

## Spiritual War

### Eph 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

In our passage this morning and in our responsive reading we see that there is a spiritual struggle taking place in this world. It is a struggle among spiritual beings who are very powerful, very intelligent, and sometimes very evil. Throughout the Bible we find things taking place that cannot be explained by natural means. Sometimes we are allowed to see behind the scenes to know what is taking place. The book of Job is one of those places.

Job 1:6 ¶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." 8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" 9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" 12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

In this passage we have the two main spiritual forces in this world confronting one another. Satan though very powerful is still only a created spirit. He opposes God and hates God's people as is evident in this passage. This morning we want to try to understand a little more about these spirit beings as related to us in the Bible.

- I. All spiritual beings other than God were created by God
  - A. Col 1: 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
  - B. God brought them into being and still maintains control over them.
- II. Some of these spiritual beings rebelled against God, of whom Satan seems to be chief.
- III. The good angels and evil angels battle with one another.
  - A. Dan 10:12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14 "Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

B. Dan 10:20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 "But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.

C. In these two passages we get to see how that God accomplishes His plans and purposes.

1. He uses angels and they in turn battle spiritual battles and effect material things.
2. In many places in the Old Testament where things happen that cannot be explained, I think we need to consider that God is using these powerful spiritual beings to accomplish His plans.
3. When Israel wins battles that they should loose.
4. When one man has a victory over hundreds or even thousands there is no other explanation that angels.

IV. Satan and his angels although powerful have limitations.

A. Satan was created beautiful, which might have led to his downfall.

1. Ezek. 28:15-17; 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.
2. Isa. 14:12-15; 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be

brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

- B. Angels are not omnipresent.
  - C. Angels are not omnipotent.
  - D. Angels must travel from one place to another.
  - E. Angels can be hindered by other angels.
  - F. Angels cannot read your minds like Jesus could do.
- V. What does the Bible say that angels, demons do and can do.
- A. They can possess people, young and old.
    - 1. Matt. 12:43-45; 43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."
    - 2. Luke 4:33-34; 33 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, 34 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"
    - 3. Luke 8:27-33; 27 And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" 29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. 30 Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. 32 Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. 33 Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.
  - B. They can give them knowledge that is supernatural.
    - 1. Acts 16:16-18 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters

much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

- C. They can give them super human strength.
  - D. Acts 19:13-16; 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.
- VI. How do we confront these evil spirits.
- A. Do not underestimate either their intelligence or power.
  - B. Resist them.
    - 1. Jas 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
  - C. Confront them with the same thing Jesus did in his day.
    - 1. Prayer
    - 2. The Word of God.
      - a. Mt 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
      - b. Mt 4:7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"
      - c. Mt 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

As I heard a preacher say the other day. God has given us the same resources that He gave Jesus. We can have spiritual victory over the evil forces in this world if we only avail ourselves of them.