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Message #2

Two Realms

Two Realms

- God created two <u>realms</u> or two dimensions.

1) <u>Spiritual</u> Realm – invisible to us
   - Created before Genesis 1
   - Sometimes referred to as heaven, heavens, heavenly places, rulers, thrones, powers, etc.
   - All sorts of spiritual beings

2) <u>Natural</u> Realm – our world, flesh & blood
   - Adam & Eve were to rule as the <u>Image of God</u> or the representative of God in this realm.

Two Realms

- These 2 realms <u>interact</u> and influence each other.
- These 2 dimensions were designed to <u>cooperate</u> and serve God to fulfill His purposes.
  - Heaven & Earth are meant to be <u>ONE</u>.
  - The <u>rebellions</u> against God broke this unity.
  - Jesus came to <u>reunite</u> these 2 realms – Heaven & Earth.
  - The forgiveness of sin is how God begins to restore this unity for us.

Two Realms

- Humans are a unique fusion of <u>both</u> realms.
  - We are made from the <u>Earth</u> and the <u>Spirit</u> or Breath of God.
    - <u>Body</u>, <u>Soul</u> and <u>Spirit</u>
- We are not spirit beings, we are human beings.
  - Created to live on the earth and see that God's Kingdom work is done on the earth.
  - Our future: Glorified body, new heaven and a new earth, New Jerusalem

Two Realms

- Spiritual Warfare is about the clashing of the two realms.
  - God's Kingdom vs. Kingdom of Darkness.
  - This is focused on God's Honor, salvation of people and doing God's will.

Mark 16:15-18*

Romans 16:20*

Ministry & the Two Realms

- Kingdom ministry has work to do in <u>both</u> realms.

- Ministry, in order to be effective, must do the "<u>spiritual work</u>" and the "<u>natural work</u>".

  - Idea: In modern warfare, the air attack most always is done before the ground attack.
  - Unfortunately, we are often not balanced in this.

What are some ways we do the “spiritual work”?

What are some ways we do the practical, “natural work”?

- As we read these Scriptures, think with the 2 Realms in mind…

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 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.

What does Paul mean by…???

"principalities & powers"

"rulers of the darkness of this age"

"spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places"

Words used to describe the Spirit Realm.

Paul's theology is by revelation of The Spirit and a thorough understanding of the Old Testament.

Ephesians 1:20-21

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and **power** and might and **dominion**, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Colossians 1:16

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and **invisible**, whether **thrones** or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and **for Him**.

1 Corinthians 2:6-8

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the **rulers of this age** knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- Let’s look at a few Scriptures showing the interactions between the 2 realms.

Genesis 4:6-7 – Cain & Abel

6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.“

- Sin lies at the door = described as a **beast** ready to pounce on it’s prey. (spirit realm)
- Desire is for you = desires to **rule you**

You should rule over it!

1 Kings 22:6-28*

2 Kings 6:8-17*

Daniel 10:4-13, 20-21*

- I came because of your words.
- Prince of Persia
- Prince of Greece

1 Corinthians 10:19-22*

- Idolatry is serious business.

Colossian 2:13-15

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having **disarmed** principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Two Realms We Fight In

- **Natural** Realm & **Spirit** Realm
- Our access and dealings with the "spirit realm" must be **with God**.
  - We are not authorized to access the spirit realm without the Holy Spirit.
- We must do our spiritual work and the natural work in order to be effective in Kingdom ministry.

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