

# **The Gospel and Culture Part 2:**

## **Angels, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare**

### **Goals of the Series**

- ❖ To submit fully to the teaching from God's Word
- ❖ To discover what God's Word says about modern cultural topics
- ❖ How are we as Christians to engage with each of these topics
- ❖ Become equipped to take the Gospel in the culture
- ❖ Let the Word of God be our ONLY source of authority

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. - 1 John 2:15-17*

*"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church .... Put your finger on any prosperous page in the Church's history, and [you] will find a little marginal note [that says]: 'In this age [people] could readily see where the Church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the Church and the world were joined in marriage with one another." Charles Spurgeon*

### **Goals of this particular night**

- ❖ Have a Biblically based understanding the spiritual realm
- ❖ Discern how we are to relate to angels and demons
- ❖ Understand our role in spiritual warfare
- ❖ Answer controversial questions regarding the church and the spiritual realm

### **Questions/concerns/challenges**

- ❖ Some believers tend to overemphasize the presence and importance of the spiritual realm
- ❖ Some believers tend to ignore or downplay the presence and importance of the spiritual realm
- ❖ Jesus and the disciples seem to cast out demons everywhere they went. Should I or should I not be doing this?

- ❖ “I’ve seen things I can’t explain and can’t find a verse that explains it”

## **The 21st Century Christian Western Worldview of the Spiritual Realm**

- ❖ There is one God.
- ❖ God has His good guys (Angels)
- ❖ There are bad guys (Demons)
- ❖ Demons are angels that sinned at one point
- ❖ Satan was head angel (worship leader) and then rebelled along with one-third of the angels
- ❖ In order to get revenge, Satan turned himself into a snake and tempted Eve with an apple

## **Jewish Worldview in Biblical Times**

- ❖ Multiple gods and divine beings existed
- ❖ One YAHWEH. None like Him
- ❖ The “gods” of other nations were real
- ❖ Other “gods” would “possess” statues or blocks of woods, which were called “idols”
- ❖ YAHWEH existed both in His full form beyond their understanding, as well as a form that they could tangibly see and understand

## **The Divine Realm**

- ❖ From the first day of Creation, YAHWEH is not alone

*Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”*

*Job 38:5-7 - Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? What supports its foundations? Or who laid its cornerstone while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

- ❖ BUT, YAHWEH alone has the power to create

*Gen. 1:27 - So God created man in his own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.*

- ❖ **Who are these divine beings alongside YAHWEH?**

They are spiritual beings without physical bodies.  
*Hebrews 1:14 - Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who are going to inherit salvation?*

The spiritual beings were created by God  
*Psalm 148:2-5 - Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly armies. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded, and they were created.*

Created sometime before the 7th day of creation

*Genesis 2:1 - So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.*

Probably on the first day of creation

*Job 38:6-7 - What supports its foundations? Or who laid its cornerstone while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

*Isaiah 43:10 - No god was formed before me, and there will be none after me.*

Spiritual beings have moral, intellectual and emotional capacities

*2 Peter 2:4 - For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but cast them into hell and delivered them in chains of utter darkness to be kept for judgment*

*1 Peter 1:12 - It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you. These things have now been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.*

*Luke 15:10 - I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents.*

They are powerful

*Psalm 103:20 - Bless the Lord, all his angels of great strength, who do his word, obedient to his command.*

Yet, they are limited in space and knowledge

*Luke 1:26 - In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth*

*Mark 13:32 - Now concerning that day or hour no one knows—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son—but only the Father.*

Spiritual beings are single and will remain unmarried

*Matthew 22:30 - For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.*

They are immortal

*Luke 20:36 - For they can no longer die, because they are like angels and are children of God, since they are children of the resurrection.*

## **❖ Who makes up this divine realm?**

Cherubim

- The highest ranking beings
- The protectors and proclaimers to the glory of God

*Genesis 3:24 - He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.*

*Exodus 25:21-22 - Set the mercy seat on top of the ark and put the tablets of the testimony that I will give you into the ark. I will meet with you there above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the testimony; I will speak with you from there about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.*

