

The background features a pair of large, feathered angel wings in shades of blue and white, centered behind a purple rectangular border. The entire scene is set against a dark blue, starry space background with numerous bright, multi-pointed stars.

# **The Unseen Realm** of **Angels & Fallen Angels** **Part 1**

**Where Pastors Fear to Tread**

Pastor Gary Ritter

# Premise

This teaching will drastically change how you view the entire Bible, God's plan for redemption, and the spiritual war we face. In fact, it will disrupt your entire Biblical worldview.

This is how radical and revolutionary the material is that we'll cover.

# THE UNSEEN REALM

Recovering the supernatural  
worldview of the Bible

Michael S. Heiser

What the Bible teaches  
about the unseen world —  
and why it matters

# SUPER NATURAL

Michael S. Heiser

# Objectives

- Expose God's unseen realm in Scripture
- Outline the bigger picture in God's plans & purposes for redemption
- Illuminate the extent of Spiritual Warfare in the Bible & what we face
- Show the prophetic implications

# Why Does This Teaching Matter?

- Man created in image of God: *Imago Dei* – God's imagers
  - How then should we live?
  - How should we image God?
  - How should we see & treat each other?
- World is not our home – aliens in a foreign land
  - How does God's plan of redemption affect us?
  - How does it affect the rest of the world?
  - How does persecution of Christians play into this concept?
  - How should we then view death?

# Unseen Realm

- Bible
  - Supernatural book
  - Supernatural kingdom
  - Supernatural God
- Mysteries
- Contextual understanding of ancient Israel

*All literature is born from within a cultural landscape. It will pick up themes and images from within that cultural landscape, use them generously, and build a framework from which stories can be told. This is no less true for the Bible. The land and its culture, not merely the history that happened there, are an indispensable aspect of the biblical story. – Gary M. Burge*

- Read Bible as writers intended for their readers

# Why Is The World So Wicked?

## **Christian answer**

- Because of the Fall

## **Ancient Israelite answer**

1. Because of the Fall – Genesis 3
  2. Divine attempt to corrupt human bloodline - Genesis 6:1-4
  3. Humanity's attempt at Babel to thwart God's plan - Genesis 11:1-9
- God's response in all 3 situations
  - We'll examine this more later

# God of gods

Psalm 82:1

- **“God [Elohim - singular] has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods [elohim – plural] He holds judgment.**

The God of the Old Testament was part of an assembly  
--a pantheon--of other “gods” that He created.

God has an administrative council in the heavens - a divine assembly.

This is His *created* divine family.

To be clear: Jesus is the uncreated creator; He is God - separate and above all these other beings

# Divine Council

**“The term divine council is used by Hebrew and Semitics scholars to refer to the heavenly host, the pantheon of divine beings who administer the affairs of the cosmos. All ancient Mediterranean cultures had some conception of a divine council. The divine council of Israelite religion, known primarily through the psalms, was distinct in important ways.”**

--Dr. Michael S. Heiser

God’s divine council is more than in name only. He consults with them, makes a determination how to act, then directs them to carry out His plans.

e.g. 1 Kings 22:1-28

King Ahab & King Jehoshaphat

Ahab’s prophets, the Prophet Micaiah, & the lying spirit

# Who Are the gods In the Divine Council?

- Sons of God (benai Elohim)
- Phrase used in ancient Semitic world to identify divine beings with higher level responsibilities or jurisdictions
- Also: Morning stars
- Also: Hosts of heaven
- Also: Angels (mal'akim) - messengers: important, but lesser task, of delivering messages

## Job 38:4-7

“Where were you at the laying of the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you possess understanding. Who determined its measurement? Yes, you do know. Or who stretched the measuring line upon it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the **morning stars** were singing together and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?

