

# 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 Series

### The Kingdom of Darkness Part 1

Art Nelson

In our previous three issues of “the Spiritual War Series” we looked at the structure of the things invisible. In this issue we will begin to look at the kingdom of darkness and how it functions. As we saw in our previous issues, the kingdom of darkness is ruled by Satan and is in opposition to the Kingdom of God. How did the kingdom of darkness come to exist?

Before proceeding, we need to consider a few things as a foundation:

1. The Bible is primarily a history of Man, God's purpose for him, and God's final fulfillment of that purpose. Things that don't relate to man and God's purpose are not the concern of the Scriptures and any insights that we might gain in other areas are only glimpsed in bits and pieces when the Scriptures refer to them, many times without any explanation or elaboration.
2. As we evaluate the small areas where the veil is lifted briefly giving us a peek into the invisible things, we must remember that reason and logic are not the primary tools for understanding spiritual things. We must receive revelation from the Holy Spirit to begin to comprehend these areas (I Cor. 2:12-14). This is not to say that God is illogical or unreasoning; but that His ways and His thinking are far higher than our small, fallen minds can process unless He brings revelation (Isa. 55:9).
3. True bible study is seriously lacking among believers. We accept commentaries and writings from others as if they offer the final comprehensive understanding of the things of God when, in fact, many of these have been written from the natural mind with very little insight into spiritual Truth. We have been indoctrinated with “the scientific principle” that says if we can't quantify something then it is not real; however, the essence of faith is that it is the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). The bottom line is that we have simply not believed the Scriptures. When a difficulty is encountered, we develop a

rational explanation to resolve it or throw it out as a mistake rather than believing the Word. Our rationalizations have prevented us from coming to a true understanding of many of the invisible things that are glimpsed in the Scriptures.

Keep these three areas in mind as we proceed with this study over the next several issues of Present Truth. We all are seeking to understand the things of God. I am not trying to present these studies as the final word on anything, but, simply as a place that I have come to in my own understanding. Search the Scriptures yourself and let the Spirit of God enlighten your own mind.

## Definition of the Kingdom of Darkness

Darkness is contrasted with light. Our God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (I John 1:5). At one point, Lucifer, the being who became Satan, was a functional part of the creation of God, operating in the light as an Angel of light himself. When he rebelled, he no longer functioned as an operative of the light, but instead became one who was cut off from the Light of God and functioned in darkness. (This is a spiritual designation of darkness, not a natural darkness.)

The kingdom of darkness is synonymous with the dominion of Satan as shown by this verse:

Acts 26:18 NASB

(18) to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

This domain of darkness includes world forces that are under the dominion of Satan. It is these world forces that control the World Systems.

Ephesians 6:12 NASB

(12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

We who follow Jesus are no longer under the dominion of darkness because the Father has rescued us and moved us into the Kingdom of His own Son.

Colossians 1:13 NASB

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

This process changed our very nature: we were formerly darkness (spiritual darkness), but now are light.

Ephesians 5:8 NASB

(8) for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

## The Beginning of the Kingdom of Darkness

The kingdom of darkness began in the heart of Lucifer, a powerful archangel of God who functioned in an important role in the creation of God. Prior to the revelation of unrighteousness in his heart, he had rulership or oversight of part of the creation of God and had specific job functions in God's economy.

## Ezekiel 28:12-18 NASB

(12) "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

(13) "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. [*Notice that he was in a mineral garden not the garden of vegetation that was overseen by Adam in Genesis.*]

(14) "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

(15) "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you.

(16) "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.

(17) "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.

(18) "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you.

Obviously, the words of these scriptures speak of someone greater than the physical King of Tyre. They speak of the power behind the King and the Spiritual forces that empower him. With this we have a glimpse into the fall of Lucifer. Several characteristics are revealed:

1. He had the seal of perfection.
2. He was full of wisdom.
3. He was perfect in beauty.
4. He was located in Eden, the garden of God. [*I don't believe that this is the Eden of Genesis, which was Adam's habitat. The Hebrew word of Eden means "pleasure" or "paradise". This Eden was a mineral garden that was prepared as a covering for Lucifer the day that he was created.*]
5. He was placed by God as a covering.
6. He was on the Holy Mountain of God and he walked among the stones of fire [*In Revelation, these seem to be in the throne room of God.*]
7. He was blameless in his function from the time he was created until he fell.

There is no hint in these scriptures concerning time. Apparently, this was before the creation of our space-time continuum, in other words, in eternity past. Time, itself, was created by God when He created our universe. It has no application to the invisible things outside of our universe. [Einstein showed that time is integrally related to our physical universe when he linked

time, mass and speed together with his theory of relativity.]

At some point, things changed in the heart and mind of Lucifer:

1. His wisdom was corrupted by his splendor and his heart was lifted up because of his beauty.
2. This caused unrighteousness to be found in him.
3. Violence filled him because of the abundance of his trade. *[What is his trade or merchandise? The root of one of the Hebrew words here means “whisperer”. I believe that his “merchandise” had to do with a slander campaign against God. He went up and down among the angels whispering against God.]*
4. By his actions, he profaned his sanctuaries.

Let's add to these another scripture that also gives us a glimpse into the fall of Lucifer.

#### Isaiah 14:12-14 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.

(14) 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most  
High.'

These scriptures list a series of five “I wills” that Lucifer purposed in his heart. I am going to list these in a different order to show an important point.

1. I will make myself like the Most High.
2. I will ascend above the clouds.
3. I will ascend to heaven.
4. I will raise my throne above the stars of God.
5. I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.

When listed like this, what is the starting point from which he will ascend? It would appear to me that the starting point would be under the clouds since the first place he would ascend to is “above the heights of the clouds”. The only thing under the clouds would be the earth. This implies to me that prior to his fall, Lucifer had oversight of some portion of God's creation and that the earth was central to the area that he oversaw. Could it be possible that his sanctuary that he defiled was spiritually linked to or a part of the earth? Revelation 2:12-13 it says that the angel of the church of Pergamum dwelt in the place of Satan's throne. Could this be a reference to the location of Satan's throne prior to his fall?

We don't have definitive answers to these questions but it seems to me that we can infer that prior to Lucifer's fall he ruled some portion of the universe for God and performed functions associated with the purpose for which he was created. The earth existed prior to his fall and was most likely the base of operations from which Lucifer exercised dominion for God. He defiled his sanctuary by operating a whispering smear campaign against the Lord that seduced a third of God's angels that are now referred to as Satan's angels (Rev. 12:7-9).

*[The next several issues of Present Truth will continue to explore the interaction of the Kingdom of Darkness with God's creation and how it affects us.---Art Nelson]*

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:

[artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com](mailto:artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com)

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