

Empowering People to Change the World

The Divine Counsel Activated Over Nations Steve Holt

Road Declaration

Title Slide: Cosmic War

- So far, we have looked at the creation of the earth and the *First World War* of the Archangel Lucifer being driven out of heaven.
- Last week, we looked at the origins of Lucifer and the *Declaration of Independence* that defines all foundations of sin.
- It is so important that you keep up and know the first two messages. Each message throughout this series is built on the other. I'm attempting to build a biblical historical framework for a panoramic view of all of scripture in relation to building a *House of Truth* concerning the Cosmic War.

We are building a Biblical Historical Framework for a Panoramic view of All of Scripture in relation to the Cosmic War.

Look at Colossians 1:15-16 with me:

"He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and <u>invisible</u>: whether <u>thrones</u> or <u>dominions</u> or <u>principalities</u> or <u>powers</u>. All things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:15-16).

- Heaven and earth, visible and invisible—dualism.
- Grammatically, I have placed a colon after "invisible" and these are the things are we cannot see: thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers.
- These are the things in the fourth dimension that we cannot see—they are invisible, unseen.
- These thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers are in a higher unseen dimension that we cannot see. But Paul is saying they are as real as all the things we CAN see in the three-dimensional world.

The Bible and Science agree that there are many "Dimensions" or unseen worlds.

• <u>Dimensions</u> are simply the different facets of what we perceive to be reality. We are immediately aware of the three dimensions that surround us – those that define the length, width, and depth of all objects in our universes.

- Beyond these three dimensions, scientists believe that there may be many more.
 In fact, the theoretical framework of <u>Superstring theory</u> posits that the universe exists in ten different dimensions.
- These different aspects govern the universe, the fundamental forces of nature, and all the elementary particles contained within. In Superstring theory scientists speak of the 5th and 6th dimensions being other worlds that exist.
- Bosonic string theory suggests twenty-six dimensions.
- Even science is proving that there is an unseen world of thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers. We may not be able to see into the unseen spiritual realm, but we can see the effects upon the three-dimensional world.
 - We can see the effects of the unseen realm even though we cannot see the cause.
 - In other words, when we observe Jesus dealing with demon possessed people, we see the effects in the person though we cannot see the cause of the effect.
 - Or we see a person give their life to Christ and choose to follow him, though we cannot see the angel that was at work to turn their hearts to Christ.

Part III—The Divine Counsel Activated over Nations

Everyone turn to Psalm 82. (I read verse 1, then put up the slide)

"God [elohim] stands in the divine assembly or congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods [elohim]" (Spirit Filled Study Bible: "mighty ones") (Psalm 82:1).

- *Elohim* occurs twice in our verse.
- Other than the covenant name, *Yahweh*, *Elohim* is the most common word in the Old Testament for God.
- The first use of the word works fine—<u>it is singular</u> and describes the <u>one true</u> God.
- But it's the second use of the word, <u>translated plural</u>, that may surprise some of us.

• The singular God of the universe stands in a *congregation of gods* or divine beings as part of an assembly—a pantheon—of <u>spiritual beings</u> or <u>small *g gods*</u>.

Michael Heiser writes, "God's divine counsel is an assembly in the heavens not on earth. This is precisely what we'd expect if we understand the Elohim to be divine beings...There is no reference in Scripture to a counsel of human beings serving Yahweh in the skies (Jews or otherwise)."

- And these beings are interacting on the earth. The invisible world is impacting the visible world.
- The rest of the passage is a condemnation of these beings or gods as corrupt in their administration of the nations of the world.
- What we are talking about is the way ancient Israel and the Sumerians viewed the unseen world—they saw these gods, these Elohim under the counsel of Yahweh, the One Elohim.
- I'm hoping that our study will empower us to see as the ancients saw the universe. It is throughout scripture.
- How are we to understand the "sons of God" and "giants" in Genesis 6:1-4?

Genesis 6:1-4

"Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the <u>sons of God</u> [ben elohim] saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God [ben elohim] came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown" (Genesis 6:1-4).

The Scope of the "Sons of God"

But to really understand the scope of what I'm saying, let's start with the very beginning, before the creation of the world, before the creation of Man.

