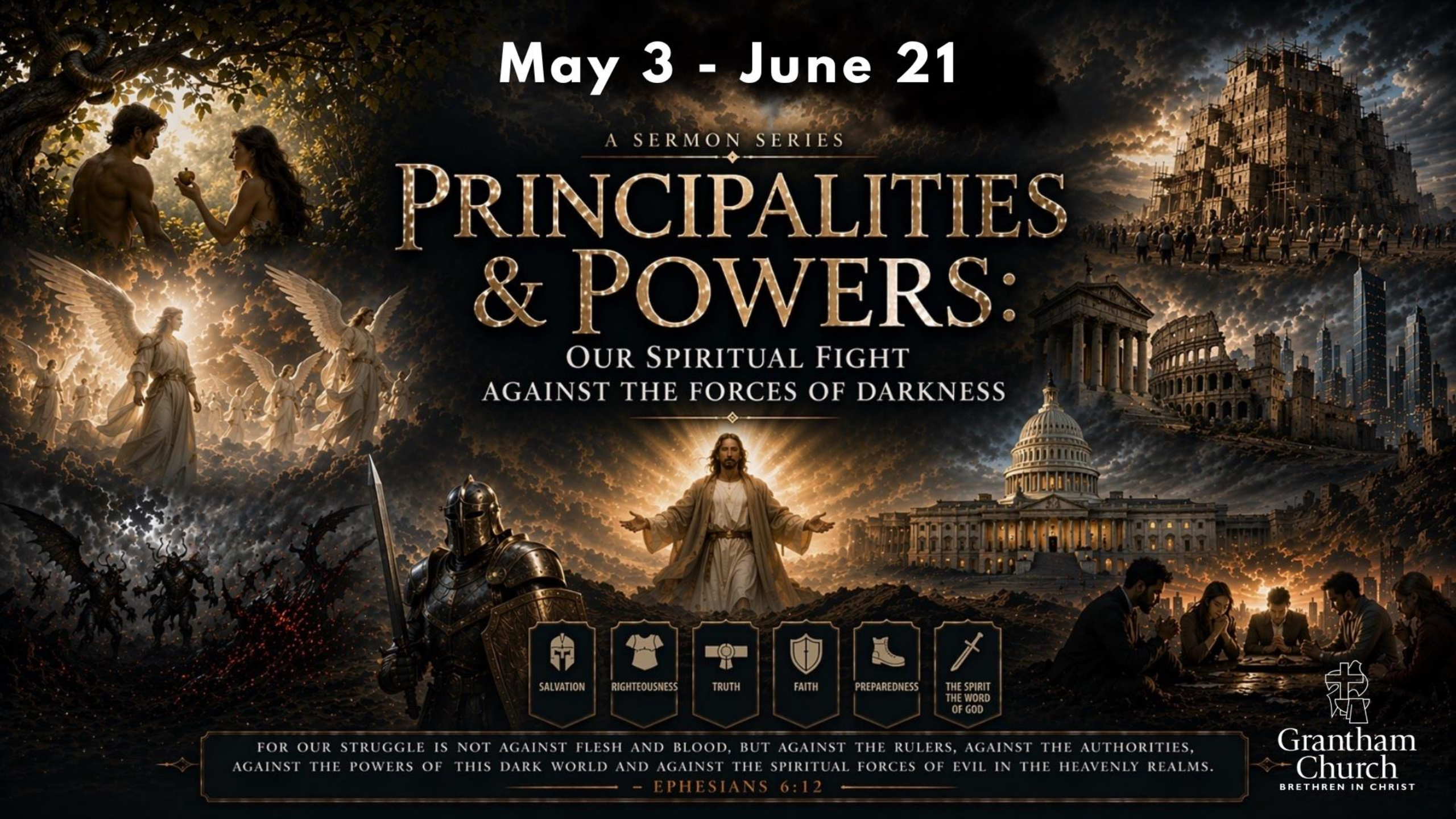


May 3 - June 21

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS



SALVATION



RIGHTEOUSNESS



TRUTH



FAITH



PREPAREDNESS



THE SPIRIT
THE WORD
OF GOD

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.

