**, Specifically, if not almost Exclusively, against **Christianity**. Think about the **Removal of 10 Commandments Statues, Crosses**, & display of **Nativity Scenes**, now the **US Postal Service** announced that it’ll not offer new religiously themed holiday stamps this yr. This is clearly a “part of the effort to **completely drive religion out of the public square**”. But do U ever wonder, **where does that Animosity Originate?** **Where do these Attacks come from?**

If a soldier is sent to **Afghanistan**, or **Syria/Iraq** for military duty, it’d be **Foolish** to not be **Fully Aware of the Threat** that he’s in. The **Enemies** that he sees directly firing at him, are **Not** nearly as **Dangerous** as those that are **Lurking** at places where he does not see them. So it is w/**Blv’rs**. The Bible informs us that, while we live & move in the **Visible Physical Realm**, there’s an **Unseen Spiritual Realm** around us that’s just as **Real**. **Peter**, perhaps recalling the events that led to **Jesus’ Crucifixion**, exhorted both the **Elders & Blv’rs** in the **CH** in **1 Peter 彼得前书 5 章** this way: 1st, just as **Jesus** wrapped a **Towel** around His waist to wash the disciples’ feet, **Blv’rs** are to “**clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble** 你们各人也要彼此以谦卑为装束, 因为神敌挡骄傲的人, 赐恩给谦卑的人 ” (v 5). Then: just as **Jesus**, before His **Arrest** by the **Authority**, had **Warned** the **Disciples** to “**Watch & Pray lest they Fall into Temptation**” when He **Prayed in Gethsemane**, **Peter** reminded the **Blv’rs** to “**Be Self-controlled and Alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**” **Resist him, standing firm in the faith**, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of **Sufferings** 你们要谨守、警醒。你们的仇敌魔鬼, 好像吼叫的狮子走来走去, 寻找可以吞吃的人。你们要用坚强的信心抵挡他, 因为知道你们在世上的弟兄, 也经历过同样的苦难 ” (vv 8-9). The **Invisible Satan & his demons** are active in the world to **Defeat Blv’rs** thru the means of **Suffering & Persecution**. Hence, **Blv’rs** must be **Self-controlled & Alert** 你们要谨守、警醒, **Resist the devil by Relying on the Lord thru Humility & Stand Firm in the Faith** 以谦卑依赖神的信心, 来抵挡仇敌魔鬼.

In the last Msg, I attempted to show 2 Things: 1st, the **Mystery of Incarnation** was the **Fulfillment of the Kinsman-Redemption Principle** that **God** has decreed in the **OT**, that the **Redeemer must ID w/Mankind**. 2ndly, the **Mystery of Suffering of our Savior** is such that He not only Served to be the **Perfect Sacrifice for the Sins of Mankind**, but that His **entire Experience as a Man** allows Him to **Understand the Blvrs’ Suffering**, esp when they are **Suffering for Christ**. I had previously mentioned that, **Suffering Originates from the Conflict btw’n Satan & God**. Today, I want to take a closer look at this **Conflict in the Unseen World**, & see how that could clarify our understanding on the subject of **Suffering & Persecution**.

I. **Revelation of the Spiritual World**. Supposing a person lives in an **Isolated** location, his **Ability to Know** what’s going on in the world is **Confined** by **Distance**. However, the sound waves in the air can be captured if he has a **Good Receiver**. W/it, he’ll be able to listen to **Music & News** that are broadcast from afar. As humans, we’re very **Limited in our Perception** of many things in this **Physical World**, let alone the things in the **Spiritual World**. Thus, a **Real Understanding** of the happenings in the **Spiritual World** will have to come to us by **Revelation**. In the **OT** book of **Daniel, chapter 10**, we’re given a few glimpses of the **Spiritual Warfare in the Unseen Realm**.

The time was around the middle of 6th Cent BC, **Daniel 但以理**, a Jewish man who was taken to **Babylon** as a young teen when **Jerusalem** was leveled by the **Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar** now

lived under the **Rule of Cyrus, King of Persia 波斯王古列**, after the **Babylonian Empire** was overthrown. At the time, **Daniel 但以理** had witnessed **God's Faithfulness in His Promise** thru the **Prophet Jeremiah** many yrs ago: **God** moved the heart of the **Persian King 波斯王** to allow the **Jewish Exiles** to **Return** from **Babylon** to **Jerusalem**. While **Daniel 但以理** did not return w/the **Exiles** perhaps b/c of his age, the **Jews** who did had begun **Rebuilding the Temple**, **Jerusalem** was being reoccupied, & the nation seemed to be at **Peace**. Then **Daniel** was given a **Vision** where **God Revealed** that the nation would be involved in many **Conflicts** **但以理从神得到一个关于一场大战争的启示**. As a deeply **Patriotic Jew**, **Daniel Fasted for 3 Weeks in Mourning**, & **Waited On God in Prayer** concerning his people's **Destiny** 身为一个**爱国的犹太人**, **但以理禁食祷告**、**悲伤了三个星期**, **等候神澄清**这个有关他**犹太人同胞命运**的信息。

