

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)

Volume 3, Issue 9

September 2005

Spiritual War Series The Things Invisible--Part 2

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We began this “Present Truth” series on Spiritual War with our previous issue on “The Things Invisible—Part 1”. Our Scripture text is this:

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.

It is verse 16 that gives us a glimpse of how things were structured when all things were created. When the Lord created all things, He created all things in heaven and all things in the earth including all things that are visible and that are invisible. The invisible include:

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

This list presents four areas of government structure and realms of responsibility. Our last issue examined the “throne” level, this issue moves on to the other levels.

Dominions

The word translated as “dominion” is the Greek *kuriotēs* (Strong's number: G2963) and the

meaning according to Thayer's Greek Definitions is 1) dominion, power, lordship; 2) one who possesses dominion. Its root is the word that is normally translated as “lord” or “master”.

So, the “dominion” level is the realm of “lordships”. Apparently, there are a number of “lordships” that govern the spiritual realm. That is why Jesus is called “Lord of lords”. While I had always thought of “lords” as earthly rulers, it makes more sense to think in terms of the spiritual rulers. Jesus as King of kings is the highest throne and as Lord of lords, He is the highest Lord that He might have pre-immanence in all things.

We see this in the Scriptures that speak of Christ's exaltation:

Eph 1:20-21 NASB

(20) which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*.

(21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Rulers

This is the Greek word, *archē*. The King James version usually translates this as “principality”; whereas, the New American Standard translates it as “rulers”. Strong's Concordance says that one of its primary meanings is “chief”. So, under the Lordship or Dominion level we have the rulers or chiefs that are the principalities that oversee creation. This is important to understand because it is at this level that we become involved.

Eph 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*.

Apparently, according to this Scripture, some of the rulers (chiefs, principalities) rose in rebellion with Lucifer. When Lucifer (now Satan) set up his kingdom (the domain of darkness, Col. 1:13) those of the Rulers that followed him (some of the fallen angels) transferred allegiance from the Lord God to Satan and set themselves to further his goals against God. As we follow Jesus, these Rulers become our direct enemy just as they are the enemy of God. We wrestle or struggle against them to thwart their purposes, which are against the purposes of the Kingdom of God.

Since Rulers are the highest level with which we contend, then we can surmise that, other than Satan, himself, the “Throne” or “Dominion” level was free from those who participated in Satan's rebellion. However, from the “Ruler” level downward there appears to be spiritual wickedness and rebellion that opposes the Lord God.

We have an example of this in the book of Daniel. After 21 days of fasting and seeking God, Daniel is visited by an angel with his answer from the Lord.

Dan 10:12-13 NASB

(12) Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.

(13) "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been

left there with the kings of Persia.

There is a lot in these verses that gives us insight into the invisible things. The angel was given Daniel's answer to his prayer on the first day that he prayed. However, in bringing the answer to Daniel, the angel had to pass through the area ruled by the “prince (chief) of the kingdom of Persia”, who was also some type of invisible, angelic being. This chief of Persia was strong enough to stand against the messenger angel for 21 days and would have withstood him longer had not Michael, a chief Prince, helped the messenger angel, allowing him to get through to Daniel.

We learn several things from this:

1. that there are rulers (chiefs, principalities) that are opposed to God's will
2. that these rulers have territories or areas, which they rule
3. that these rulers hinder God's purposes in their territories
4. that Daniel's perseverance in prayer was necessary for him to receive his answers

The messenger angel finishes telling Daniel the Lord's message and then gives us another glimpse into the invisible.

Dan 10:20-21 NASB

(20) Then he said, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come.

(21) "However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.

It appears that even though the message had been delivered, the messenger angel would still contend with the “prince of Persia” on his return to the heavens. Notice, also, that another “prince” or chief of Greece was coming to fight against God's angels and that the only help the messenger angel had was Michael, “your prince”. [Since Daniel was a Hebrew, it would appear that “your prince” means that Michael was responsible to God as a Ruler, chief, prince of the Hebrews.]

It is interesting to note that in history the Persian Empire was conquered by Greece shortly after Daniel's time. Is it possible that the angelic struggles created by Daniel's prayers weakened the power of the “prince of Persia” to the point that it was “consolidated” into the “prince of Greece's” domain? We can only speculate, but it sure seems like a possibility to me.

*[The next issue of “Present Truth” will deal with “authorities”.
This is the realm of jurisdiction for the rulers or principalities.
-----Art Nelson]*

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