Seraphim

- Beings that continually worship the Lord

*Isaiah 6:2-3 - Seraphim were standing above him; they each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth. The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke.*

## Living Creatures

*Revelation 4:6-9 - Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side. The first living creature was like a lion; the second living creature was like an ox; the third living creature had a face like a man; and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come. Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever,*

## The Commander of the Lord's Army

*Joshua 5:13-15 - When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua approached him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied. "I have now come as commander of the Lord's army." Then Joshua bowed with his face to the ground in homage and asked him, "What does my lord want to say to his servant?" The commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did that.*

## Michael, the archangel

*Jude 4 - For some people, who were designated for this judgment long ago, have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.*

*Daniel 10:13 - But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me after I had been left there with the kings of Persia.*

*Revelation 12:7 - Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon.*

## Gabriel, God's messenger

*Daniel 8:16 - I heard a human voice calling from the middle of the Ulai: "Gabriel, explain the vision to this man."*

*Daniel 9:21-22 - while I was praying, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the first vision, reached me in my extreme weariness, about the time of the evening offering. He gave me this explanation: "Daniel, I've come now to give you understanding."*

*Luke 1:26-27 – In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*

Holy/elect angels

*Mark 8:38 - For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

*1 Timothy 5:21 - I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels to observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing out of favoritism.*

The Divine Council

*Job 1:6 - One day the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.*

*Daniel 7:9 - As I kept watching, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat.*

*Psalms 82 - God stands in the divine assembly; He pronounces judgment among the gods*

*1 Kings 22:19 - Then Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing by him at his right hand and at his left hand*

*Isaiah 6:8 - Then I heard the voice of the Lord asking: Who will I send? Who will go for us?*

- Why does God need a divine council?
  - He doesn't. He also doesn't need human beings. But He chooses to work through them

## ❖ Some questions answered:

How many spiritual beings are there?

- Multitudes

*Luke 2:13-14 - Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors!*

- Legions

*Matthew 26:53 - Or do you think that I cannot call on my Father, and he will provide me here and now with more than twelve legions of angels?*

- Many...

*Revelation 5:11 - Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands.*

- A whole lot...

*Daniel 7:10 - A river of fire was flowing, coming out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.*

What do the spiritual beings do?

- Glorify God's name

*Psalm 148:2 - Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly armies.*

- Obey God's will

*Psalm 103:20-22 - Bless the Lord, all his angels of great strength, who do his word, obedient to his command. Bless the Lord, all his armies, his servants who do his will. Bless the Lord, all his works in all the places where he rules. My soul, bless the Lord!*

- Carry out God's plan
  - Administer His judgment

*Acts 12:21-23 - On an appointed day, dressed in royal robes and seated on the throne, Herod delivered a speech to them. The assembled people began to shout, "It's the voice of a god and not of a man!" At once an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give the glory to God, and he was eaten by worms and died.*

- Serve as God's representatives in governing the world

*Zechariah 1:9-11 - I asked, "What are these, my lord?" The angel who was talking to me replied, "I will show you what they are." Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, "They are the ones the Lord has sent to patrol the earth." They reported to the angel of the Lord standing among the myrtle trees, "We have patrolled the earth, and right now the whole earth is calm and quiet."*

- Accomplish God's work

*Matthew 28:2 - There was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached the tomb.*

- Announce His plans

*Acts 1:10-11 - While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven."*

- Influence God's creation

*Revelation 7:2 - Then I saw another angel rising up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were allowed to harm the earth and the sea,*

- Announce Christ's return

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 - For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.*



How do spiritual beings appear?

- In a physical way

*Genesis 18:8 - Then Abraham took curds and milk, as well as the calf that he had prepared, and set them before the men. He served them as they ate under the tree.*

*Luke 1:11-12 - An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified and overcome with fear.*

- In dreams or a vision

*Matthew 1:20 - But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

- In other forms

*Daniel 10:5-6 - I looked up, and there was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like beryl, his face like the brilliance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.*

*Matthew 28:2-4 - There was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached the tomb. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards were so shaken by fear of him that they became like dead men.*

- They can join in on our worship

*Hebrews 12:22-23 - Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to myriads of angels, a festive gathering, to the assembly of the firstborn whose names have been written in heaven, to a Judge, who is God of all, to the spirits of righteous people made perfect,*

- They can observe our obedience

1 Timothy 5:21 - I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels to observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing out of favoritism.

