

Knowing our authority & calling 2: THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE AND OUR PLACE IN IT



The 'cast list' of the Heavenly realms
 God – The Creator
 Angels – Spirit beings, servants of God
 Satan – fallen archangel
 Demons – minions and foot-soldiers of satan

God existed before creation. He is the Creator. All other things including Satan are created by Him. God and His angels are infinitely more powerful than Satan and his minions.

Angels

- ❑ Real – Luke 1:26
- ❑ Powerful – Daniel 10:2-13
- ❑ Having authority (given by God)
- ❑ Intelligence – Daniel 10:14
- ❑ Desire – Genesis 22:12
- ❑ Voice – 1 Corinthians 13:1

Purpose

- ❑ Protect – Luke 4:10
- ❑ Guide – Acts 12:8
- ❑ Prepare the way – Exodus 23:20, Daniel 10
- ❑ Fight the demonic realm Dan 10:12,13
- ❑ Minister to believers – Hebrews 1:14
- ❑ Powerful – Daniel 10:2-13
- ❑ Having authority (given by God)

Always good;
Always to bless

Demons

- ❑ Real – Luke 4:41
- ❑ Powerful – Revelation 16:14
- ❑ Having authority (given by man)
- ❑ Intelligence – Mark 1:24
- ❑ Desire – Mark 5:10
- ❑ Voice – Mark 5:7

Purpose

- ❑ To steal
 - ❑ To kill John 10:10
 - ❑ To destroy
 - ❑ Deceive – John 8:44
- Always evil and destructive

There is a war between good and evil, God and Satan, going on in the heavenly realms, in which the church has a vital role.

Natural realm includes all that can be perceived by our natural senses in the physical world. The Heavenly realm includes all that is spiritual, invisible and not seen in the natural realm. Events in the heavenly realms have a direct impact on events in the natural realm

- Example 1 – Elisha & his servant 2 Kings 6:14-17
- Example 2 – Judas betrays Jesus Lk 22:3-5
- Example 3 – Peter's betrayal of Jesus Lk 22:31, 54-62

All this requires a significant change in world-view: What is a worldview?

'A worldview is a set of presuppositions (or assumptions) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously) about the makeup of our world.' James Sire

We need to be regularly asking these questions about what we see:

"Is this just happening?" (See Resource Toolkit – Session 2).

Jesus' whole ministry is understood as a supernatural battle in which he proactively and aggressively confronts the destructive power of the enemy

...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. Acts 10:38

4. The Western mindset is resistant to the Biblical / Jesus' worldview

- The deception that God controls everything that happens in the world today – evil things as well as good. This involves belief in the lie that God is responsible for the bad things which happen in our world and in our lives as well as the blessings.
- Failure to understand that we have a very real and deceptive enemy, as well as wholly GOOD and victorious God – that we are called into a supernatural existence, and we are part of a heavenly battle.
- Over-reliance on our 5 natural senses.
- Dismissal of demons as “primitive” – we are wise and enlightened. The Church and its leaders (especially mainline denominations) are hugely influenced by the academic and rational / man-centred worldview and mindset.
- **This is a central reason for the weakness of the church in the West today. It causes us to live in a worldly way with ‘natural realm thinking’ and strategy.** e.g. The Sadducees believed in God but denied the Spirit and the realm of angels and demons. Jesus declared to the Sadducees: *‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God’* Matthew 22:29

The church on assignment

- 1. Christ gives his people authority and power over the enemy** Luke 10:19-20
 - 2. The purpose is for the Church to do Jesus' ministry today!**
 - OFFENSIVELY: Matthew 16:18-19 Matthew 12:28-29 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
 - DEFENSIVELY: Ephesians 6:13
- ✓ The purpose of freedom and greater intimacy with Jesus is to enable us to play our role in bringing in His kingdom, as we understand the spiritual realm and the battle that is going on.
 - ✓ As we listen to the Holy Spirit He will lead us and guide us in this battle.
 - ✓ Jesus calls us to rule and reign with Him, enforcing His victory over Satan.

Homework!

Read Job 1 and Revelation 12.

In the light of those, continue to ask of situations around you: **“Is this just happening?”**. If the answer is No, ask God to lead and direct you in prayer and action.