

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Newsletter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 KJV)

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Spiritual War The Things Invisible--Part 1

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When I read some of the books and articles that are being published about spiritual warfare, I am astounded by some of the ideas and speculations about the enemy and the utter naivety about what we are to be doing. This issue and the next several issues of "Present Truth" will deal with spiritual warfare from a scriptural perspective. One of the necessary criteria for successful warfare is "intelligence" or "G2" about the enemy, his strengths, weaknesses, resources, plans, and strategy.

First, let us take a look at how God has structured both the things that we see and the things that we don't.

Col 1:13-16 NASB

(13) For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

(14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(15) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

(16) For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

There are several key points in the first three verses:

1. God has provided redemption and forgiveness to us through His beloved Son.
2. Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God.
3. God has rescued us from the domain of darkness.
4. We have been transferred to the Kingdom of the Son.

Then, in verse 16 we get a glimpse of how things were structured when all things were created

and this includes things that are visible to us and things that are invisible. We live in the visible or physical dimension (reality) but there is also an invisible, spiritual dimension (reality) that is just as real. Just as there is structure, order, and physical rules (laws) that make up the visible, there is also structure, order, and spiritual rules (laws) that make up the invisible.

When the Lord created all things, He created all things in heaven and all things in the earth. He created all things that are visible and He created all things that are invisible. These include:

1. thrones,
2. dominions,
3. rulers, and
4. authorities.

There is an implication of government structure and of realms of responsibility in this list. Let's look at these four levels of government.

Thrones

The meaning of “thrones” is rather straight-forward. It means the “seat of the ruler or potentate”. This is one of the invisible things that we need to understand. God has a throne room where He is seated on His throne.

Psa 11:4 NASB

(4) The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

Psa 103:19 NASB

(19) The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.

Rev 7:10-11 NASB

(10) and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

(11) And all the angels were standing around the throne and *around* the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.

While the throne of God is the highest, He has established other thrones besides His to govern His creation.

Mat 19:28 NASB

(28) And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Rev 20:4 NASB

(4) Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they

came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 3:21 NASB

(21) 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

It would appear that the throne level of government is the highest level and it is from this level that the Lord rules His Kingdom from His throne. There is also a promise to those who overcome to actually sit with Jesus upon His throne.

Jesus told His disciples that in the future they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes. It also appears that in the past some thrones had been established for some of the angels, one of which was Lucifer.

Isa 14:12-13 NASB

(12) "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

(13) "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

Lucifer had a throne from which he apparently governed some of the creation for God. (It is my opinion that he governed a part of creation that included the earth.) However, he wasn't satisfied with what he was nor where he was nor what he was doing (dissatisfaction is still one of his tools against us, today). He desired to actually move his throne to the "mount of assembly", which, as I understand it, means that he wanted to move into the throne room of God. (It is my opinion that he wanted to take the position of God, the Son). Pride was the root of this rebellion against the established order of God and the result was that Lucifer became Satan, an outlaw to the laws of God.

While Satan has failed in his attempt to be God, he wants to act like God. But since he is a created being (although very powerful) he is unable to do do what God does so he parodies God's ways in order to appear as God. An example of this is the fact that Satan will give his power, throne, and authority to his false messiah, the Antichrist, in a parody of the manner in which the Father gave His throne, power and authority to Jesus.

Rev 13:2 NASB

(2) And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

When Lucifer attempted to exalt his throne, he lead a major rebellion in the heavens that included a third of the angelic hosts (Rev.12:4). He established a "domain of darkness", a kingdom that is in opposition to God and the Kingdom of His dear Son.

(The Lord willing, the next issue will continue with The Things Invisible—Part 2. We will begin to look at the "dominion" level of creation mentioned in Col. 1:16).

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