- They can administer God's protection for His people

*Psalm 91:11-12 - For he will give his angels orders concerning you, to protect you in all your ways. They will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

- They can provide God's provision and deliverance for His people

*1 Kings 19:5-8 - Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. Suddenly, an angel touched him. The angel told him, "Get up and eat." Then he looked, and there at his head was a loaf of bread baked over hot stones, and a jug of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. Then the angel of the Lord returned for a second time and touched him. He said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." So he got up, ate, and drank. Then on the strength from that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.*

*Acts 12:6-11 - When Herod was about to bring him out for trial, that very night Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while the sentries in front of the door guarded the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. Striking Peter on the side, he woke him up and said, "Quick, get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. "Get dressed," the angel told him, "and put on your sandals." And he did. "Wrap your cloak around you," he told him, "and follow me." So he went out and followed, and he did not know that what the angel did was really happening, but he thought he was seeing a vision. After they passed the first and second guards, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened to them by itself. They went outside and passed one street, and suddenly the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's grasp and from all that the Jewish people expected."*

How do spiritual beings relate to humans?

- They are different from us
  - We reflect God's image (Gen. 1:26-27)
  - We can reproduce

- We can be redeemed

*2 Peter 2:4 - For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but cast them into hell and delivered them in chains of utter darkness to be kept for judgment;*

- But, they are an example to us for worship and obedience to God

*Matthew 6:9-10 - Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

### ❖ **Three cautions with spiritual beings:**

We must not worship them

*Revelation 19:10 - Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters who hold firmly to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

- ❖ We must not pray to them

*1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,*

- ❖ We must not be deceived by them

*2 Corinthians 11:14-15 - And no wonder! For Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no great surprise if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will be according to their works.*

## **Demons**

- ❖ Demons are evil spiritual beings who rebelled against YAHWEH and continually work out evil in the world  
They were once good

*Genesis 1:31 - God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.*

At some point, a number of spiritual beings begin to rebel against YAHWEH

*Genesis 3:1 - Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

*Jude 6 - and the angels who did not keep their own position but abandoned their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deep darkness for the judgment on the great day.*

- ❖ How did demons become rebellious? Can I find the answer in Isaiah 14? Ezekiel 28? Revelation 12?  
Probably not. Each chapter will provide insights to rebellious spiritual beings, but probably not the origin for their rebellion

## **The Evil Spiritual Being**

- ❖ The satan - the adversary

*1 Thessalonians 2:18 - So we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.*

- ❖ The devil - the slanderer

*1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.*

- ❖ Beelzebub - lord of the flies

*Matthew 12:24 - When the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man drives out demons only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons."*

- ❖ Belial - a false god

*2 Corinthians 6:15 - What agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?*

- ❖ Evil one

*1 John 5:19 - We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.*

- ❖ Ruler of this world

*John 12:31 - Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*

❖ Tempter

*1 Thessalonians 3:5 - For this reason, when I could no longer stand it, I also sent him to find out about your faith, fearing that the tempter had tempted you and that our labor might be for nothing.*

❖ The accuser

*Revelation 12:10 - The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been thrown down.*

❖ The god of this age

*2 Corinthians 4:4 - In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

❖ Sometime represented as a servant

*Genesis 3:1 - Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

❖ Sometimes represented as a dragon

*Revelation 12:7-9 - Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.*

❖ An angel created by God

*Matthew 25:41 - "Then he will also say to those on the left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!'"*

*Colossians 1:16 - For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him.*

❖ Opposes God in every way

*Zechariah 3:1-2 - Then he showed me the high priest Joshua standing before the angel of the Lord, with Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! May the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Isn't this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"*

❖ Yet, lives in complete submission to God

*Job 1:9-11 - Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Haven't you placed a hedge around him, his household, and everything he owns? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he owns, and he will surely curse you to your face."*