Job 38:4-7

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
Tell Me, if you have understanding.
Who determined its measurements?
Surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
To what were its foundations fastened?
Or who laid its cornerstone,
When the morning stars sang together,
And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

- When God laid the foundations of the earth, the "sons of God" were there shouting for joy. But who are the sons of God?
- Obviously they are not humans; this is before man was created and before the creation of the world.
- It would appear that the unseen invisible world has a hierarchy, reflected in such terms as angels, demons, archangels, principalities and powers.
- Sons of God again using the word *elohim*, is speaking of divine beings (small *d*) who have responsibilities and job descriptions in the cosmic realm. The "morning stars" are being referred to as the sons of God.
- This heavenly cosmic counsel was with God, during the creation.
- In the ancient semitic world, "sons of God," Hebrew *beney elohim*, is a phrase used to identify divine beings with high level responsibilities or jurisdictions. For example the term angel, Hebrew *mal'ak* describes an important but lesser task of "delivering messages."
- The ancients believed that God, angels, and powers *lived off the earth*. They believed they were far off and the most far off was the sky, the heavens.
- These "sons of God" are a divine family under Yahweh, under the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- They are called *sons* of God because they are part of His divine family. God has an unseen family. The logic is the same as that behind Paul's words on Mars Hill in Acts 17:28, when he said we "are all God's offspring."
- God has created these unseen principalities and powers in the fourth dimension and He claims them as His sons, in the same way that you created your children and call them sons and daughters.

Notice a few things:

Verse 1

"God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods."

• God is over all the sons of God. God is ruling over all principalities, powers, angels, archangels, over the fourth dimension.

Verses 2-8

"How long will you judge unjustly,
And show partiality to the wicked? Selah
Defend the poor and fatherless;
Do justice to the afflicted and needy.
Deliver the poor and needy;
Free them from the hand of the wicked.
They do not know, nor do they understand;
They walk about in darkness;
All the foundations of the earth are unstable.
I said, 'You are gods,
And all of you are children of the Most High.
But you shall die like men,
And fall like one of the princes.'
Arise, O God, judge the earth;
For You shall inherit all nations."

- God is instructing these divine beings to rule justly. So, it seems they have some kind of jurisdiction over nations and peoples.
- The people of the earth walk in darkness, they are afflicted, and needy.
- But God is the One who will ultimately rule over and inherit the nations.

Divine Beings Rule and Influence National Leaders

- These divine beings have jurisdiction over nations.
- We can see the interactions of the unseen with the seen, the fourth dimension and the three-dimensional in one of the most interesting passages in the Bible.

 Daniel has been seeking God in fasting and prayer for twenty-one days when a son of God, a cosmic being, an archangel named Michael enters from the 4th dimension into the 3-dimensional seen world.

Turn to Daniel 10

5 Truths about the Battle of Cosmic Divine Beings (Daniel 10:1~14)

We will only cover the first two today. We will pick it up next week.

"In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar. The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision. In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled."

- Daniel is serving the King of Persia and he has received a message through a vision for which he is given revelation from God about future events.
- The first wave of exiles had returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel (<u>Ezra 1-2</u>).
- Some think that Daniel was in mourning because so few Jews had returned with Ezra from exile. Others believe it was because Ezra faced severe opposition in rebuilding the temple. Daniel is about 84 years old.
- He has been fasting and praying for 21 days.

"Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that *is,* the Tigris, I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist *was* girded with gold of Uphaz! His body *was* like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude." Daniel 10:4-6

1. The Divine Counsel is made up of Divine Beings that are Activated through our Actions on Earth

 Commentators divide over the identity of this "certain man." Some say this is a preincarnate Jesus, noting that the description is remarkably like what John saw in Revelation 1:12-16.

- "A certain man clothed in linen:" Some others think that the certain man is an unnamed angel of high rank, noting that Jesus would not need the assistance of Michael, mentioned in <u>Daniel 10:13</u>.
- All through scripture this kind of shininess or brilliant luminescence is a stock description for a divine being.
- There are sons of God in the unseen realm that are actually activated by our actions on earth. You have authority and power in Christ to activate Divine Beings.

Verses 10-11

"Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and *on* the palms of my hands. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for <u>I have now been sent to you</u>." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling."

- 2. All Divine Beings are under the Jurisdiction of God.
 - "For I have now been sent to you."
 - God sent this divine being to Daniel.

Psalm 89:5-7

"And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord [Yahweh];
Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones [elohim].
For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord [Yahweh]?
Who among the sons of God [elohim] can be likened to the Lord [Yahweh]?
God is greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones [elohim],
And to be held in reverence by all those around Him."

Let's close with our opening passage, Colossian 1:15-16

"He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and <u>invisible</u>: whether <u>thrones</u> or <u>dominions</u> or <u>principalities</u> or <u>powers</u>. <u>All things were created through Him and for Him"</u> (Colossians 1:15-16).

- All things in the Greek means ALL THINGS were created through Christ and FOR Christ.
- God is in working through the Divine Counsel to bring about His glory.
- We are co-laborers with Christ in battling these <u>thrones</u> or <u>dominions</u> or <u>principalities</u> or <u>powers.</u>
- Next week, I want to bring this home to our lives even for yourself, your family, our city, and our nation!
- Don't miss it.