

✍ **We live in a physical world but what we don't often consider is that this world is just simply the physical manifestation of a spiritual world and warfare that is going on constantly. The prophecy shifts from what is physical to what is behind the physical. Babylon was and is a physical place but the spiritual forces that are behind it are the most important part of Babylon, Isaiah 14:12. The real power of Babylon no matter who ruled the physical, was this spiritual entity that is pushing the world to rebel against God. From Heaven? When was the literal king of Babylon up there? The Morning star which is equal to Lucifer or "light barer" or "shining one." Genesis 3:1 refers to a serpent, but the form of the word used in this verse also means "shining one" it is not the typical word for serpent, and just because he is better than any beast doesn't mean he is a beast at all. This is not a quaint myth!**

- ✓ The Holy Spirit moves the prophet from the physical and immediate to the immaterial and eternal state of things, Isaiah 14:12-17. Where did sin begin? Satan had fallen prior to Adam and Eve. It began in the heart of Lucifer. Two of the five of Satan's "I will's" of his pride are: I will ascend into heaven, and I will raise my throne above the stars of God. As a result, his destiny is in the pit of hell. There will be a day that we see him and will be amazed at his weakness because all his current power and authority are derived from God, Isaiah 14:16. Ezekiel does the same thing as Isaiah in that he starts with the physical person but then he transfers to the spiritual entity behind the physical, Ezekiel 28:1-10. It's instructive that we find Satan behind the scenes of the powerful nations and cities, so where is he today?
 - ✓ Then Ezekiel shifts gears, Ezekiel 28:11-19. This betrays one of the issues we have with evil, we think that it is ugly, and it is in a literal sense but not in an observable sense, Satan was beautiful and so is sin and evil, the fruit that Adam and Eve ate, was "good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise." "Full of wisdom"? His greatest strength became his greatest weakness through pride, we are no different. What was Peter's strongest suit? Boldness and courage. Where did he fall?, "I will never forsake you even though all the others fall away."
 - ✓ You were "in Eden"?, and you were "Created," Ezekiel 28:13. Seems to indicate that Satan was one of the most elegant creatures that God has ever made. As such, he is not an adversary of God because there is no comparing that which is created to its Creator, no equality or similarity, Satan is our adversary and in every way more than a match for us, but there is no comparing him or us with God. He will be destroyed easily, 2nd Thessalonians 2:8. Understand that God is just allowing him to exist and do the things that he does. "You were the anointed cherub who covers," Ezekiel 28:14. He was given authority to operate a particular position. We are only shown 5 Cherubim in the Bible: the four that surround the throne of God and Satan. They are around the throne sort of like the palace guard or master of arms, in a sense. He was perfect?, "You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you", Ezekiel 28:15. What lies behind these thrones is something the eye cannot see but has to be seen and known in order to understand what is really going on.
 - ✓ Notice, as in the case of Isaiah's and Ezekiel's visions of God. Daniel and his men were not elated to see this vision, it was terrifying!, Daniel 10:4-11. What was this?, Daniel 10:12-13. Did a physical being resist the spirit being for 21 days? Kings and princes don't just refer to people: Ephesians 6:12. This is a very real, albeit, invisible warfare. So, behind the physical king of Persia was a spirit being who was really calling the shots, so, what should we expect is behind all the world's leaders? If it is not the Spirit of God then it is another spirit to be sure.
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- ✓ Daniel 10:15-21 is very informative! What part did Daniel's prayer and fasting play in all of this? This messenger (that is what the word "angel" means) went through warfare to bring Daniel the content of his next two chapters. Then he tells Daniel that he has to go back and fight the prince of Greece, note that Greece doesn't show up on the scene to take over Persia for another 200 years! Why fight? What is he keeping from happening? Why if they knew that the Messiah would be born from the Jews did they not wipe the Jews out? Satan complains to God that he can't touch Job because God had protected him Job 1:10 – what was that fence or hedge?
- ✓ In the book of Jude verses 8 and 9 false teachers is the theme, "speak evil of Majesties," the example is the dignity of Satan that Michael wouldn't rail against. If Michael wouldn't dare do that then why would we? Satan has a God-given right to do what he does because we asked for it by choosing sin and, thus, the king of sin, he's not out of place. Neither are those out of place who serve him, you don't like the president, great, but don't bring a railing accusation against him, he's God's appointed ruler (for judgment on our bad choices and turning our back on God).
- ✓ Two big errors that we can fall into concerning Satan:
 - 1) We ignore him and what he does and that we are at war with him for the souls of men. He would love for us to think of him as some myth or personification of evil or wrong and not as a sentient being.
 - 2) We overemphasize him,, fear him and see him behind ever bush. As is says in 1st John 4:1-4 we have to be in Christ and of God, because the One who is in us is greater than him.

Be strong in the Lord, not in ourselves, in the power of His might, not our might, Ephesians 6:11-15. He would love for us to undertake something in our own strength! Flesh and blood is not our real problem, dying for Jesus is far easier than living for Him. As in Daniel "powers and principalities," ranks of angels that are on the dark side of things. Gird yourself with truth, the word and He who is the Word. Righteousness?, Jesus' righteousness is the only thing that protects; don't believe in your own righteousness. Be feet prepared with the gospel, equipped to tell the truth. Be shielded by faith, let it be stretched, let it be tried and tested, because this will strengthen your faith which is what you will need for what's coming.
