

Spiritual Warfare: Let's Talk Liberation 06.06.20 | Weekly Study

START

Start your study by inviting God's presence to meet with you as you study His word. If you haven't already, listen to part one of this series "Spiritual Warfare – Warring Well".

MAIN VERSES

Ephesians 6:10-20 Genesis 11:1-9 Deuteronomy 4:19 Deuteronomy 32:7-9 Acts 2:1-21 Acts 17:30-31

OVERVIEW

At Babel, God scattered godless rebellious people, assigned them to geographical domains, and placed them under fallen gods who ultimately would abuse them. However, after a period of time, He would offer mercy, salvation, and deliverance to them. But when and how? Seeing that He is King of kings and Lord of lords, He will ultimately reclaim His fallen creation. He will come and extend His Kingdom's rule and reign on earth as it is in heaven. But this will not happen without clashes and battles with the gods of the world. In fact, the powers of evil will not yield people nor domains without violent warfare. The bad news is we all are in the middle of this cosmic battle between good and evil. The good news is we are on the winning side! So, please continue with us on this journey of learning about spiritual warfare and how we are to battle against forces of darkness, evil principalities, and ruthless spiritual authorities who seduce people to help them accomplish their destructive plans for us and the world we live in.

CONTENT

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

How are the following terms related to spiritual warfare; rulers, authorities cosmic powers, present darkness, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places?

The terms and phrases listed come directly from Ephesians 6:12, and they communicate that there are spiritual beings in the spiritual realm who have power and authority in and over people, institutions, and geography on this earth. These spiritual beings are evil and malevolent. They seek to rule and reign with a cruel and wicked hand over us and our world, bringing destruction to the souls of men. They are enemies of God and all of creation.

Read Genesis 11:1-9, Deuteronomy 32:7-9, and Deuteronomy 4:19

What does the scattering at Babel tell us about the spiritual realm and spiritual warfare?

This is where the biblical *Cosmic Geographical Domain Worldview* begins to develop (TheBibleProject has a wonderful short video entitled "The Satan and Demons" about this concept). God scatters mankind after their third major rebellion against Him at Babel. He then gives mankind lands and borders and places them under fallen gods who have power and authority over them and their lands. These fallen gods lord over them and keep them in bondage to darkness, evil, misery, and death. This was God's judgment on their rebellion. In effect, He said, "if you want to be rebellious and evil, I will hand you over to gods who are rebellious and evil." However, His love for His creation compelled Him to make a plan for everyone to return to Him and reverse this curse.

Read Acts 2:1-21

How is Acts 2 seen as a reversal of what happened at Babel?

Acts 2:5 states that Jews from "every nation under heaven" were gathered and present in Jerusalem. Michael Heiser wisely notes the list of "geographical regions reflected in the Table of Nations (Genesis 10) except for Tarshish (Spain), the final location Paul planned on preaching the gospel (Rom 15:24, 28)" are the same found in Acts 2! Pentecost was a regathering of those nations who were scattered at Babel. Via the gospel of the Kingdom of Messiah, God began the process of reclaiming and redeeming the nations. All of those Jewish believers in Jerusalem would take the gospel of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit back to their nations and the regathering of those scattered began!

Read Acts 17:30-31

How is God reclaiming the nations?

God reclaims the nations through the proclamation of the Gospel. The Gospel makes the case that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. It clarifies that He has come to

¹ Heiser, Michael S.. Demons: What the Bible Really Says About the Powers of Darkness (Kindle Locations 3793-3794). Lexham Press. Kindle Edition.

reclaim, redeem, and take back creation for the glory of God. God is now calling all Gentiles in every land and from every domain to repent and turn to Him through faith in Jesus. As peoples and groups are redeemed so is the dominion of the land. Redeeming people leads to redeeming dominion and reforming institutions. In the end, through Jesus, the rule and reign of God liberates all creation and brings the world back under His glorious, peaceful, and meaningful domain.

TAKE ACTION

Recognize that you together with your local church possess the power, authority, and wisdom to liberate people from the grip of evil powers and dark influences. As you join the church in this wonderful work, you will be advancing the Kingdom of Jesus on earth as it is in heaven. This is truly and profoundly what spiritual warfare is all about! Start with prayer. Pick 3 people who are in need of prayer and spiritual warfare, and spend 15 minutes every day praying for them.