— EPHESIANS 6:12 —

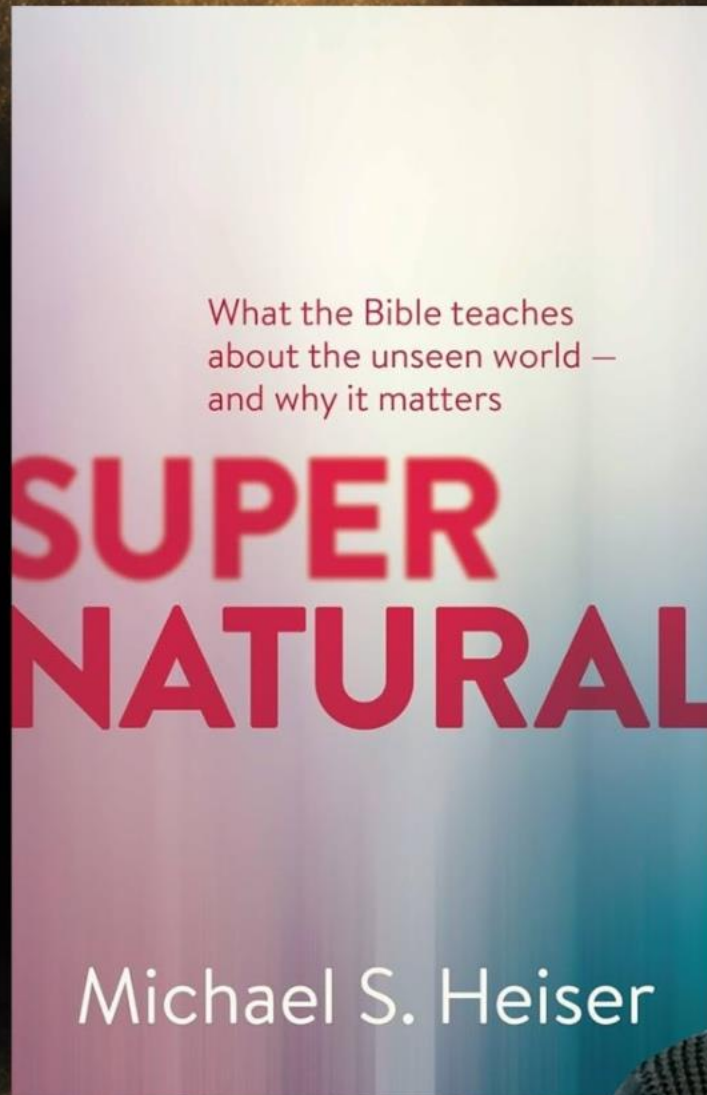
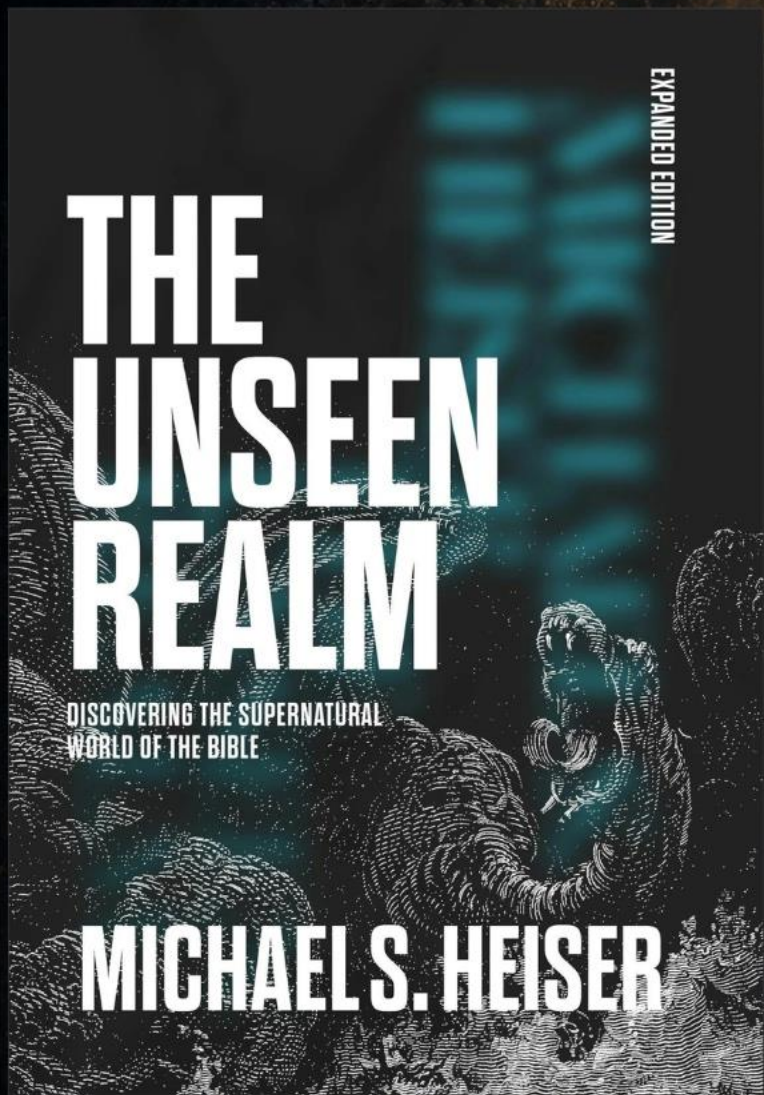