*Luke 22:31 - Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat*

## **Other "gods"**

*Deuteronomy 10:17 - For the Lord your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awe-inspiring God, showing no partiality and taking no bribe.*

❖ Who are these other gods? Where did they come from?  
Unsure, but they are rebellious in their nature

*Genesis 6:1-2 - When mankind began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful, and they took any they chose as wives for themselves*

❖ Believed to be real

*Exodus 12:12 - "I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and strike every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both people and animals. I am the Lord; I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt."*

*Exodus 18:11 - Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods, because he did wonders when the Egyptians acted arrogantly against Israel.*

❖ Possibly oversaw other nations as punishment for the Tower of Babel

*Deuteronomy 32:8 - When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.*

This would explain the "territorial spirits" of Daniel 10

*Daniel 10:20 - He said, "Do you know why I've come to you? I must return at once to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I leave, the prince of Greece will come."*

❖ Other nations worshipped these gods

*Micah 4:5 - Though all the peoples walk in the name of their own gods, we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.*

❖ These "gods" will be punished and destroyed by YAHWEH

*Isaiah 24:21-22 - On that day the Lord will punish the army of the heights in the heights and the kings of the ground on the ground. They will be gathered together like prisoners in a pit. They will be confined to a dungeon; after many days they will be punished.*

*Psalms 82 - God stands in the divine assembly; he pronounces judgment among the gods: "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and needy; save them from the power of the wicked." They do not know or understand; they wander in darkness. All the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, "You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. However, you will die like humans and fall like any other ruler." Rise up, God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you.*

❖ The New Testament helps fill in who these "gods" are

*1 Corinthians 10:19-20 - What am I saying then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I do say that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons!*

## **God vs. the rebellious beings**

❖ God is Creator; Satan is the destroyer

*Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Revelation 9:10-11 - and they had tails with stingers like scorpions, so that with their tails they had the power to harm people for five months. They had as their king the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.*

❖ God is the Almighty; Satan is limited by God

*1 Chronicles 29:11 - Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you.*

*Job 1:12 - "Very well," the Lord told Satan, "everything he owns is in your power. However, do not lay a hand on Job himself." So Satan left the Lord's presence.*

❖ God is truth; Satan is the father of lies

*Psalms 31:5 - Into your hand I entrust my spirit; you have redeemed me, Lord, God of truth.*

*John 8:44 - When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.*

❖ God is love; Satan is hatred/murder

*1 John 4:8 - The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*



*John 8:44 - You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.*

❖ God is righteousness; Satan is evil

*Jeremiah 23:6 - In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. This is the name he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.*

*Matthew 6:13 - And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

❖ God is our advocate; Satan is our accuser

*1 John 2:1 - My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one*

*Zechariah 3:1 - Then he showed me the high priest Joshua standing before the angel of the Lord, with Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.*

❖ God is our protection in temptation; Satan is the tempter.

*1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to bear it.*

*Matthew 4:3 - Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

❖ God is our ultimate Judge; Satan is ultimately judged by God.

*Revelation 20:11-15 - Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And*

*anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

*Revelation 20:1-3 - Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven holding the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the abyss, closed it, and put a seal on it so that he would no longer deceive the nations until the thousand years were completed. After that, he must be released for a short time.*

## **Us vs. the rebellious spiritual beings**

*2 Corinthians 2:10-11 - Anyone you forgive, I do too. For what I have forgiven—if I have forgiven anything—it is for your benefit in the presence of Christ, so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan. For we are not ignorant of his schemes.*

❖ Satan can deceive us through:  
False religions/idols

*1 Corinthians 10:20 - No, but I do say that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons!*

False doctrine

*1 John 2:18 - Children, it is the last hour. And as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour.*

False morals

*2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 - For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one now restraining will do so until he is out of the way, and then the lawless one will be revealed. The Lord Jesus will destroy him with the breath of his mouth and will bring him to nothing at the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan's working, with every kind of miracle, both signs and wonders serving the lie, and with every wicked deception among those who are perishing. They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a strong delusion so that they*

*will believe the lie, so that all will be condemned—those who did not believe the truth but delighted in unrighteousness.*

