



Empowering People to Change the World

**A Great Gap: The War Begins
Part 1**

Steve Holt

Road Declaration

A Great Gap: The War Begins

- Seminaries rarely teach it.
- Most pastors don't know how to handle it.
- Rarely do churches equip their members with it...the *it*, is the Cosmic War.
- Most believers have no idea about the Cosmic War.
- Most believers have never seen someone delivered from a demon.

I'm talking about the war in the heavenlies, the Fourth Dimension—an unseen Cosmic War that is impacting everything you do.

- The three-dimensional world is impacted by the Fourth Dimension. Every man, woman, and child is affected by it—indeed what's happening in Washington DC, Denver CO, and in our schools is a direct result of spirits (good and bad) in the unseen heavenly realm.
- Every believer is touched; every Church is impacted.
- Whole nations are being impacted by it.

But before we begin, I want to dovetail or follow the admonitions of Dr. Christopher Yuan from last week as it relates to hermeneutics and what we believe at The Road.

Hermeneutics is the study of interpretation of the Bible.

Three Aspects of Hermeneutics

- 1) Inspiration - At The Road, we believe in the authority, inerrancy, and infallibility of the Bible. Inerrancy is the most important doctrine. We believe this Book is the Word of GOD, not the word of man. Every jot and tittle. Every stroke is perfect.
- 2) Exegesis (not eisegesis) - We believe in reading, studying, and interpreting what the author meant to convey in a passage. Reading *out of* a passage versus reading *into* a passage.
- 3) Context - three parts:

- a. Literary - why it was written, the genre. Some books of the Bible are historical in nature; some are poetic in nature,
- b. Historical - when was it written, who was it written to.
- c. Canonical - interpreting a passage according to all of Scripture: Genesis—Revelation. The thread of the Holy Spirit ties it all together. Study Bibles have all these cross referencing. Beautiful tapestry proclaiming one unified message.

It is my thesis that until a Jesus disciple truly comes to understand the strategies and deceptions of the enemy, he/she cannot walk into all the fullness and power of God. I don't think a Jesus disciple can come into their destiny without understanding this.

Thesis on the Cosmic War:

- 1. The Bible instructs the Believer that We are in a Cosmic War against Powers of Darkness in the 4th Dimension.**
- 2. The Bible Equips us in How to Fight and Win this Cosmic War.**
- 3. We are Wired to be a Worshippers and Warriors. If we Learn How to use our Spiritual Weapons correctly, We can Overcome the Enemy in our Lives.**

At The Road we are committed to building your faith up to be *wholehearted disciples*. This study is essential to your development into becoming wholehearted.

John 10:10

Satan and demons come to “steal, kill, and destroy” and they most effectively attack your heart!

- They create shame, blame, and confusion by accusing and berating you to the point of despair.
- The goal of every demon is despair and suicide.
- Because you are created in the image of God, Satan and his angels hate you with the utmost hatred. They would like nothing more than your annihilation.
- This fall we will look study the origins of Satan, demons, and the ongoing war that you absolutely must be prepared to fight!

I want to begin by taking us back, tracing back to the beginning of time and the unfolding war between God and Satan. To illustrate I will begin with a story:

I am an avid elk hunter. We hunt in some high ranging areas of the Rocky Mountains. We use a topographical map for our hunts, and it is amazing to me how different our actual experience can be from what we see on the topo maps. These little contoured lines that seem so close together that just don't seem that significant when you're looking at them on a map. But, believe me, when you get there, in the mountains, those small lines can represent deep valleys and frightening cliffs that are quite difficult to navigate. One time I misread those squiggly lines and ended up a mile away from camp...

We are reminded of this in reading the first two verses in the Bible. We can naturally think that verse 1 moves directly into verse 2, that they are closely connected in time. Let's look at this.

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

- Most readers of the Bible think that verse 2 just follows verse 1 in time. That God created without form and made it was “void.”

The meaning of “without form and void” is a “wasteland, chaos, wilderness.”

- Now I can't find any place in scripture that would indicate that God creates chaos or wastelands! As a matter of fact, God takes chaos and brings order. God takes wasteland and makes something beautiful, majestic, and stunningly spectacular.
- But I want you to note something. There is a period at the end of verse 1, a stop.
- I propose that, in my understanding of scripture, the character of God, and the cosmic war, there is a gap, a huge gap in time between verses 1 and 2.

Let me explain something here—that when we interpret Scripture, we always look at the whole of the Bible, piecing all the parts together, to make a whole. As I mentioned earlier, it's called *Canonical Context*.

