

Spiritual Warfare.02. The Kingdom of Satan

Spiritual warfare is the conflict against fallen, unholy, evil spirits taking place in the universe

→ The purpose of spiritual warfare is to advance the kingdom rule of the Lord Jesus Christ by overcoming, defeating, tearing down, and destroying the spiritual rule, power, and strongholds of the kingdom of Satan through the exercise and establishment of the authority, power and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ so that His kingdom rule is manifested and His will is being done in the hearts, minds and lives of people on earth

The Bible reveals, and the terrible realities of the history of the human race on earth demonstrate, that there is real, cosmic evil in this world (Gen. 2:17; Gal. 1:4)

- A significant dimension of the cause of this evil is the spiritual realm that interfaces, interacts with, and influences the earthly realm by evil angelic, spiritual beings acting on, in, and through humans in different ways and with different degrees of authority and power
- The Bible reveals that this spiritual evil is “the kingdom of Satan”
- The name “Satan” means “adversary,” for he is the supreme enemy and adversary of God

In order to accomplish God’s purpose to defeat the kingdom of Satan and establish His kingdom rule through spiritual warfare, it is essential that we have an accurate knowledge and understanding of the kingdom of Satan

- The more we do, the more we will not be “*ignorant of the schemes of the devil*” (2 Cor. 2:11)

The kingdom of Satan corresponds to the kingdom of God and counterfeits the ways and means God has created and ordained to establish and manifest His kingdom rule

- As God is enthroned in heaven and sovereignly rules over all things in the universe with His holy angels and humans doing His will (Ps. 103:21, Matt. 26:42) so also Satan has a kingdom (Matt. 12:26) and a throne (Isa 14:13; Rev. 2:13; 13:2), and manifests his rule with his evil spirits doing his will in the spiritual realm of the “second heaven” and humans in the earthly realm
- Jesus spoke of him as “the ruler of the world” (John 14:30) and “the ruler of this world” (John 16:11), the “world” meaning the ways, manners, and customs of how people live in this age, which is the present time in history before the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ
- The ways and actual time-space locations in the invisible, spiritual realms and the visible, earthly realm where God’s will is being done are the ways and time-space locations of the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:10)
- The ways and actual time-space locations in the invisible, spiritual realm and the visible, earthly realm where Satan’s will is being done is where Satan’s kingdom is being manifested

While Satan’s kingdom rule began in the heavenly realms when 1/3 of the angelic beings chose to rebel against God and give their loyalty and allegiance to him, his spiritual rule over the earthly realm began with sin of Adam

- When God created Adam in His image, He gave to Adam rule over the earth (Gen. 1:26), with Adam being the covenantal head and representative of the human race (Hos. 6:7; Rom. 5:12-19)
- Along with this, God gave Adam one commandment to obey in order to continue in obedience to God, maintain his delegated authority and rule (Gen. 2:17), and thereby manifest the kingdom of God on the earth, which he and his descendants were to spread in the all earth (Gen.1:28)

- When Adam chose to not believe and disobey God but, instead, to believe the lie of Satan and act upon it by transgressing God's commandment, spiritual rule on the earth and over the human race was "*delivered*" to Satan because Satan's will was now being done on earth
- This spiritual rule was not taken by force, or so-called "right of conquest," but by choice
- When Adam freely chose to believe and do what Satan said, he began to follow Satan's desire and will, and thereby to live according to the kingdom rule of Satan on earth
- Because Adam was the corporate or federal covenant head and representative of the human race, rule of Satan was "turned over" to all "in Adam"

Soon after this, the reality of Satan "capturing" the rule of the earthly realm was affirmed by God in the very first promise of salvation when God cursed Satan

- God declared in **Genesis 3:15**, "*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*"
- In the words, "*he shall bruise/crush your head,*" God is affirming the reality that Adam was no longer "*ruler*" over the earth, but Satan had become spiritual "*head*" over the human race