### False Christians

*Matthew 13:24-30 - He presented another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while people were sleeping, his enemy came, sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. When the plants sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also appeared. The landowner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Master, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from?’ ““An enemy did this,’ he told them. ““So, do you want us to go and pull them up?’ the servants asked him. ““No,’ he said. ‘When you pull up the weeds, you might also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I’ll tell the reapers: Gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to burn them, but collect the wheat in my barn.’”*

### False Christian leaders

*2 Corinthians 11:14-15 - But I will continue to do what I am doing, in order to deny an opportunity to those who want to be regarded as our equals in what they boast about. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no great surprise if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will be according to their works.*

- ❖ Satan can attacks us through:  
Governments

*Daniel 10:13 - But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me after I had been left there with the kings of Persia.*

### Sickness

*Job 2:4-6 - So Satan left the Lord’s presence and infected Job with terrible boils from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.*

### Physical Ailments

*Luke 13:16 - Satan has bound this woman, a daughter of Abraham, for eighteen years—shouldn't she be untied from this bondage on the Sabbath day?"*

#### Destroyed lives

*Hebrews 2:14 - Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through his death he might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the devil*

#### Persecuting the saints

*Revelation 2:10 - Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will experience affliction for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

#### Preventing Christian service

*1 Thessalonians 2:18 - So we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.*

#### Promoting division among believers

*Romans 16:17-20 - Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them, because such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words. The report of your obedience has reached everyone. Therefore, I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise about what is good, and yet innocent about what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

#### Planting doubt

*Genesis 3:1-5 - Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'" "No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. "In fact, God*

*knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

❖ Satan can blinds unbelievers

*2 Corinthians 4:4 - In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

❖ Satan holds captives

*2 Timothy 2:25-26 - instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth. Then they may come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*

❖ Satan misuses Scripture

*Matthew 4:6 - and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”*

❖ Satan attacks faith

*2 Corinthians 11:3 - But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

❖ Satan thwarts the mission of God's people

*Acts 13:6-10 - When they had traveled the whole island as far as Paphos, they came across a sorcerer, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. 7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (that is the meaning of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul—also called Paul—filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at Elymas and said, “You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery, you son of the devil and enemy of all that is right. Won’t you ever stop perverting the straight paths of the Lord?*

# Spiritual Warfare

## Spiritual Warfare in the Old Testament

- ❖ The Canaanite, Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Akkadian, and Babylonian cultures were all dominated by occult beliefs and practices.
- ❖ The Old Testament minimizes the spiritual realm
  - It does not endorse/borrow from/support the supernatural culture of the surrounding nations.
  - It does not fully explain their demonic explanations.
- ❖ The Old Testament maximizes human responsibility.
  - The problem is not the “gods,” the satan, demons, or fallen angels
  - The problem is in the human heart
    - The prophets declare Israel needs a new heart

*Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it?*

*Ezekiel 36:26 - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh*

## One primary example

- ❖ The Book of Job
  - Job's greatest need is NOT an explanation of God
    - God makes no effort in explaining the situation between the satan and God
  - Job's greatest need is an encounter with God
    - Job came to a deeper knowledge of the greatness of God because of the work of the satan in his life

*Job 42:5 - I had heard reports about you, but now my eyes have seen you.*

## Spiritual Warfare and Jesus

- ❖ Jesus fights against moral evil and natural evil
  - Moral evil includes sin
  - Natural evil includes suffering
- ❖ The evil spiritual beings are Jesus encounters:
  - Tempters that provoke moral evil (sin)
  - Murderers that apply natural evil (suffering)
- ❖ Jesus fights against both DIFFERENTLY!
  - Jesus fights moral evil through truth and calling people to repent

*Matthew 4:3-4 - Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

*Matthew 4:17 - From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

Jesus fights against natural evil with a demonstration of power

*Luke 7:21 - At that time Jesus healed many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits, and he granted sight to many blind people.*

- Jesus NEVER casts out demons in the cases of moral evil (sin)
- Jesus casts out demons in cases of natural evil (suffering)
- Jesus approaches those with unclean spirits as sufferers needing relief, NOT sinners needing repentance

❖ The Cross ruins the power of the rebellious spiritual realm  
Christ disarms them