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BRETHREN IN CHRIST

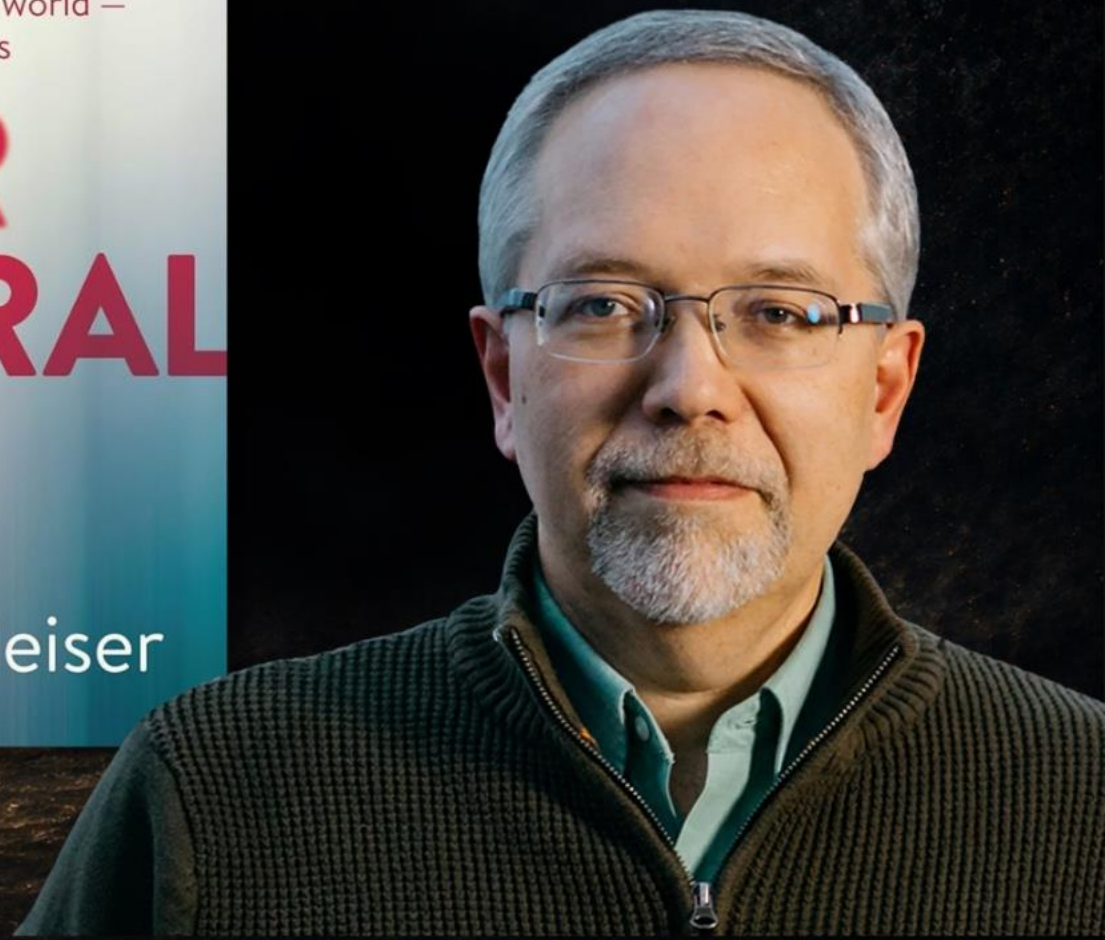


EPHESIANS 6:12

“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.”

