

Pentwater Bible Church

Ephesians Message 15

Spiritual Warfare

Demonology & World Unrest



Angels and Demons or Angel of Light © George Grie, March 2008

Daniel E. Woodhead

Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ephesians

Message Fifteen

Spiritual Warfare: Demonology Concluded, Winning the War

Daniel E. Woodhead

December 19, 2010

Review:

The Six Successive Domains of Satan:

1. **The Throne of God (Past)**
2. **The Jeweled Garden of Eden (Past)**
3. **The Atmospheric Heavens (Present)**
4. **The Earth (Future)**
5. **The Abyss (Future)**
6. **The Lake of Fire (Future)**

BIBLICAL DEMONOLOGY PART I INTRODUCTION

Many in the first four centuries of the Church wrote of the demons such as Lactantius and Augustine. This doctrine has fallen silent for nearly 1600 years except for a few obscure writers. With Adolph Hitler's appearance and his known demonic influence the subject has received some attention by theologians. Paul Tillich the liberal protestant German theologian wrote of the demonic forces controlling modern history. Others have too. It is most important to see what the Bible reveals about the demons and demonic forces.

We have seen that sin was originated in Satan (Ezekiel 28: 15). He is a king with a kingdom (Matthew 12:26) and a portion of that kingdom consists of demons (Matthew 12: 24). Scripture does not give us the specific *exact* origin of the demons. The New Testament tells of the angels who defected with Satan and "kept not their first estate" and "are reserved unto judgment of the great day" (II Peter 2: 4; Jude 1:6). Most competent conservative Bible teachers view the demons as the fallen angels. This fall happened during Satan's second domain, the Jeweled Garden of Eden. The Bible has a lot to say about the demons and their capabilities. Some refer to them as disembodied spirits. The Bible is vastly superior in its exposition of demonology to the superstitious exaggeration in the general population.

Demons do exist. The Bible says they do and Christ validated their authenticity. In the Old Testament they were the power behind the idols prohibited by God for the Israelites to entertain. In Hebrew, the demons are called *Shedhim* (Deut. 32: 17; Psalm 106: 36-37) as well as *Seirim* (Lev. 17:7; II Chron. 11: 15; Isaiah 13:21; 34: 14).

The New Testament has much to say about the demons.

1. They exist (James 2: 19; Revelation 9:20)
2. Describe their nature (Luke 4:33; 6: 18)
3. Describe their activity (I Tim 4: 1; Revelation 16: 14)

4. Discuss their expulsion from human bodies (Luke 9: 42)
5. Suggest their organization under Satan (Matthew 12: 26; Ephesians 6: 12)
6. Show their abode (Luke 8: 31; Revelation 9: 11)
7. Show their final doom (Matthew 25: 41;)
8. Jesus commanded His disciples to cast them out (Luke 9: 1)
9. He cast them out himself (Matthew 15: 22; 28)
10. He rebuked them (Mark 5:8)
11. He had complete power over them (Matthew 12: 29)
12. Viewed His demonic conquest as conquering Satan (Luke 10: 17-18)
13. Can possess humans (Mark 1:32)
14. Know who Jesus is (Luke 4: 41)
15. The unsaved serve them (I Corinthians 10: 20)
16. Humans cannot serve both demons and Christ (I Corinthians 10: 21)
17. Demons can deceive by doing miracles through some people (Revelation 16: 14)
18. They are characterized as foul spirits (Revelation 18: 2)

The demons have keen and supernatural knowledge. It is not as powerful as God's holy or our saving knowledge. They are confirmed in evil, never seek forgiveness and never plead for purity. They know that Jesus is the Lord of the spirit-world but don't have a trust in Him or submit to Him. They worship Christ but not in adoration or joy in Holy Communion. They bend to His will in resentment and hate. They like Satan have limited knowledge and ceaselessly attempt to thwart God's plans and purposes.

They are depraved and completely morally corrupt. These evil beings have a desire to corrupt and are frequently called unclean in the Bible (Matthew 10:1; Mark 1: 27; 3: 11; Luke 4: 36; Acts 8:7; Revelation 16: 13).

While we must be aware of them and what they can do, we must not resort to hyper awareness and become frightened about their locations and power to do us harm. They have always been here and will continue to be until they are finally cast into the Lake of Fire.

Today's Message:

PART 3 BIBLICAL DEMONOLOGY CONCLUSION

WHERE ARE THE DEMONS TODAY?

