

TERRITORIAL FORCES

ASSESSING THE STRUCTURE OF SATAN'S KINGDOM

Thesis: Just beyond our sight a war rages between non-human beings who are as actual as we are. Though unseen, the realm of this battle is just as much a “place” of action and interaction as the place in which you are sitting right now. That realm is as real as the one we live in, but simply existing in another dimension; not a faraway dimension, but an overlapping and very present dimension to the one in which we consciously function. Angelic beings, both good and evil, do exist, and they do function in our world, though mostly out of our sight. We do not live so much in separate realms as in interpenetrating realms. On both sides of the great controversy between good and evil, the forces involved are real, they are highly organized, they possess authority in our world, and they are aggressively contending over every nation, city and home, every man, woman and child. They are appointed by their respective commanders to preside over specified territories on earth, in which they seek continually to exert their influence.

The Ruler of This World

Genesis 1:26—Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over...all the earth.”

Psalm 115:16, NRSV—The heavens are the Lord’s heavens, but the earth He has given to human beings.

Luke 4:5-6—5Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.”

1 John 5:19—We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11—...the ruler of this world.

2 Corinthians 4:4—... the god of this age.

Ephesians 2:2—...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

NOTE: Satan views all the kingdoms of this world as belonging to him, and to the degree that any nation operated by his principles his claim is valid.

NOTE: The term “the god of *this* age” indicates a timeframe allotted for his rule.

Organized Forces

Luke 11:15—He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.

Mark 5:9—Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.”

Ephesians 6:10-12, NIV—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.

Territorial Forces

Deuteronomy 32:1, 8, NLT— **1** “Listen, O heavens, and I will speak! Hear, O earth, the words that I say!... When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when He divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of angelic beings.

Deuteronomy 32:9-12, Sep—And His people Jacob became the portion of the Lord; Israel was the line of His inheritance. He maintained him in the wilderness, in burning thirst and a dry land; He led him about and instructed him, and kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle would watch over his brood, and yearns over his young, receives them having spread his wings, and takes them up on his back, the Lord alone led them; there was no strange god with them.

Deuteronomy 32:15-17— **15** Then he forsook God who made him, and scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation. **16** They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger. **17** They sacrificed to demons, not to God, to gods they did not know, to new gods, new arrivals that your fathers did not fear. **18** Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, and have forgotten the God who fathered you.

Deuteronomy 29:26, Sep—They went and served other gods, which they knew not, neither did He assign them to them.

Psalms 106:34-38—**34** They did not destroy the peoples, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them, **35** but they mingled with the Gentiles and learned their works; **36** they served their idols, which became a snare to them. **37** They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, **38** and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood.

NOTE: Legion—“a legion, a body of soldiers whose number differed at different times, and in the time of Augustus seems to have consisted of 6826 men (i.e. 6100 foot soldiers, and 726 horsemen).” Strong’s.

NOTE: “When the Most High apportioned the nations, when he divided humankind, he fixed the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the gods” (NRSV). “When God divided up the world among the nations, He gave each of them a supervision angel” (LB). “When He made divisions among mankind, He assigned the realms of the nations to the various deities, while the Lord’s apportionment was His own people; Jacob was the allotment for Him to hold” (AAT).

NOTE: “...they enslaved themselves to the worship of alien gods” (Knox). “...gods whom they had not experienced” (Torah).

NOTE: Here is the reason why God commanded the execution of the Canaanite peoples—they had become demonically controlled societies in which the innocent were made to suffer. Human sacrifice was practiced in the worship of demons. These were Satanist strongholds.

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9