Canonical Context guides us on Difficult Biblical Questions

- For example, we don't have any one verse that supports the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—being of one substance in three persons. Yet the Roman, Orthodox, and Protestant churches all adhere to it.
- Why? Because the theologians and Bible commentators can clearly find the trinity throughout scripture and by putting the pieces together, we discover what the great creed says, the Father, Son, and Holy spirit are *one substance*.
- We don't just take one interpretation of a verse and build an entire doctrine around that, but rather, we see the Bible as a whole and Genesis relates to Revelation, and Deuteronomy relates to Galatians, and Exodus prepares us for Ephesians.
- Just like Isaiah 53 makes no sense without the life and ministry of Jesus in the Gospels, so we must look at all of scripture to begin our study...
- And so, it is today as we look at Genesis. Paul said of his preaching in commending himself to the Corinthians,

Back to our Passage

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” [period, then verse 2] “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

New Kings James Version (NKJV) says “without form and void” but the New American Standard (NAS) translation is more accurate here: “formless and desolate emptiness.” Other translations: “waste and void,” and “formless and barren.”

- **“Waste and void”** and **“formless and barren”** come from the Hebrew words used, *tohu-bohu*, meaning a “wasteland, wilderness, confusion, a wreck,” or in one **French translation: topsy turvy.**

Comparing the Bible with the Bible, it is important that as we compare Genesis 1:2, to what Isaiah tells us of how God creates,

“For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited)” (Isaiah 45:18 NAS).

- He did not create the earth tohu-bohu, void, a wasteland, and topsy turvy!
- God did not create a chaos! The same word is used here as in Genesis 1:2.
- The Revised Standard Version even says, “He did not create it a chaos.”
- So, there is a great gap, an interval between verses 1 and 2.
- A better translation would be that the earth became a chaos, a wasteland, a wilderness.

So, our thesis today is that God creates everything perfectly and beautifully and that He created the earth in an orderly beautiful form in Genesis 1:1, but something happened between verse 1 and verse 2.

Something has happened, something has changed, and the earth is no longer splendid, majestic, and beautiful but rather has become void, a wasteland, a desert, and chaotic.

Donald Grey Barnhouse, the great preacher and pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, writes on this passage,

“That something tremendous and terrible happened to the first perfect creation is certain. We know that later the earth which had become waste and empty was reformed and refashioned in the six days and peopled by the newly created beings, Adam and his wife; and that God renewed and restored earth, of which it is stated six times that God saw that it was good... We have every right to argue from analogy that the original creation, long before Adam’s remade world was cursed because of earlier sin, fell into chaos because of the righteous judgment of God upon some outbreak or rebellion. Somewhere back before the chaos of the second verse of Genesis there was a great tragedy and a terrible catastrophe.” *The Invisible War* p. 18

- We don’t know the time element here—this could have been millions of years or billions of years.
- He may have done it in a flash of a second, we don’t know.
- All we know is that God created the heavens and the earth and it was good, verse 1, but then they were blasted in judgment and became a wasteland, verse 2.
- There was a great outbreak of rebellion that led God to strike the earth and bring the earth to chaos.

- But God showed up and brought order out of chaos!
- But something happened between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 and the beautiful earth that God had created became a waste place, a wilderness, chaos.
- Once again, comparing scripture with scripture, turn to Revelation 12:7-10.

The Cosmic War of Revelation 12:7-10

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth [the gap between Genesis 1:1-2], and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’”

- Something has happened in the fourth dimension—the perfect unity of the Godhead and the heavens are disrupted by a rebellion against God.
- This rebellion by Lucifer, which means “son of the morning” has led to a war in the heavenlies.
- God had placed a beautifully created being to rule over the angels, a worship leader, an angel to have delegated rule over the heavenlies.
- But sin was found in his heart—pride welled up inside and he attacked God and God’s throne and a war ensued.
- Lucifer was cast to the earth. Upon being cast to the earth—he cannot create anything but can only mimic God and could do nothing with the earth and it became, under his rule, a chaos, a wasteland.
- Michael, the great archangel, fought with Satan and his fallen angels, demons, and because of their rebellion there was no place for them in heaven and they were cast to the earth.

Satan is the God of this Age:

“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not

believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

Satan is the “prince of the power of the air” over the earth;

“...you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2).

- And if you have never given your heart to Christ, then you are walking according to the prince of power of the air, the spirit of Lucifer is at work in you.

In Christ, We can be Transformed!

Ephesians 2:1-10

“And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

- God’s light shines into chaos, wilderness, and wasteland and shines into our hearts.

- God brings order out of your chaos, builds beauty out of your ashes—that is God's way.
 - Kenny and Joel and so many at The Road—you were living in chaos, destruction, and wilderness, and Jesus came and started bringing order, love, and stability into their lives.

Next week, we will look at the origins of Lucifer and the origins of sin.