It is an impetuous conclusion to say that there are no demons active today. Much has been written about demonic possession. Many cases of demonic activity up to and including possession have been validated. Satan walks about like a lion seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8). Peter tells us to be sober and vigilant. Paul tells us that Satan is like an angel of light (II Corinthians 11: 14). Paul tells us not to marvel. Both of these apostles want us to "be aware." These two revealed characteristics of Satan are important for us to consider. Satan wants to devour us but will masquerade as an angel of light to deceive us into sin so he can devour us. The demons he leads are adapting to the enlightenment of the various ages of human history from the beginning of the Church.

The enlightenment within believers of the “wiles of the Devil” since the first advent of Christ has caused the Devil and his demons to work in deception in so-called cultured and educated Christian society as angels of light. In the primitive societies the Devil can move about openly as a roaring lion. It is within these societies that missionaries report much open demonic activity and possession. In nominally Christian polite society, Satan has to deceive to turn people away from God to achieve his goals. The general population of these nominally Christian regions of the world receive the benefits of Christianity in that these areas have standards of living that come from Christianity and drive the demons into tools of deception. Only unbelievers can be possessed. Believers can be influenced. Some of the deceptions are:

1. Rejecting supernaturalism altogether.
2. Causing humans to reject the authority of God’s Word.
3. Giving rise to rational thought instead of revealed truth.
4. Causing people to be unaware of the origin of their thoughts.
5. Causing people to think that no disease has a direct demonic cause.
6. Causing people to think that some sins are really “not so bad”.
7. Corrupting doctrinal integrity of the Scriptures so some parts of Scripture are thought of as more important than others.
8. Causing the belief that magic is harmless (not sleight of hand).
9. Causing a belief that paganism is harmless in its three root forms; magic, divination (seeking fortune tellers) and necromancy (seeking communication with the dead).
10. Corrupting the Hebrew Mazzeroth with astrology.
11. Causing myth to come into Christianity replacing truth.
12. Causing a belief that all religions are equal, whatever the doctrine, nobody really knows the truth.
13. Causing schisms in Christian fellowship over doctrine.
14. Bringing about deception in world governments. Wicked ruler and dictators given over to pride and ambition renounce Christianity and offer a channel for the demons to have a great effect on large numbers of people.

By far the greatest field of activity for Satan and his demons is the Church. This body of believers is charged with bringing converts into saving grace knowledge of Christ and His work, which defeated Satan to cleanse the heavenly Tabernacle (Hebrews 9:23-26; Colossians 2:15). The Church is to teach the truth of the Bible.

The powers of darkness are increasing in our day and age due to the duping of the world against the truth of the Bible and historic Christianity. Satan is dedicated to turning people from God. When men do believe the gospel, Satan exerts every effort to turn them away from God’s will (Matthew 13:19). He knows that once they are saved they are beyond his power to destroy so he seeks to corrupt (Numbers 25: 1-3; 31: 16; James 4: 4; Revelation 2: 14). Therefore, he determines to do them as much damage as he can, seeking to ruin their Christian life and testimony for God.

Satan is unrelenting and pitiless in his hatred for God and the people of God. What makes the devil a fearful foe is the fact of his great power. This is augmented by the assistance of a vast number of fallen angels or demons. Consequently, satanic forces

constitute a mighty, evil spiritual reality to be seriously reckoned with by the entire fallen race, both redeemed and unredeemed. We must be aware of the demonic activity and what we are charged with to defeat it.

In its spiritual war, the Church must be knowledgeable about the stratagems of our enemy. In physical wars, military strategists are keenly aware of the necessity of knowing the enemy. Accordingly, they employ intricate networks of intelligence and counterintelligence. Missions involving espionage are frequently as crucial to winning a war as actual battles. Without intelligence of the enemy's strength and position, victory in any military encounter would be doubtful. Yet believers mostly display an obvious disinterest in what the Bible reveals about Satan and demons. The only sound approach is to know the enemy. Only as his wiles are revealed will the believer be able to anticipate and outmaneuver him. Satan's chief tactics are to hide his identity and his attacks. The Christian must recognize him and anticipate his moves.

Only as the believer knows the powers of darkness will he be able to win against them in his superior position and strength in Christ. The rampant demon activity of these last days (1 Timothy 4:1) means we must "Know our enemy!"