This terrible reality was also acknowledged by the Lord Jesus Christ at the time of His temptation in the wilderness by Satan

- **Luke 4:5-7** = *And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."*
- The Greek word translated "*delivered*" can be translated as "betrayal," which Judas did of Jesus (Matt. 10:4), and what Adam did in the beginning (Hos. 6:7)
- Satan's offer was an actual temptation for Jesus because He knew that Satan possessed "*authority*" over "*all the kingdoms of the world*" because spiritual rule has been "*delivered*" to him when Adam sinned and he became "*the ruler of this world*" (John 16:11)
- **1 John 5:19** = *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one*

Ephesians 2:2 reveals numerous details about the reality of Satan and His kingdom

- **Ephesians 2:1-2** = *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience*
- These words, inspired by God the Holy Spirit, reveal at least 12 specific realities about Satan and how he and his kingdom work in "*this world*"

(1) Satan is "the spirit"

- The fact that this is the singular "*spirit*," and not the plural "spirits," with the definite article "*the*" - "*the spirit*" - identifies this being as being one, specific "*spirit*" whom the book of Ephesians identifies as "*the devil*" (Eph. 4:27; 6:11)
- He is a "*spirit*," meaning his nature is a personal spiritual "angelic" being who was created by God (Ezek. 28:15)
- **Ezekiel 28:14** reveals he is a "*cherub*," an angelic being that was the guardian of God's throne
- He was the "*anointed cherub*," meaning the chief cherub, or archangel, having authority over the other cherubs, and the other angelic beings as it was delegated to him by God

(2) He is “*the prince*” - the ruler

- The word “*prince*” is a translation of the Greek word “archon” which means “*ruler*,” and is the same Greek word translated “*ruler*” that Jesus used to identify Satan (John 14:30; 16:11)
- The definite article “*the*” means he is not merely “a,” or one among others, but “*the*” principal, primary, overall ruler over his kingdom

(3) He is the “*power*” - the authority

- While most English translations of this word translate it as “*power*,” which follows the KJV that was published in 1611, the Greek word used in this verse is “exousia” which means “*authority*”
- While the two words “*power*” and “*authority*” can be used synonymously, they are two different things, and the Greek of the New Testament uses 2 different words to identify them
- **Luke 9:1** = *And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases*
- “*Power*” is the translation of the Greek word “dunamis” which means the ability and force with which to do something or cause something to happen
- “*Authority*” is the translation of the Greek word “exousia,” which means the “*right*” to do something
- The use of the word “exousia” means Satan is the “*ruling authority*” over his kingdom

(4) “*of the air*”

- The “*air*” is the time-space location of the spiritual atmosphere surrounding the earth in which Satan dwells and from where he rules and exercises his authority
- Just as there is the earthly, physical atmosphere surrounding the earth that is commonly identified as “the air,” so this word is used of the spiritual atmosphere around the earth
- This realm is also called “*the heavnlies*” or “*the heavenly places*,” the “*second heaven*”
- **Ephesians 3:10** = *so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*
- **Ephesians 6:12** = *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*
- It is in this physically invisible spiritual realm of the atmosphere of “*the air*” of the second heaven that Satan “*goes to and fro on the earth, and walks up and down on it*” (Job 1:7), “*prowling around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour*” (1 Pet. 5:8)

(5) “*at work*”

- The Greek word translated “*at work*” is the present participle of “*energo*,” from which we get the English word “*energy*”
- The present means “*continuously working*” or “*the energy continuously working*”
- Satan is a spiritual energy, power and personal being “*at work*” causing his will to be done

(6) “*now*”

- This word means and connotes the following:

(a) “**Now**” means the present moment, currently, right now

- This is expressed in the present tense of the word “*working*”

(b) “Now” means this “age,” epoch, or period of history

- This is the age or period of history in which Satan is now working
- This “age” began on earth with the fall of Adam and will end with the Second Coming of Jesus
- **Galatians 1:3-4** = *Jesus Christ⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father*

