

The Introduction: A Look at the Beginning

Ephesians 6:12

“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”

In preparation for the task of restoring the universal, mystical Body of Christ, commonly known as the “Church,” to its rightful place in the world, we must understand we are involved in a *spiritual battle*. Having said that, I am convinced it is not just the *new believers*, but also the *battle scarred saints of God*, that must move into this spiritual battle against the enemies of holy God. As we approach the Second Coming of Christ, *I believe God is preparing His people to reach into the unchallenged areas that have been dominated by Secularism during the last century as He seeks to sweep our world with the winds of “spiritual awakening.”*

Today we are beginning and lengthily and intense study that I trust will change the way you look at who you are in Christ Jesus. The subject is **“Deliverance from Demonic Oppression.”**

Throughout history virtually every culture, tribe, or society has exhibited some concept or fear of an invisible evil power. Although there are many who deny the existence of this *invisible evil power*, his existence has been revealed by the testimony of Christian missionaries, as well as secular anthropologists. Witch doctors, shrunken heads, voodoo dolls, and totem poles all reveal dramatic evidence of this universal fear. Those of us familiar with biblical truth know this individual by many names – “Satan,” Beelzebub,” “Belial,” “Adversary,” “Dragon,” “Serpent.” He is mentioned by one or the other of these names 174 times in the scriptures.

Ever so often someone will ask me, “Why did God create the devil?” It is sad but true - people often mistakenly think the devil’s work is something that God did. We blame God for *storms, earthquakes, sickness, and broken dishwashers!* People often say

things like, “Well, maybe the Lord is trying to teach me something.” As if, God is mad at them because of something they *did* or *said*.

Folks, God is not mad at you, He loves you! In fact, Jeremiah 29:11 gives us this insight, “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

The truth of the matter is – the devil is the product of his own doing – that is, he is the product of his pride and rebellion against holy God! Therefore, in this study, it is my desire to provide you with an understanding of his origin, his work and the believer’s authority to stand against him.

Therefore, we will need to begin at the beginning, as seen in Ezekiel 28:13-19, "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. 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. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. 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. 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. You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever." **Look also at Isaiah 14:12-17,** "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! 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; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?" **Now look at Ephesians 6:10-13,** "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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." **Mark 5:1-19 says,** "Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me. For He said to him, Come out of the man, unclean spirit! Then He asked him, What is your name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion; for we are many. Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, Send us to the swine, that we may enter them. And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus,

and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.”

I wanted to share these scriptures with you, so that you would have some scriptural background on our study, and to let you know that there is a war going on around you between the ministering spirits of God and the spirits of darkness, and they are fighting over your life! In this study we are going to talk about the devil, demons, and demon possession and especially their origin. In these scriptures from Ezekiel and Isaiah, Matthew, Ephesians and Mark, God wills us as much as we need to know and as much as He wants us to know on the subject, with some light as to the origin and the fall of him whom we call “Satan” or “Lucifer.”

Although we are going to be looking primarily at demons, I want you to understand the origin of Satan. Notice the similarity of Ezekiel and Isaiah. He says, "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. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you." **Here was a creature, or a created being whom was a covering cherub, one of the angels of heaven.** We read further, "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor." Now notice what God said, "I cast you to the ground." This happened before Adam ever sinned, **before Adam was ever put in the garden.** Let's compare Isaiah's record, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer." **Now do you see the comparison?** This is talking about what happened when Lucifer sinned. "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! 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; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." This is talking about something that happened when "Lucifer" sinned in his rebellion against God.

Lucifer, or Satan, as we call him today, had a kingdom, he had a throne, he ruled, because he said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will ascend into heaven, I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the clouds; I will be like the most High." In other words, he wasn't satisfied just with his kingdom, he wanted to take it all over and run the whole thing. It is very obvious where that spirit comes from, because you see it today. That is what Hitler wanted to do. You see the same spirit in the Communists. You see it in the radical Islamic movement. You see it in the lives of lost and/or carnal church members. They want to rule the whole thing.

Satan had a kingdom of some kind down here before Adam ever existed, because Ezekiel reminds us of his words, "I will exalt my kingdom or my throne above the stars of God, I will ascend into heaven, I will ascend above the clouds." This was long before Adam was ever on the scene and before he (Satan) had been cast down. When he came on the scene, and approached Adam and Eve in the garden, he was already a fallen being. Obviously this earth had been entrusted to the oversight of Lucifer.

This will explain something to us that is difficult for us to understand. You see, Satan and all of his cohorts fell (in Revelation 12:4 we are told that one third of all the angels rebelled with Lucifer). That will explain why this earth is infested with demon spirits. According to the Bible they are everywhere. These demon spirits of Satan are actually fallen angels that rebelled with Satan and are loose here on the earth right now and we have to deal with them.

If all of this happened before God created Adam, when did it happen? I believe the answer is found in the Word of God, as seen in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." How long "in the beginning is" I don't really know. The second verse reads this way, "And the earth was without form, and void." **The question that we need to answer is this - Did God create the earth "without form and void"?** To find the answer we must go over to Jeremiah 4:23-26 describes the condition of the earth as the result of judgment, "I beheld the earth and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger." And Isaiah 24:1 tells us, "Behold, the LORD makes the earth empty and makes it waste, distorts its surface and scatters abroad its inhabitants." Isaiah 45:18 takes us back to the creation, and says, "For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited..."

The Hebrew word carries with it the thought that God RECREATED, and when He made man, He said to man, "You be fruitful and multiply and REPLENISH the earth." You cannot "replenish" something that hasn't been "plenished." God said to "replenish the earth"!

Peter also talks about the world that was, and is, and is to come. We need to be careful right here not to apply this truth to the Flood. Look at 2 Peter 3:1-13, "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you, in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance, that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior; knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as

they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water, by which the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the Day of Judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish; but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the works that are in it, shall be burned up. Seeing, then, that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of person ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, in which the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, in which dwells righteousness."

I don't believe Peter is talking about Noah's flood. Verse 6 says, "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." The Greek word for "world" here in this text is "cosmos." It means "the world system." The Bible tells us the "*world system*" that existed back there "perished." **Noah, after the flood, carried on the same system that they had beforehand.** The world that existed back there perished. Scientists dig and find the carcasses and bones of giant animals, dinosaurs, and others. Where did they come from? **They come from that world that then was.** They had a different world system than we have now. It is obvious that "Lucifer" and those angels that rebelled against God with him are now what we call "demons" or "evil spirits."

Colossians 1:13-14 reminds us God "has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear

Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.” As a child of God, God in His sovereignty has removed us from the power of Satan and given us authority over Satan and all demonic activity. Therefore, in this series of studies, it is my desire to share with you how to begin living your life, moment by moment, knowing who you are in Christ Jesus; how to use the Word of God to push back that darkness and every evil spirit that tries to influence your life.

If you have never been saved, why not today?

Please stand for prayer.

Father,

Your Word is true. Give me the insight and courage to understand my authority over Satan and demonic activity. I confess I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me. In Jesus’ name. Amen.