1 Timothy 4: 1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Although we do not always know this enemy, one thing is sure. Satan *always* knows us! He is thoroughly acquainted with all of God's children and is quite aware of those who fall for his strategies. He also knows those who recognize and count on their position in Christ and who find and fulfill God's will for their lives. These saints are what the devil fears most, for they constitute the deadliest threat to his plans and ambitions. It is to us that he attacks in the subtlest manner. He brings us into temptation for the activities, which we know we should not be engaged. We fail to realize or admit his involvement and think that our activities are harmless or out of the purview of anyone else including God.

THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

1. Truth, The Breastplate of Righteousness.
2. Shoes of the Gospel of Truth.
3. Faith as a Shield.
4. Salvation as a Helmet.
5. The Word of God is our Sword.
6. Prayer in the Spirit of God.

Ephesians 6: 11-12 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The principal danger the Christian faces is whether the demonic world is credible or not. The problem is not unbelief but credulity. Satan stands ready to take advantage of

this in an era when occult religion and liberalism is threatening to replace pure biblical Christianity. Liberalism produces a fuzzy imprecise rendering of the Bible reducing its credibility. This draws people away from the truth and protection of God's Word causing a spiritual vacuum. The occultic religions seek to invade the vacuum opened by liberalism. Satan then is let in to deceive in greater measure. One example of this is to reject the activity of the demons altogether and fail to discern a condition of the general nature of the fall vis-à-vis direct involvement of demons. For example, in demon-ridden China of the nineteenth century the natives had no difficulty differentiating between mental disease and demon-possession. Dr. Alfred Lechler, a German psychologist, stressed the need to distinguish between the diseased and the demonic. In this connection he showed the difference between schizophrenia, epilepsy, depression, neurosis, psychopathy, senile dementia, and the demonic. Christians must exercise every precaution to avoid falling prey to Satan's two popular tricks of either seeing Satan and demons in nothing or else seeing them in everything.

Ephesians 6: 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The apostle knowing that this front is a battle uses the illustration of Roman soldier's armament for us to utilize in our war with the enemy. This is so that we may be able to stand against the wiles and stratagems of Satan, against his power and might, to oppose his schemes, and resist his temptations. Because this is a battle it is fitting that the battle gear is used to describe the spiritual equipment given to us to succeed in deflecting the "arrows" of the evil one. We routinely meet him to face to face and give him battle, being fitted with the whole armour of God. Satan and his dominions are very busy bringing trials, afflictions, and persecution because of the Word of God. We are then told that having done all to stand (by being equipped and resisting); or having overcome, having routed the enemy, we stand as conquerors; or rather, having put on the whole armour of God, in order to stand, we withstand the enemy as conquerors.

Ephesians 6: 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Keep your ground, do not desert the army which is the church of Christ, nor his cause; continue in the station in which you are placed, keep your post, be upon your watch, stand upon your guard: having your *loins girt* about with truth; by which is meant the Gospel as depicted in Ephesians 1:13. It also means that we are not to embrace superstitions but check everything by the Word of God (Acts 17:11). Having our *loins girt* with it, shows, that it should be near and close to us, and never departed from; and that it is a means of keeping us close to God and Christ, and of strengthening us against the assaults and attacks of Satan; and is finally of great use in the Christian's spiritual conflict with our demonic enemies. The girdle is a part of armour, and so important that it is sometimes presented for the whole of armament, (Isa 5:27). Having on *the breastplate of righteousness* is a reference to Isa 59:17, meaning not works of righteousness done by men, though these are a deterrent when correctly used against the reproaches and charges of the enemy as they were by Samuel (1Sa 12:3), but rather the graces of faith and love

(1Th 5:8). Faith has another place in the Christian armour, mentioned in verse 16; Therefore it seems best to understand this of the righteousness of Christ, which being imputed by God and received by faith, is a guard against and repels the accusations and charges of Satan, and is a security from all wrath and condemnation.

Ephesians 6: 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Our sure footing and stability in battle is due to our having our feet shod with the *gospel of peace*. We have the blessed assurance that we are God's children and we receive peace with God at the time we accept His gospel. Among the armour of soldiers to provide balance and keep them upright were shoes, or boots, sometimes made of iron, and other times made of brass. The Gospel is our firm foundation. A firm, solid knowledge of the Gospel, as it emanates peace by Jesus Christ, yields a sure foundation for the Christian soldier to set his foot upon and stand fast. The *gospel of peace* means we are no longer at war with Him (Romans 5: 1). Our countenance reflects this peace as the war with Him is ended, and we have become a traitor to Satan and his demons and their overwhelming influence over us prior to conversion. Once saved, we receive the peace of God who will bruise Satan under our feet shortly (Romans 16: 20; Philippians 4: 7).