(c) “Now” means it is temporary and will pass away

- Satan’s kingdom rule is transitory and will come to an end at God’s set and appointed time (Matt. 8:29; Acts 1:7; Rev. 12:12)
- **1 Corinthians 2:6** = *Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.*
- **1 Corinthians 7:31** = *the present form of this world is passing away.*
- **1 John 2:17** = *the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever*

The devil and his evil angels know they are doomed

- **Matthew 8:29** = *And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?”*
- **Matthew 24:36** = *“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”*
- **Revelation 12:12** = *Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”*
- While Satan and his evil spirits know “the signs of the times,” they do not know the day or hour of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus

(7) “in”

- While Satan dwells in “*the air*,” he is working “*in*” human beings
- The Greek word translated “in” is “en,” which means both “within a location” and/or “by means of, through”
- This is not only around, near, or pressing in upon, but “in” human beings
- This is the actual time-space location “in” and “through” which Satan is working and his kingdom rule is being manifested in the earthly realm
- Satan has authority and power to exercise his kingdom rule both “in” and “through” human beings, whether it is through an individual or by means of a “corporate” structure of some kind

There are two reasons why this is possible

(1) One is that God created human beings, not only to interact with, but to be indwelt by a spirit - the empowering manifest presence of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16)

- Because of this, the “constitution” of human nature is one in which a spirit can enter and dwell

(2) The second is the consequence of the sin of Adam that is “legal ground” of human nature has been “given over” to the rule of Satan (see below)

The reality of Satan having access to and working “in” humans is explicitly stated by the Lord Jesus in the “Parable of the Sower,” saying, “*the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart*’ (Matt. 13:4, 19)

- The “*heart*” is the innermost aspect of a human being, the source of desires, beliefs and choices
 - This spiritual reality of Satan having access to and “*working in*” humans is also spoken of by Paul in **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**, “*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*”
 - The “*mind*” is the instrument of thinking
 - This means that Satan has authority and power to directly interact with, influence, and control the “*hearts*” and “*the minds*” of people concerning what they think, what they believe, what judgments they will make, what worldview they will hold to, and how they live
- ➔ **Satan has authority and power to personally enter into human beings as he did in Judas to betray Jesus (Luke 22:3; John 13:27)**

However, just as God works through the agency of His holy angels, so Satan primarily “works” through and by the agency of the evil spirits of his kingdom to accomplish his will

- Corresponding to the way and means God created and ordained to establish and manifest His kingdom through His holy angels, so Satan uses and counterfeits God’s kingdom to exercise his rule and will through his evil spirits
- Satan gives his authority and power to accomplish his will to different kinds of evil spirits, (Mark 9:29), having different degrees of angelic authority, strength and power (Jude 9; Rev. 18:1), in different regions, territories, and locations on the earth
- The Scriptures identify these evil spirits as “*the rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers over this present darkness, the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places*” (Eph. 6:12) as well as “*demons*” that personally enter into human beings (see numerous passages of “casting or driving out demons from a person, e.g., Matthew 12:28)
- From the time of the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1ff.), God turned over rule of the nations to the ruling evil spirits who became the “gods” of the nations (Deut. 32:8)

(8) “*the sons of disobedience*”

- These words reveal the reason Satan has authority to exercise his kingdom rule “*in*” and through human beings

The words “*the sons*” is a Hebrew way of identifying the nature of someone, meaning what a person is “naturally” being “the son of...”