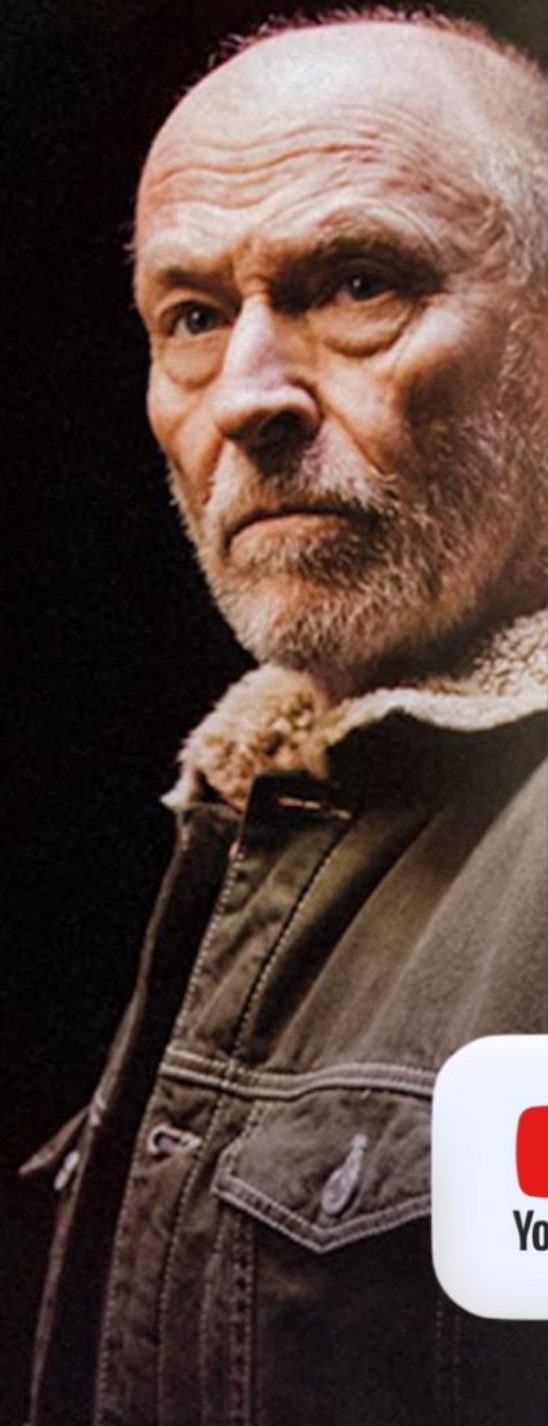


Michael Heiser, PhD
(1963–2023)



THE **UNSEEN REALM**

CORBIN BERNSEN DR. MICHAEL HEISER DR. ERIC MASON
DR. DARRELL BOCK DR. BEN WITHERINGTON III DR. GARY YATES



PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

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Music Playlist



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1. Cosmic Dimensions of Reality

STRANGER THINGS

WELCOME
TO
HAWKINS

N
NETFLIX




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AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

1. Cosmic Dimensions of Reality



“One is hard-pressed to find any culture, prior to or contemporary with our own, that does not assume something like this [spiritual warfare] perspective. From a cross-cultural perspective, the insight that the cosmos is teeming with spiritual beings whose behavior can and does benefit or harm us is simply common sense. It is Westerners who are the oddballs for thinking that the only free agents who influence other people and things are humans.”

Greg Boyd, *God At War: The Bible & Spiritual Conflict*



“If we modern Westerners cannot “see” what nearly everyone else outside the little oasis of Western rationalism the last several centuries has seen, then perhaps there is something amiss with our way of seeing. It is just possible that the intensely materialistic and rationalistic orientation of the Enlightenment has blinded us to certain otherwise obvious realities. It is just possible that our chronocentrism—our tendency to assume that the worldview we hold at the present time is the ultimate true worldview—is preventing us from seeing significant features of reality.”