After 21 days, a **Messenger** – probably the **Angel Gabriel** who was previously sent by **God** to reveal Truth to **Daniel** in **8:16**, appeared to **Daniel 但以理**, & he was terrified. **Gabriel** then said to him, “¹¹ ... Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you: **大蒙眷爱的但以理啊! 你应当留意我要对你说的话**”. Then he continued 他又说, “¹² ... Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come... ¹² ... 自从你第一天决心要明白这些事, 又在你的神面前谦卑自己, 你祷告的话已蒙垂听了; 我就是因你祷告的话而来的. ¹³ 但波斯国的护卫天使拦阻我二十一天; 后来有护卫天使长中的一位米迦勒来帮助我, 我就留他在那里, 和波斯众王在一起. ¹⁴ 现在我来是要使你明白日后所要发生在你的同胞身上的事, 因为这异象是关于将来许多的年日的... ” In **Gabriel's** words, we learn about a most **Amazing Explanation** of why it took **21 Days** for **God** to answer to **Daniel's Prayer**. As soon as **Daniel** began **Fasting/Mourning**, **God** had dispatched **Gabriel** w/a Msg for him, but **Gabriel** was **Hindered** by the **King/Prince of the Persian Kingdom 波斯国的护卫天使**, the **Prince** referred to here clearly is a **High Ranking Demonic Adversary Assigned to Persia**. To **Prevent Gabriel's Msg** from getting to **Daniel**, the **Demonic Prince Attacked Gabriel**, & the battle cont'd for **3 weeks** until **Michael**, one of the **Chief Princes** of the **Angelic Realm**, came to **Gabriel's** assistance to **Engage** in **the battle w/the Prince of Persia 波斯国的护卫天使**. **Gabriel** was then freed to bring the Msg to **Daniel** concerning the **Future of Israel**. The Msg was a **Detailed Prophetic Revelation** of the **Warfare btw'n Israel & her neighbors** until **Israel** is given **Peace by the Coming Prince of Peace**. Moreover, **Gabriel** said in vv 20-21, “²⁰ ... Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; ²¹ but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth ²⁰ ... 现在我要回去和波斯的护卫天使作战; 我一离去, 希腊的护卫天使就要来. 但你知道我为什么到你这里来吗? ²¹ 我来是要把那记录在真理书上的事告诉你...” **Gabriel** was to tell **Daniel** the Msg concerning “what is written in the Book of Truth 要把那记录在真理书上的事告诉你”. What is the **Book of Truth 真理书**? It was probably **God's record of Truth in general**, but the specific Msg here was about **God's Plans for Israel** – 1st under **Persia & Greece (11:2-35)**, & later in the **Time of Tribulation (11:36-45)** & the **Millennium (12:1-4)** – the latter two are to happen yet in the **Future**. From history, we know that, **Israel** was subjected to the rule of **4 Gentile Empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece & Rome**. Chronologically speaking, **Daniel** was in exile under the **1st 2 Empires** in the late 7th to mid-6th Century BC. **Greece** became a **World Empire** much later during the time of Alexander when he conquered **Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, & Medo-Persian Empire** btw'n 334 & 330 BC. The interesting bit of info in v 20 is that, after **Gabriel** tells **Daniel** the Msg, he'll

return to **Fight & Defeat** the **Prince of Persia 波斯国的护卫天使**, & then the **Prince of Greece 希腊的护卫天使** – another **High Ranking Demonic Representative of Satan**, will come. Apparently, behind all of these **Gentile Empires** are **Powerful Demonic Adversaries** assigned by **Satan** to **Oppose God's Plan**.