*Colossians 2:15 - He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.*

They are captive to Christ

*Ephesians 4:8 - For it says: When he ascended on high, he took the captives captive; he gave gifts to people.*

Christ made them look foolish

*1 Corinthians 2:8 - None of the rulers of this age knew this wisdom, because if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

They must submit to Christ

*Philippians 2:9-10 - For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth*

This is not dualism, this is domination

## Spiritual Warfare in the New Testament

- ❖ Have all NT believers been given “authority to drive out demons?” (Luke 9:1)
- ❖ Will all demons “submit to us” in Jesus’ name? (Luke 10:17)
- ❖ If all things have been placed under Christ’s feet (Eph. 1:22), and we are His body, the fullness of Him (Eph. 1:23) and seated with Him in the Heavens in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:5), then what’s the point of needing armor stand against the devil? (Eph. 6:11)
- ❖ If the evil one cannot touch us (1 John 5:18), why are we warned “Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour” (1 Peter 5:18)?
- ❖ Do we have all power in Christ over Satan and his dominion, or are we defeated creatures, incapable of defending ourselves against such powerful spiritual beings?

- ❖ The New Testament letters gives **ZERO** instruction to believers to “cast out demons” or any other type of deliverance ministry even to relieve suffering  
There are numerous direct commands in Scripture to do personal ministry, using the Word of God to call people to repent of sin and turn to Christ.  
We must make sure to follow Scripture’s emphasis on personal responsibility, particularly regarding moral evil.  
The Bible often talks about our responsibility without mentioning the devil.

*James 1:13-14 - No one undergoing a trial should say, “I am being tempted by God,” since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn’t tempt anyone. But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire.*

We even have instances of Satan at work in people, yet the Bible stills hold the sinner morally responsible

*Luke 22:3 - Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was numbered among the Twelve.*

*Acts 5:3 - “Ananias,” Peter asked, “why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land?”*

- ❖ Even in instances where Satan is absolutely at work, believers are encouraged in a non-supernatural way



## Three Instances

### ❖ Jude

Jude had a very supernatural worldview  
But a non-supernatural response

*Jude 20-21 - But you, dear friends, as you build yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting expectantly for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life.*

### ❖ The Church of Smyrna in Revelation

The church was surrounded by spiritual evil

*Revelation 2:9-10 - I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will experience affliction for ten days*

Yet Jesus commanded them non-supernaturally

*Revelation 2:10 - Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

### ❖ The messenger of Satan in 2 Corinthians

In order to keep him from becoming conceited, God sends a messenger of Satan to torment Paul

*2 Corinthians 12:7 - So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited*

Paul learns a greater intimacy and dependency on Christ through this spiritual attack

*2 Corinthians 12:8-10 - Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

# Spiritual Warfare and Believers Today

❖ When confronted with spiritual warfare that is moral evil... PRAY!

*Ephesians 6:10-20 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

Belt of truth (similar to a weightlifter's belt. The core of your being)

- An understanding of who Christ is

Breastplate of righteousness (Large armor, pieces of metal linked up. No weak links)

- Doing the right thing no matter what
- Feet prepared with the Gospel of Peace

- Ready to make peace when conflict arises
- Shield of faith to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one
- Have faith when invading enemy territory
- Helmet of Salvation
- Knowledge of what Christ has done, is doing, and will do in your life
- Sword of the Spirit
- The Word of God, the only offensive weapon
- Prayer in the Spirit
- Our “weapon” that gives us intimacy with God and demonstrates our complete dependence upon Him

*John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.*

- ❖ When confronted with spiritual warfare that is natural evil...PRAY!  
Don't talk with demons

*Leviticus 20:6 - Whoever turns to mediums or spiritists and prostitutes himself with them, I will turn against that person and cut him off from his people*

Don't rebuke demons

*Jude 9 - Yet when Michael the archangel was disputing with the devil in an argument about Moses's body, he did not dare utter a slanderous condemnation against him but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

- Don't pray to demons, pray to God
- Pray for healing

*Mark 9:28-29 - After he had gone into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" And he told them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer."*

- Pray with faith

*James 5:13-16 - Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess*

*your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.  
The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.*

- Pray the Gospel advances through healing

*Acts 19:11-12 - God was performing extraordinary miracles by Paul's hands, so that even facecloths or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.*

- Ultimately, pray that God is glorified

*Psalm 115:1 - Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory*

## **QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIONS:**

- ❖ What is the Angel of the Lord?

