

Spiritual Warfare

Part 2 “Who Are We Fighting Against?”

Key Scripture:

Ephesians 6:11-12

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (ESV)

One of the first things you do in a war is gather intelligence on your enemy – who are they, what’s their goal, what weaponry do they possess?

We want to learn about our spiritual enemy “*so that,*” as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 2:11, “*we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.*”

A. Who are we *NOT* fighting against? *People!*

Paul says “*our struggle is not against **flesh and blood.***”

- Your husband / wife is not your enemy.
- Your boss is not your enemy.
- Your foul-mouthed neighbor who keeps scratching your car door is not your enemy.
- Even the drunk driver that killed your family member is not your enemy.
- The list goes on till it includes every human being – not your enemy!

In the garden, when Adam and Eve sinned by eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, Adam immediately blamed Eve – ‘*bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh – **she***’ was his problem! But it was the devil – the enemy of God – who was Adam’s enemy.

B. Who are we fighting against?

1. Satan – the Devil.

Paul tells us to prepare ourselves to take a stand against the “*schemes of the devil.*” Scripture indicates that Satan, the devil, was an angel, Lucifer, who rebelled against God and was cast down to the earth.

Isaiah 14:12-15

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star [‘Lucifer’], son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God. I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.”

Satan is *NOT*...

- God, or His equal.
- Omniscient, omnipotent, or omnipresent.

2. Demonic Powers

Ephesians 6:12 (MKJV)

"...principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Scripture teaches that these entities Paul speaks of are one-third of the angels, who rebelled against God with Satan.

Rev. 12:3-4, 9

"And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth."

"And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."

Demons are completely wicked in nature.

We saw in the first lesson that the natures of these two kingdoms express the natures of their kings. The Kingdom of God embodies holiness and righteousness, and the kingdom of Satan is utterly wicked, vile, brutal, and murderous. There are no "good spirits" associated with Satan.

Demons are organized.

There is evidently a demonic hierarchy of differing levels of authority. This would correspond to our government system of mayors, governors, and presidents, or local managers, regional managers, and CEO's.

Ephesians 6:12

(MKJV) *"...principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

For example, "world's rulers" probably refers to demons that are set over nations or regions. Daniel chapter 10 gives us some insight into this.

Daniel has been fasting and praying, and an angel comes to encourage him about why the answer to his prayer has been delayed. The angel says he has been battling the "prince of Persia."

Daniel 10:13, 20

“The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia.”

“But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come” ... “there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.”

The human rulers of these kingdoms were opposing the Jews and the rebuilding of the temple of God. However, Michael the archangel, is also referred to by the same title, ‘*prince*.’ So, we see that the ultimate enemies in this war were the demonic powers who were influencing the human rulers.

This story reminds us that while Daniel fasted and prayed and waited on God, the angels of God were battling on his behalf, even though he was not aware of it.