II. To be informed of these **Spiritual Conflict** may be interesting, but what do they **Mean** to us? The lessons for us are as follows: 1st, such **Angelic-Demonic Conflict** indicates the **Power of Satan**. He has many **Demons – Fallen Angels who Rebelled Against God** w/him, under his authority, & he's **Fighting Hard to Thwart God's Purpose**. Ever since **God's** announcement of a coming **Savior** as the "**Seed of Woman**" at the time of the **Fall**, **Satan** tried to **Annihilate** the **Lineage of the Righteous Chosen by God to Fulfill this Promise**. The **Righteous Abel** was **Murdered by Cain**, but **God** raised up **Seth**. Later **Satan Corrupted** almost the entire Mankind, but **God Preserved Noah & his family of 8 in the Worldwide Flood**. **Abraham** was **Chosen by God**, but he was **Childless**, until **God** gave him a son, **Isaac**, when he's **100**, & **Unable** to produce an child. The **Egyptian Pharaoh** tried to **Eliminate** the **Hebrew Nation** by ordering the **Drowning of their Newborn baby boys** but **God** spared **Moses**, & ironically placed **Moses** under the **Guardianship of Pharaoh's Daughter**. **Moses** became the **Deliverer of Israel** from the **Bondage of Egypt**, & **Joshua** succeeded **Moses** to lead the **Israelites** into the **Promised Land**. After **God Chose David** to be one **thru whom the Messiah** was to come, the **Chosen people** was **Exiled** from their homeland to **Babylon** b/c of their **Rebelliousness against the Lord**. Then there came a plot during the Persian Reign by **Evil Haman**, to **Annihilate** the **Jews** in all of **Persia**, but **God** prepared a young **Jewish Girl** who would be **Queen Esther**, to **Defeat Haman's Scheme & Preserved the Jews**. At the time of **Herod the Great**, he heard the news of the **Birth of the "King of the Jews"**, & he ordered the **Murder** of all the babies under 2-yr-olds in **Bethlehem**, but **God** told **Joseph & Mary** to leave w/the young **Jesus**, & escaped **Satan's plan to Remove** the "**Seed of Woman**" – even the **Messiah Jesus**. That plan would appear to have **Succeeded** when the **Jewish Authority Killed Jesus** by the hand of the **Romans**, but **God Raised Jesus** from the **Dead** on the 3rd day. Now He's awaiting the **Right Time to Return to earth as the Righteous Judge & King**. As **Satan** realized that he's **Totally Defeated** when **Christ Died** & paid for the **Sins of Mankind on the Cross**, he now wants to **Score** some **Victories** in the **Battles against the CH**, & minimize the **CH's Effectiveness in Spreading the Gospel**. So he **Chose to Oppress the Blv'rs thru Governments** since the days of the **Roman Empire**, or thru **Negative Cultural Influence** to **Suppress the CH** until today. However, whenever **God's People** withstood the **Persecution** by their **Willingness to Suffer for Christ's Sake**, **God's Purpose** was **Advanced** even more. When **Blv'rs** see **Oppositions** from the **Gov, Culture, Media & Workplace**, let's use our **Faith's Eye** to recognize that, the **Oppositions** are fundamentally **Directed** against **God's people** by **Powerful Demonic Spirits** that are controlling the affairs of each of the **Countries** in the **World**, & the **States, Cities & even Communities**. The more **Blv'rs** are **Committed to seek & do God's Will**, the more **Attacks** will come from the **Evil One & its Cohorts**. But if **Blv'rs** remain **Faithful to God's Calling**, we'll have **No Fear!** **God** will send help to **Accomplish His Will thru His people**.

2ndly, when **Blv'rs Suffer Unjustly** either by the **Laws of the Governments**, or the **Mistreatment** by those who **Oppose the Faith**, it's easy to **Lose Sight of the Real Forces of Evil Behind the Scene**. The **Apostle Paul** was **Acute** on the matter of **Spiritual Warfare**. In **Eph 以弗所书 6:10-13**, he said: "¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand" ¹⁰最后,你们要靠主的大能大力,在他里面刚强. ¹¹要穿戴神所赐的全副军装,使

你们能抵挡魔鬼的诡计。¹² 因为我们的争战, 对抗的不是有血有肉的人, 而是执政的、掌权的、管辖这黑暗世界的和天上的邪灵。¹³ 所以要穿起神所赐的全副军装, 使你们在这邪恶的时代里可以抵挡得住, 并且在作完了一切之后, 还能站立得稳”。 Paul knows the **Real War** in the **Unseen Spiritual Realm** is where the **Real Actions** is. What happens here on earth is but a **Spillover** of what is taking place in the **Heavenly 天上 Realms**. As **Blv'rs Struggle** against the **Suffering** they receive from men, they're to remember that the **Real Enemy** is **Not their Earthly Persecutors**. This way, **Blv'rs** can **Forgive & Pray** for their **Enemies**, & be **Ready to Share the Gospel w/them**.