An appearance YAHWEH that can be tangibly seen, communicated with, and interactive

*Genesis 16:7-8, 13 - The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?... So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."*

*Exodus 3:2 - Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush. As Moses looked, he saw that the bush was on fire but was not consumed.*

Christ, prior to His birth as a man

- ❖ Who are the sons of God/Nephilim?

*Genesis 6:1-4 - When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore*

*children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.*

Sons of God - Divine spiritual beings who had intercourse with humans  
The Nephilim are NOT the offspring of this sin, but rather divine beings/kings/"gods"

- A common worldview in the Ancient Near Eastern culture was that their culture was created/governed by divine, spiritual beings that were the savior of their world
- Genesis 6:1-4 is a commentary on these beings that show:
  - God is supreme over any deity on this earth
  - The "gods" of other cultures were not saviors, but rather wicked, evil beings that needed to be destroyed

❖ Do I have a guardian angel?

*Matthew 18:10 - "See to it that you don't despise one of these little ones, because I tell you that in heaven their angels continually view the face of my Father in heaven."*

- Probably not
- Angels are said to do work of the Lord, but not necessarily on individual basis
- Possibly a zone offense
- Remember, we are NEVER instructed to pray to/call upon/ask of anything to the angels

❖ Do generational curses/demons exist?

Nowhere in the Bible is there an example of a Christian who:

- Inherits demons from his ancestors.
- Is invaded by demons because of former occult practices.
- Is inhabited by demons because of a transfer.
- Needs continual deliverance from demons.

Matthew 12:43-45 is a parable warning the unrepentant will perish, NOT periodic self-deliverance

Exodus 20:5 is about the consequences of sin, not sin passed down

❖ Can a Christian be demon-possessed?

No

*Colossians 1:13-14 - He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

However, Christians can be influenced and/or attacked by demons to varying degrees

❖ Is there such a thing as territorial spirits?

Probably...

BUT, we never see Jesus, John, Peter, James, Paul, or anyone else ever attempting to take on a territorial spirit.

❖ What if I encounter something that isn't explained in the Bible?

Be open regarding the spiritual world.

Be discerning according to God's Word.

- Beware of highly charged expectations/fanaticism with demonic manifestations.
- Beware of minimizing personal responsibility for sin.
- Beware of Satanic tactics to divert us from Christ, the Gospel, or God's Word.
- Be confident in the truth and power of Christ revealed in His Word.

*2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

## FINAL THOUGHTS:

❖ Anticipate the final battle in the war

*Revelation 12:7-12 - Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, 8 but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them*

*before our God day and night, has been thrown down. They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great fury, because he knows his time is short.*

❖ Live in such a way to bring an end to this war

*Matthew 24:9-14 - "Then they will hand you over to be persecuted, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, betray one another, and hate one another. Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

Stand firm on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially when invading enemy territory

*Matthew 16:15-17 - "But you," he asked them, "who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus responded, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.*

Anticipate attacks from the evil spiritual realm

*1 Thessalonians 2:18 - So we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.*

BUT, Jesus is coming back for His church and we will experience His peace and presence forever and ever

*Revelation 21:3-4 - Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.*

## Recommended Reading

For further study on the topics covered in tonight's sessions, see the resources listed below. Please note, however, that Hope Chapel Youth ministry does not endorse everything contained in these resources. As always, we urge you to examine these resources and the topics covered in this study in light of the truths of God's Word.

- ❖ *The Unseen Realm* – Michael Heiser
- ❖ *Why I Am Still Surprised by the Power of the Spirit* – Jack Deere
- ❖ *The Screwtape Letters* – C.S. Lewis
- ❖ *Overcoming Sin and Temptation* – John Owen
- ❖ *Reformed Systematic Theology* – Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley
- ❖ *The Cross of Christ* – John Stott

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