Greg Boyd, *God At War: The Bible & Spiritual Conflict*

“In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1



Psalm 82:1 NRSV

“**God** (*elohim*) has taken his place in **the divine council**;
in the midst of **the gods** (*elohim*) he holds judgment”

אֱלֹהִים - “Elohim” is not a name—it’s a category.
It refers to any being in the spiritual realm.

Yahweh is unique because he is:

- uncreated (Ps. 90:2)
- supreme (Ps. 97:9)
- creator of all (Isa. 45:6–7)

So... there are many spiritual beings (*elohim*)
but only one true God; no other *elohim* is like him!





SCRIPTURE READING

—◆—
Psalm 82

Genesis 1:26 NLT

Then God said, “Let us make human beings in **our** image, to be like **us**.”

Who is God talking to in this verse?

God is speaking to the divine council, not the Trinity.

Consistent with Job 1:6; 1 Kings 22:19; Psalm 82:1

- God is *announcing* his decision to create humanity to his heavenly council—inviting their attention, *not* their participation.
- **Genesis 1:27** immediately clarifies:
“So God created humans ***in his own image***..”



THE COSMIC BIBLICAL TIMELINE

THE DRAMA OF REBELLION AND REDEMPTION FROM CREATION TO ETERNITY

<p>CREATION</p> 	<p>THE DIVINE COUNCIL</p> 	<p>THE FALL</p> 	<p>THE NEPHILIM</p> 	<p>THE FLOOD</p> 	<p>BABEL</p> 	<p>CORRUPT NATIONS</p> 	<p>GOD'S CHOSEN NATION</p> 	<p>JESUS' MINISTRY</p> 	<p>CROSS & RESURRECTION</p> 	<p>CHURCH AGE</p> 	<p>FINAL JUDGMENT</p> 
<p>God Creates The Universe Genesis 1:1</p>	<p>Divine Beings Share Rule Genesis 1:26 Psalm 82:1</p>	<p>Satan Rebelled - Angels & Humans Fell Genesis 3 Isaiah 14:12-15</p>	<p>The Sons of God Produce the Giants Genesis 6:1-4</p>	<p>Judgment on the Earth Genesis 6:5-9</p>	<p>Nations Divided & Assigned to Divine Beings Genesis 11:1-9 Deuteronomy 32:8-9</p>	<p>Spiritual Rulers Become Unjust Psalm 82 Daniel 10</p>	<p>God Establishes His Covenant People Genesis 12:1-4 Deuteronomy 7:6</p>	<p>Satan's Authority Collapses Luke 10:18 Matthew 16:18</p>	<p>Principalities & Powers Disarmed Colossians 2:15 1 John 3:8</p>	<p>Nations Reclaimed Through the Gospel Matthew 28:18-20 Acts 2</p>	<p>Evil Fully Judged & Defeated Revelation 20</p>

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1. Reality Is Bigger Than What You Can See

God created both the visible and the unseen realms (spiritual/higher dimensions)—and both are real.

- “The heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1) includes the physical/material world *and* the spiritual realm
- The authors of Scripture did not divide reality into “natural” and “supernatural” the way we do today

Question: *Will I begin to live as if the unseen world is real?*

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2. Your Life Is Part of a Real Spiritual Conflict

You are not just living your life on the earth; our world is connected to the unseen—you're standing in a war zone.

- As we will see in this series, our struggle is not against flesh and blood—don't get sucked down into darkness!
- There is real spiritual opposition that influences people, systems, cultures; dark forces are at work in the unseen

Question: *Will I look past people and see the deeper battle?*

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3. God Is Supreme and You Are Invited to Reign With Him

God rules over all spiritual powers and he invites you to represent him as an image bearer of the Most High God.

- God is not threatened by other “powers”—he created all spiritual beings, and the rebellious ones will be defeated
- Humanity was made to reflect God’s image in the world and participate in his rule; we are not helpless and alone

Question: *Will I partner with God in bringing his Kingdom?*

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Weekly Practice: Awareness – “Wake Up to the Battle!”

Challenge: Wake up to the spiritual battle and ask yourself: “Could there be more going on here than meets the eye?”

Invitation: Regularly pray: “*God, open my eyes to the unseen realities around me. Help me not to fight the wrong battles.*”

Goal: Shift from seeing people as the problem to recognizing that there are deeper spiritual realities at work around us.



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