- Humans are “the sons of Adam,” which is most often translated “son of man” (Ezek. 2:1)
- Beings “*the sons of disobedience*,” human beings are, in nature, disobedient to God
- From the moment of the Fall of Adam, every human became naturally disobedient to God
- **Romans 5:19** states that “*by the one man’s disobedience*,” which was the sin of Adam, “*the many were made sinners*”
- For the moment of conception, all humans are “naturally” disobedient to God, hostile to His kingdom rule and will, and “naturally” “*enemies*” of God (Rom.5:10; 8:7)
- **Psalm 51:5** = *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

➔ This means that when a person believes that “what is natural” is “God-created” and, therefore, “good” because “God doesn’t make anything bad,” and chooses to live according to any of their evil, fallen, sinful desires, they are deceived by Satanic and choosing to live as an enemy of God

(9) “dead”

- “Dead” identifies the “natural” spiritual state of the existence of “*the sons of disobedience*” in their relationship to God
- While in the modern, secularized worldview the word “dead” has come to connote “non-existence,” this is not what the word means here
- “Dead” identifies the state of existence of the spiritual aspect of human nature, that humans, by nature, are conceived, are born, and exist spiritually separated from God, the source of life
- Being born separated from the life and power of the holy, manifest presence of the Living God, people are not born with an actual personal relationship with God, and do not “know” God, let alone love God with all their hearts, minds and strength

(10) “in trespasses and sins”

- These words identify the reason why people are born spiritually “dead” and under the kingdom rule of Satan

(a) “trespass”

- The reality of humans being naturally disobedient to God is manifested and “made known” by their transgressions and legal violations of the law of God
- **Romans 3:20** = *since through the law comes knowledge of sin*
- **Romans 7:7** = *if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”*

(b) “sins”

- All acts of disobedience to God are “sins,” for “sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4)

“Trespasses and sins” are the “legal ground” for Satan to work “in the sons of disobedience”

- The phrase “legal ground” comes from **Ephesians 4:27**, which is imprecisely translated in the ESV and NASB95 as “opportunity” in the words “give no opportunity to the devil”
- The Greek word translated “opportunity” is “topos” which literally means “place, location, ground”
- While an “opportunity” is “an occasion or circumstance in which something might possibly happen,” the Greek does not mean that this is merely the possibility for something to happen
- It means that it not only will but is going to continue happening, which is “giving place/ground to the devil”
- The Greek word translated “give” is in the present tense and imperative mood which means “be continuously giving”
- Ephesians 4:27 literally states that a “place, location, ground” is “given over and continues to be given to the devil”
- For this reason, the Scripture warns that it is imperative not to give ground to the devil

The context of this statement reveals that “ground” is given to the devil because of sin

- The verse immediately preceding this imperative word from God is **Ephesians 4:26**, which states, *“Be angry and do not sin”*
- According to the righteous legal principle of how God rules the universe, it was through the *“sin,” “trespass”* and *“disobedience”* of *“the one man,”* Adam, that the “legal ground” was to “given” to Satan to become *“the ruler of this world”* (Luke 4:6)
- According to the same righteous legal principle of how God rules the universe according to His righteous and holy law, it is through trespass and sin that each individual and their family line “gives” legal “ground” to Satan to work and manifest his kingdom rule “in” and through them

While sin is the “legal ground” for Satan and evil spirits to work “in” and through, as well as on and over humans, the legal basis for this “legal ground” is the righteous judgment and punishment of God Who “gives over” humans to the rule by Satan and his kingdom

- The “legal ground” is not given to Satan and evil spirits because they are righteous and, for that reason, have a personal righteous “right” to “take that ground” and “possess” it
- In this regard, it can be said that the devil comes to *“steal, kill, and destroy”* (John 10:10)
- Just as God in righteous judgment and punishment for sin against Him “gives over” an individual and nations to the sin of which they desire and continue in so that their human nature is further corrupted and enslaved by sin (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28), so God “gives them over” to the evil rule of Satan and his kingdom in righteous judgment for their sin against Him
- Also, just as God in righteous judgment and punishment for sin against Him God “gives over” nations and His own people to be attacked, taken captive, and destroyed by other nations but then judges and destroys them, so God gives over people and nations to the evil rule of Satan and his kingdom in righteous judgment and punishment for their sin against Him yet will destroy Satan and His kingdom (Lev. 26:17 and Deut. 28:7, 49; Ps. 106:41; Isa. 10:5-19; Jer. 25:11-14; 30:16)

