



EVIL

The Spiritual realm

EVIL: Battle → we are at war

Ephesians 6:12

“For our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers (arche), against the authorities (exousia), against the world powers of this darkness (kosmocrator), against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places (pneumatikos ponia)”.

Kosmocrator = prince of darkness = Satan. Lord of the World

Pneumatikos ponia = spirits of depravity. Wickedness

EVIL

1. Within myself
2. Within this world and the “structures” of man
3. Within the spiritual realm

EVIL: Outline

1. Heavenly host characteristics
2. Forces of evil
3. Strategies of Satan
4. Defining evil
5. Spiritual warfare



Heavenly Host

Angels, Michael Heiser (2018)

Hierarchy

1. Divine Council ('edah or sod)

See Job 15:8, Jeremiah 23:18, Amos 3:7. 150 references

2. Elohim, sons of God. Divine beings

Specifically addressed in Psalm 82 and Deuteronomy

3. Heavenly ones (samayim)

The heavenly hosts

4. Functions

a) Angels (malak, malakim) and arch angels: messengers. Sent out by God

b) Ministers (seret): God's attendants

c) Watchers (irin): guardians of mankind, servants of God

d) Cherubim, seraphim: thrown guardians of God



Heavenly Host



Attributes

1. Bodies that are spiritual but can take human form (Abraham's encounter before Sodom and Gomorrah)
2. Free choice. The ability to make mistakes and can choose to rebel – which they did.
3. Rationality. They think and know they are not a spiritual form of robot.
4. Emotion. Luke 15:8-10, "...there is more joy before the angels of God over one sinner..."
5. Created (i.e. creatures). Colossians 1:16-20, i.e. existing in time, not omnipresent nor omnipotent

Satan

“the stronger (the) angel, the fiercer (the) devil if the angel falls”,
C.S. Lewis, The Great Divorce

Isaiah 14: 1-11 King of Babylon

vs. 12 –

“How you are fallen from heaven oh day star of Dawn (Lucifer).
How you are cut down to the ground you who laid nation’s low.

You said in your heart I will ascend to heaven above the stars of
God.

I will set my throne on high, I will sit on the mount of the assembly
in the far reaches of the north. I will ascend above the highest
clouds; I will make myself like the most high.”

Satan

Ezekiel 28

1st half King of tyre

2nd half vs 12-16

Vs. 12 “this is what the Lord God says,
You were the seal of perfection
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
You were in Eden the Garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering.
Sardius, topaz and diamond, beryl,
onyx and Jasper,
Sapphire, emerald and carbuncle; and
Crafted in gold were your settings



And your engravings on the day you
were created

They were prepared.

You were anointed guardian cherub, for
I anointed you.

You were on the holy mountain of God

You walked among the fiery stones

From the day you were created you
were blameless in your ways....”

Satan

Ezekiel 28

Vs. 15: “...until wickedness was found in you

Vs. 16: ...through the abundance of your trade, you were filled with violence and you sinned...

Vs. 17: your heart became proud because of your beauty; for the sake of your splendour you corrupted your wisdom.”



Satan

1. The deceiver. In Eden

Revelations 12:9 (also 20:2)

“and the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who was called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth and his angels with him.”

See also 1 Timothy 2:12-14

2. The accuser

Job 1:6

“One day the sons of god (Elohim) came to present themselves before the Lord (Yahweh) and Satan also came with them.”

3. The prince of the present age

a) Jesus declares Satan the (archon) ruler of this present world (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11)

b) Satan offers Jesus the worlds and its kingdoms

c) 1 John 5:19, “we know we are of God and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.”

Evil characters: the sons of God

Deuteronomy 32:8-9

“When the most high gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the sons of God. But the Lord’s portion is his people, Jacob, his allotted heritage.” (ESV)



Evil characters: the sons of God

Psalm 51

“God has taken his place in the divine assembly; he judges among the gods (Elohim); how long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless. Uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and needy; save them from the power of the wicked (rasa = morally wrong). They do not know or understand, they wander in darkness. All the foundations of the earth are shaken.

I said you are Elohim (gods), you are all sons of the most high. However, you will die like men and fall like any other ruler.

Rise up, God, judge the earth, for all nations belong to you.”





Evil characters: the corruptors/watchers

Genesis 6

Vs. 2: “the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful and they took any they chose as wives for themselves.

Vs. 4: the Nephilim were on the earth in those days and afterward when the sons of God came to the daughters of mankind, who bore children to them...”

Jude vs. 6

“and the angels who did not keep to their own domain but deserted their proper dwelling place he has kept in eternal bonds under deep gloom for the judgement of the great day.”