Ephesians 6: 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Our faith is based upon truth as given by Christ and revealed in the Bible. When we accept that and believe, our faith becomes as strong as a shield to buffet the many attempts we will experience to erode our faith. Satan is a formidable foe. If we take up our faith seriously he can't hurt us. He will try and we must resist.

Ephesians 6: 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

The helmet protects the head, which is the control center of our bodies, and our salvation acts in the same way. Salvation by Christ is a defense of the head against false doctrines. Just as the helmet is a piece of armour for the head, our salvation is a protector of the head in times of difficulty, affliction, and distress. Like a helmet, it covers the head in the day of battle when engaged with Satan, the enemy of souls.

The word of God is compared to a "sword", for its two edges: Christ's New Testament law and Gospel. The one convicts of sin and cuts to the heart for it, and the other cuts down all the goodness of man. The Scriptures in general are a sharp sword, in convincing of sin, reproving for it, and threatening with wrath and ruin, in refuting error and heresy, and repelling Satan's temptations. They will be used in the destruction of antichrist, and this word may be called *the sword of the Spirit* because it is not carnal, but of a spiritual nature because the Holy Spirit is the author of it. He furnishes us with it, teaches us how to make use of it, and makes it powerful and effectual. So the Jews say, the words of the law are like to a sword, and speak of "the sword of the law" (Bereshit Rabba, sect. 21. fol. 19. 1.).

Ephesians 6: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The last weapon is prayer. It says that a man should pray as often as he has an opportunity and particularly that he should make use of it in times of darkness, desertion, and temptation. This, when performed correctly, is performed *in the Spirit* with the heart, soul, and spirit engaged in it. It is offered up with a true heart, and a right spirit of fervent sincere prayer knowing that God hears us and will answer our petition.

If we do these things Satan has no chance to dissuade us from God. But he will try and we must resist.

James 4: 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 6: 19-20 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Paul asked his readers not only to pray in general for all saints but also specifically to pray for him that he might make known the mystery of the gospel. He had to be clear regarding the “mystery of the gospel” when he would be on trial before Caesar in Rome (when and if the Jewish accusers would make charges against him). The Romans looked on the Christians as a sect of the Jews, and the Jews considered them as a heretical group. In his trial, Paul needed to make clear that Christians are neither a Jewish sect nor a heretical group but a new entity, the church, the body of Christ, composed of Jewish and Gentile believers. This recalls Paul’s lengthy discussion of this “mystery of the gospel” in 2:11-3:11. For this reason Paul was an ambassador in chains (Acts 28:16, 20; Eph. 3:1; 4:1; Phil. 1:7, 13-14, 16; Col. 4:3, 18; Philippians 1, 9-10, 13).

Ephesians 6: 21-22 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.

Tychicus was the bearer of this epistle. Paul considered him a dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord. In Colossians 4:7 Paul called him by these same titles and added that he was a “fellow servant.” Tychicus is also mentioned in Acts 20:4; 2 Timothy 4:12; and Titus 3:12. Tychicus was to inform the Ephesians of Paul’s welfare—how he was and what he was doing—in order to encourage them (cf. Eph. 3:13).

Ephesians 6: 23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Three spiritual qualities frequently mentioned by Paul—peace, love, and faith—are referred to in this verse. The phrase *peace to the brethren* is found nowhere else in the New Testament. This and love with faith (Ephesians 1:15) have their sources in God. Paul wanted them to continue their love for other Christians, their spiritual brothers (since they are all “members of one body,” 4:25) and to combine that love with their faith in God, for which they were well known. God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ is similar to Paul’s wording in Ephesians 1:2-3, 17; 5:20.

Ephesians 6: 24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Grace concludes the letter, just as it had introduced it (Ephesians 1:2). The words with a sincere love are literally, “in incorruption, incorruptibility, immortality” (Romans 2:7; 1 Cor. 15:42, 50, 53-54; 2 Tim. 1:10). It conveys the idea that believer’s love for the Lord Jesus Christ is to be pure, not corrupted with wrong motives or secret disloyalties. Unfortunately, some Ephesian believers later did lose the fervency of their love for Christ (Rev. 2:4). Paul’s benediction, though unusual was certainly appropriate.

Please Call or e-mail with any questions or comments.
Pentwaterbiblechurch@scofieldinstitute.org 616-928-0974