3rdly, Our **Real Enemies** are **Not Flesh & Blood**, therefore we cannot **Engage** them by our **Own Strenght**. Given the **Power of Satan**, **Blv'rs** can only **Withstand** them if we're prepared two ways. 1st, **Blv'rs** must be “**Strong in the Lord & in His Mighty Power 靠主的大能大力, 在他里面刚强**”, we can do that by **Daily Relating to God Intimately**, & **Walking w/Him Closely**. 2ndly, **Blv'rs** must “**Put on the full armor of God 穿戴神所赐的全副军装**”。 In **Eph 6:14-20**, we have the **Well-known Passage** of the **Armor of God**: **Truth** – knowing **God's Word**, **Righteousness** – doing **God's work**, **Prepared w/the Good News of Peace** – being **Ready to Witness**, **Faith** – **Overcoming Doubts**, **Salvation** – having **Certainty** of our **Destiny**. These are primarily **Defensive Weaponry**. On the **Offensive side**, we have the **Sword of the Spirit** – i.e., the **Right Use of the Word of God**, & finally, the **Authority of Prayer**. Remember, **God Answers Prayers** – like He did in **Response to Daniel's Prayer**.

Reflection. In today's Msg, we learned that **Christians** are **Engaging in a Spiritual Warfare**, & we come to know a little about our **Spiritual Enemies**. However, I hope that no one leaves thinking that **Christians** are being **Paranoia** talking about an **Unseen Spiritual Realm**. On the one hand, we believe it b/c the **Bible** says so, & that the **Truth of God's Word** – specifically the book of **Daniel**, has proven to be **Accurate** in its account of the history of the **Gentile Empires**. On the other hand, we're not **Obsessed** w/it – that'll be **Paranoia**.

We've all heard “**True Christianity Offends**”, & the world we live in is **Easily Offended** by what we **Believe**. The **history of Christianity** is full of men & women whose **pronouncements against Sin** and **proclamations of Salvation in Jesus** led them straight to **Martyrdom** – & they're all the result of the **Sp Conflict**. Remember: we're **Engaging in a Spiritual Warfare**, & we're on the **Winning Side**.

Most of those who hear this Msg today will not likely be **Martyred**. The **Worst** we'll **Suffer** may be **Rejection, Injustice, Ridicule & Inconvenience**. Don't **Fear** those whose **Sins** we **Disagree w/**. While we do not **Fear** people, we **Fear** for them. We **Grieve the Consequences of their Sins** which have **Eternal Consequences**. The World may not **Love our Msg**; but as **Messengers**, we must cont to **Love the World**. We must speak the **Truth in Love** (**Ephesians 4:15**). Do you **Love the Lost People Enough** to tell them—**Graciously & Humbly**—how they can find the way to **God**?

“受苦神学：属灵争战 (5)” (但以理书第 10 章；以弗所书 6:10-13)

敌对基督教的仇恨源自何处？

两个境界：看得见的物质境界，和看不见属灵境界

看不见的撒旦和它的邪灵，在世上…正积极的要藉着苦难和逼迫、来击败耶稣基督的门徒

上次信息：“道成肉身”的奥秘，和我们救主受苦的奥秘

受苦的源头出自撒旦与神的冲突…

今天信息：从眼睛看不见的境界之冲突、来帮助我们

对基督徒受苦和逼迫有更深一层的认识

I. 属灵的世界 (但以理书第 10 章)

A. 但以理得到异象：以色列将会牵入一场大战争

B. 天使 - 迦百列，被差遣去向但以理传讯 (10:11)

1. 迦百列被 “波斯国的护卫天使” 阻扰 (10:12-14)

2. 信息：关乎以色列未来的详细预言启示 (10:20-21)

在外邦帝国的背后，有一群被撒旦指派的邪灵，在抵挡、对抗神的计划

II. 属灵的争战对你、我的意义

A. 撒旦和它的邪灵要推翻神的旨意

B. 受苦的信徒不要忘记、在逼迫他们之人背后的真正邪恶势力 (以弗所书 6:10-13)

C. 怎样抵挡我们真正的敌人

1. 靠主的大能大力，在他里面刚强

2. 穿戴神所赐的全副军装 (以弗所书 6:14-20)

反思：不是 “疑神疑鬼”，乃是相信神话语的真实

我们正参与属灵的争战，而且… 我们已在得胜的一方！爱丧失的人到一个地步，愿意以恩慈和谦卑 - 告诉他们入门之路… 引领他们找到神！