2 Peter 2:4

“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned but held them captive in Tartarus with chains of darkness and handed them over to be kept for judgement...”

Evil characters: the fallen angels

Revelations 12:7

“then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought but he could not prevail, and there was no place in heaven for them any longer.”

Aggelos = messenger

Same word for both groups



Evil characters: unclean spirits

Luke 8: 226-33

“when he (Jesus) got on land, a demon-possessed man from the town met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes and did not stay in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him and said in a loud voice, ‘what do you have to do with me, Jesus, you son of the most high god? I beg you don’t torment me..’

And they begged him not to banish them to the abyss (bottomless pit)...darkest part of hell ... the demons begged him to permit them to enter the pigs and he gave them permission...”

Disembodied evil spirits

- The heavenly hosts are embodied beings (spiritual bodies that can take various forms)
- Disembodied spirits ?Nephilim
- Who else is chained in the abyss?



Satan despises mankind

The only greater object of his hatred is God and he uses man to give him pain.



Satan's methods: General



- 1. Idolatry
- Creator of false gods
- Creator of false religions
- *"The Secret"*
- 2. Corruption of nations and corporations. War
- 3. Break down of God's institutions
 - Marriage
 - Laws/justice
 - Medical systems
- 4. Father of lies = confusion
 - evolution/atheism
 - Psychology/philosophy
- 5. Nature
 - illness??

Satan's methods



Daniel 10:12-13

“ ‘Don’t be afraid, Daniel’ he said to me, ‘for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of our prayers.’ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes came to help me...”

Satan's methods



1. Deception: false teachers/teaching

1 Timothy 4:1

“Now the spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons...”

2. Seduction/temptation

See: Temptation in the garden

See: Temptation of Christ

Lord's prayer, “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.”

3. Accuser

See: Job 1

4. Oppression

Directly effecting the world around you to keep your ministry ineffective.

Satanic attacks

Possession

- the indwelling of mankind by an evil spirit
- see the possession of Judas

1. Christians cannot be possessed.

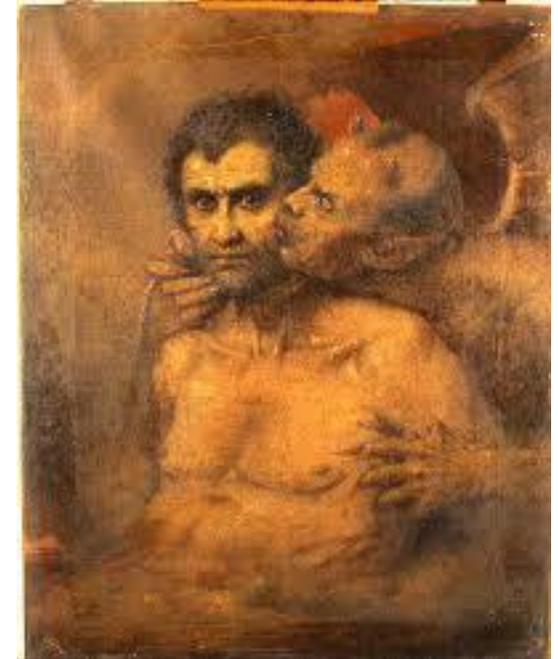
Holy Spirit

2. Western World very little possession

a) blind to it

b) “binding the strong man”

c) not the right strategy for an atheistic world



Spiritual warfare

1. Armour of God

Ephesians 6:10-17

“Put on the full armour of God.”

See: Isaiah



2. Prayer

Ephesians 6:18

“Pray at all times in the spirit with every prayer and request and stay alert in this ... with all persistence and intercession for the saints.”

Spiritual warfare

3. Ministry

2 Samuel 11:1

“In the spring when kings march out to war, David sent Joab.”

Matthew 12:30

“Anyone who is not with me is against me and anyone who does not gather with me, scatters.”

Revelations 3:16

“So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth.”

Spiritual warfare

4. Fellowship

Ecclesiastes 4:12

“If someone overpowers one person, two can resist him. A chord of three strands is not easily broken.”

5. Awareness of the danger

1 Peter 5:8

“Be alert and sober minded. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”



Spiritual warfare

6. Confession

James 5:16 (NIV)

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”



EVIL

1. The greatest commandment

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; Love your neighbour as yourself.”

GOD → neighbours → self

Isaiah 14:23

“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself the most high.”

Philippians 2:5

“Make your attitude that of Christ Jesus, who existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.”

EVIL = self, then neighbour, then God

EVIL

John 14:6

“Jesus told him,

I am the WAY,

the TRUTH,

and the LIFE,

No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 15:5

“I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

