

THINK ON IT . . .

Make a list of three things that you know are real in our lives but you can't see them?

Example: Gravity

WHY THIS STUDY?

1. People are fascinated with the spiritual world/realm.
Ex. Demon Possession and Exorcisms, Occult Practices(witchcraft), Angel visions, etc.
2. There are many I _____ about the spiritual world/realm out in the world.
3. We need Biblical t _____ concerning the spiritual world/realm.
4. The intent of this study is to drive us closer to the Lord. Studying the spiritual world without this goal in mind is meaningless.
5. To awaken our awareness and s _____ to the spiritual struggle going on that impacts the physical world we live in daily

THREE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS THAT WILL DRIVE OUR STUDY

1. We live between two worlds....two active kingdoms.

- a. P _____ World: what we can see, feel, touch
- b. S _____ World: invisible to us

Even though the spiritual realm is invisible to the human eye, we are connected to it, and what goes on in the spiritual realm directly affects our physical world.

- **The Kingdom of Satan**

Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

Matthew 12: 24-26

- **The Kingdom of God**

And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Matthew 12: 27-28

"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."

John 8:23

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

John 18: 36-37

2. These two kingdoms/worlds are in a real, ongoing unseen c_____ with one another.

- One of Satan's most effective strategies (and a Christian's greatest danger) is the delusion that no seriously threatening conflict between good and evil is really raging in the invisible and supernatural realm.
- The war between God and Satan has not diminished but i_____, and so has its front on this earth.
- Our greatest enemy is not the world we see (corrupt and wicked as it is) but the world we cannot see.

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**. Eph 6: 12

"struggle": used of hand to hand combat; i.e. wrestling (trickery and deception); not against Satan himself but also a host of his demons who submit to his lead

"rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world": describe particular categories of demon activity and levels of authority; different rankings of those demons and the evil, supernatural empire in which they operate.

Though demonic categories are not explained, a possible hierarchy is setup by Paul.

"Rulers": a high order of demons (linked with authorities in Col 2:15)

"Powers": another rank (mentioned in 1 Peter 3:22)

"powers of this dark world": possible demons who infiltrate the political systems of the world, attempting to pattern them after Satan's realm of darkness

"spiritual forces of evil": possibly demons involved in the most wretched and vile immoralities-perverse sexual practices, the occult, Satan worship, and the like.

Paul's Point: not to explain away the details of the demonic hierarchy but to give us some idea of its sophistication and power...We are up against an incredibly evil and potent enemy...so we must turn to the Lord, our powerful and trustworthy source of protection and victory.

FOUR PRACTICAL REASONS THIS STUDY MATTERS IN MY LIFE . . .

This study aims to change our perspective on

1. How We P_____
2. How We Respond to Temptation
3. How We Handle Conflicts with Others
4. How We See D_____
5. How We Live in Victory and Confidence in the Power of Jesus

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