COVERT OPERATIONS

"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 future." Dan. 10:14

"For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord; and because of these detestable things the Lord your God will drive them out before you. For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so." Deut. 18:12-14

GOD'S MESSAGE:

1. CAME TO A MAN WHO WAS <u>SERIOUS</u> IN <u>PRAYER</u>. Vs. 1-3

"In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and has an understanding of the vision." vs. 1 "In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all, until the entire three weeks were completed." vs. 2-3

"Thus says the Lord, 'Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me?...But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word." Isa. 66:1-2

2. ORIGINATED WITH THE <u>RIGHTEOUS JUDGE</u>. Vs. 4-9

"And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I 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. His 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." vs. 4-6 "Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength." vs. 7-8

"But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground." vs. 9

3. WAS DELIVERED DESPITE <u>GREAT CONFLICT</u>. Vs. 10-14

"Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. And he 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.' And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling." vs. 10-11

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." Heb. 13:2

"Then he said to me, 'Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this 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; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia." **us.** 12-13

"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." vs. 14

4. WAS TO BE PROCLAIMED. Vs. 15-19

"And when he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless." vs. 15 "And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; 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. For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me." vs. 15-17

"Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. And he said, 'O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!' Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, 'May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.'" vs. 18-19

5. WOULD ENDURE THROUGH MANY <u>FUTURE</u> <u>CONFLICTS</u>. Vs. 20-21

"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. However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince." vs. 20-21

"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." Rev. 12:12

APPLICATION FOR ME:

Prayer:

*We are called to devotion in prayer.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving." Col. 4:2

"It is healthy for the child of God, who is in the will of God, to know that his prayers are always heard and answered, even though the answer may be a direct one, a delayed one, or a denial." Lehman Strauss The Word of God.

*Wherever the Word of God is proclaimed, great spiritual battles wage.

"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road." Matt. 13:19

*The devil is active in the lives of individuals.

"And the Lord's bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will." 2 Tim. 2:24-26

*Victory is found in Christ.

He defeated the enemy through His death, burial and resurrection.

"...that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives." Heb. 2:14-15

He is our Defender.

"...And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1

He has secured our victory.

"And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand." John 10:28

Nothing can stop His love for you.

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 8:38-39

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