When God Leaves You on Read

In 2014, a Baltic fisherman found an intact message in a bottle. Using the postcard inside, researchers managed to track down the author, Richard Platz, who was twenty years old when he threw the bottle into the sea. Platz had passed away, but they located his granddaughter, Angela Erdmann, and presented the bottle and its contents to her. Though mostly illegible, the message inside asked the finder to return it to Platz’s home address in Berlin. It took over a century for the bottle to finally be delivered.

Our prayers are heard in heaven the moment they’re thought or verbalized. There’s no need to send a message in a bottle, hoping it will get to God sometime in the next century. However, God does not typically reply to us immediately with an audible voice or a text message. Sometimes His answer comes to us through the prayerful application of biblical principles in our thinking and decision-making. Other times, His response may come through fulfillment of a specific prayer. Sometimes the lack of an answer is the answer. God’s answers come in His own time and often in unexpected ways. Whether the wait is short or long, we can be confident that He does hear us and He will respond.

Prayers and intercessions make a profound difference, for they directly impact the supernatural world. As we will see in this week’s primary passage, our prayers may at times spark intense spiritual conflicts that cause delays in God’s response. I hope this week’s Bible study from Daniel 10 will help you better discern the unseen struggle behind our prayers.
Write out Daniel 10 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out verses 12–14. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How can we better learn patience and endurance in prayer?

How does knowing your prayers enable God to do more make you feel? How does it affect your relationship with Him?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC08-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How does knowing that angels fight for, support, and protect us affect your perspective on spiritual warfare?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC08-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Daniel 10?

Other heavenly messengers:
- Daniel 9:20–23
- Revelation 1:10–18

Michael the Archangel:
- Daniel 12:1–3
- Jude 1:9
- Revelation 12:7–9

Resisting the devil:
- Ephesians 6:10–18
- Matthew 4:11

What other verses come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Daniel 10.
Meditate on Daniel 10 again and look for where Jesus is.

What aspects of your life need Prince Michael’s darkness-dispelling presence?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through the text of the week?

Prayer Response:

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC08-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week's study of the passage, what are some personal applications you are convicted of, especially regarding prayer and spiritual warfare?

What are some practical applications you must make in your prayer life as it relates to other people?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/GC08-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Why is it important to persist in prayer even when there seems to be no answer?

How do we discern the difference between God answering our prayers with a “no” versus telling us to wait?

What experiences have you had where God answered your prayer in a different way and time than you expected?

How do intercessory prayers impact the great controversy?

In what ways do angels assist and protect God’s people according to the Bible?

What evidence supports the idea that Michael is a title for Jesus?

Have you ever encountered an angel or experienced divine protection from what would have been certain harm? Please share!

How would you respond to someone who asks why bad things happen to good people?