The “legal ground” is sin, and when our sin is forgiven and cleansed there is no longer “legal ground” for Satan and evil spirits to continue to work “in” a person or nation to hold and possess that place or ground

→ It is for this reason that Satan and the evil spirits of his kingdom are *“disarmed”* and *“overcome”* by the blood of Jesus on the cross (Col. 2:13-15; Rev. 12:11)

(11) “walk following this course of this world”

- *“Walk”* is a Biblical metaphor for the way a person lives, the conduct and lifestyle of a person
- The Greek word translated *“following”* is usually translated *“according to”*
- A person “walks” *“following,” “according to,”* in conformity with, in tune” with, or “in step with” something
- Because humans are by nature spiritually *“dead,”* separated from God and “sinners,” they live naturally *“following”* and according to *“the course of this world”* which is ruled by Satan

The Greek word translated “course” is literally “age”

- The “age” is the current overall period of history that began with the Fall of Adam
- While different periods of history can be identified according to certain distinguishing characteristics such as “the stone age,” “the modern age,” this overall period of history is called *“this age”*

- **Matthew 12:32** = *And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.*
- **Ephesians 1:21** = *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*

The distinguishing characteristics of this “age” is summed up in the words “this world,” meaning the culture, way of life, worldview, lifestyle and world order

- While each culture has its own distinguishing qualities, the most basic spiritual way of life and culture of “*the whole world*” is that people live according to the sinful desires of the “*flesh*” “*following the course of this world*” because they are naturally hostile, disobedient “*enemies*” of God (Rom. 5:10; 8:7; James 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 5:19)

(12) “following the prince of the power of the air”

- “Behind” “*the course of this world*” is the spiritual presence and power of Satan and his kingdom rule
- Human beings are naturally “*following*,” living according to, in tune with, and in step with Satan and his kingdom rule, which is why the record of history is saturated with real, cosmic evil
- Because of the righteous judgment, punishment, and wrath of God, Satan is “*now*” “*the spirit*,” who has been “*given*” legal authority and power to interface with, influence, and control human beings, both individually and corporately, to be conformed to his likeness, to accomplish his evil will, and to cause his kingdom to be manifested on earth during this present evil age
- He does this by counterfeiting God’s kingdom and working through his evil spirits

It is because of these things that humans individually, and humanity corporately, naturally live in a state of continuous spiritual warfare against God and His kingdom rule

- Because humans are spiritually “*dead*,” naturally disobedient to God, and live under and according to the kingdom rule of Satan with their minds and hearts conformed to his mind, thinking, power, and the way of life of his kingdom, individuals and corporate humanity continuously wars against God and His kingdom rule and will on earth

It is because of this spiritual reality that the kingdom of God is waging spiritual war against the kingdom of Satan for rule and dominion in the hearts and lives of people

- The purpose of spiritual warfare is to advance the kingdom rule of the Lord Jesus Christ by overcoming, defeating, tearing down, and destroying the spiritual rule, power, and strongholds of the kingdom of Satan through the exercise and establishment of the authority, power and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ so that His kingdom rule is manifested and His will is being done in the hearts, minds and lives of people on earth
- It is on the basis and by means of the obedient life of the Lord Jesus Christ to merit righteousness, His blood on the cross to propitiate the wrath of God and remove the legal ground against us because of our sins, His resurrection which defeated death and brought forth eternal life into the earth, His ascension and enthronement at the right hand of God by which He was made Lord and given all rule and authority in heaven and earth, and the outpouring of the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, that the kingdom rule of God is now waging war against, overcoming, and will ultimately defeat and totally destroy the kingdom rule of Satan
 ➔ **“Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10)**