## Unseen Realm – Paul Knew Of It!

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the cosmic **powers** over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6:12)

“For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether **thrones** or **dominions** or **rulers** or **authorities**—all things were created through Him and for Him.” (Col. 1:16)

Paul describes a host of other gods that contend with God

# Summary to Date

- Much more is going on in the Bible than we typically realize
- The Fall of man is only one aspect of why evil predominates in the world
- God has a divine family, just as he has a human family
- The divine family is composed of spiritual beings that He calls His sons
- These are created “gods” that go by many names in the Bible
- ALL – yes ALL – of the Biblical writers were aware of this unseen realm and referenced it extensively
- It’s not an OT concept – Paul warned us of the battles we face against the unseen, and largely unknown, enemies of God’s kingdom with whom we strive

# Divine Beings (gods) Over Geographical Domains

- Rulers (archonton or archon)
- Principalities (arche)
- Powers / Authorities (exousia)
- Powers (dynamis)
- Dominions / Lords (kyrios)
- Thrones (thronos)
- World Rulers (kosmokrator)

The concept behind these descriptions is cosmic-geographical in nature.  
These spiritual beings rule over specific territory.

Nations – territory – are key in our understanding of spiritual warfare.

Recall Daniel 10:13,20 – Princes of Persia & Greece opposing angel of the Lord

# The Human Fall – Genesis 3:15

## (Why is the world so wicked? – Christian response)

The LORD God said to the serpent,  
I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.”

- What happened? – Why?
- God’s intent with mankind: multiply, subdue, rule, dominion (take territory)
- *Nachash*: the serpent’s other plans
- Consequences to mankind
- Beginning of ages-long spiritual war

# The Angelic Fall – Genesis 6:1-4

## (Why is the world so wicked? – Israelite response)

When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the **sons of God** saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” The **Nephilim** were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

- What happened? – Why?
- Rebellious divine sons
- Consequences on earth & with human bloodline
- God’s response - flood

# Tower of Babel – Genesis 11:1-9

## (Man's further disobedience)

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and **let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.**" And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let **us** go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

- What happened? – Why?
- Attempt to control God
- Disobedience to God's command to Adam & Noah
- God's response (who is "**us**"?) - divorce

# Behind the Scenes – Deuteronomy 32:8-9 (ESV) (God's response to Babel)

When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance,  
when He divided mankind,  
he fixed the borders of the peoples  
according to the number of the sons of God.

But the LORD's portion is his people,  
Jacob his allotted heritage.

- What happened? – Why?
- God allots the nations to His sons – benai Elohim (cosmic geography)
- God takes Israel for Himself (the Holy One of Israel; Israel is His territory)

# Idols of Stone & Wood vs Sons of God

- How could anyone think a stone or wooden idol had power?
- Man's invitation to the gods
- Breathing demonic life into idol
- Means of connection to appease & control
- Contrast Yahweh & His otherness
- God: "I call the shots."

# Corruption Among God's Sons – Psalm 82

God has taken his place in the **divine council**;  
in the midst of the gods **He holds judgment**:  
“How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah  
Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;  
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.  
Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”  
They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**I said, “You are gods,  
sons of the Most High, all of you;  
nevertheless, like men you shall die,  
and fall like any prince.”**  
Arise, O God, judge the earth;  
for you shall inherit all the nations!

- What happened? – Why?
- Freewill in God's divine family has same consequences as in human family
- God's divine sons rule the nations unjustly
- God condemns them to death; He will rule in their place

# The Fate of God's Corrupt Sons – Isaiah 24:21-23

On that day the LORD will punish  
the host of heaven, in heaven,  
and the kings of the earth, on the earth.

They will be gathered together  
as prisoners in a pit;  
they will be **shut up in a prison,**  
and **after many days** they will be punished.  
Then the moon will be confounded  
and the sun ashamed,  
for the LORD of hosts reigns  
on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem,  
and his glory will be before his elders.

- What will happen?
- Tribulation & abyss just like Satan
- Final judgment after Millennium just like Satan

# The Cosmic Role of Jesus

- He came to earth to do what mortal man could not
- God's challenge to the divine rulers over nations: throws down gauntlet
- Jesus' crucifixion: the deception of the ages
- Resurrection: Jesus puts gods on notice – their time is short
- Believers: taking back the nations
- Rapture: believers removed before God moves against His foes
- Tribulation: the final battlefield
- Return of Jesus: gods are toast

# Fractured Bible Tales (FBT) – In 3 Acts

(With Apologies to Rocky & Bullwinkle - Fractured Fairy Tales)

## Act 1

- “In the beginning, God created...” - Genesis 1:1
- Heavenly host (divine family) applauds - Job 38:4-7
- Garden of Eden: good; God creates man - imago dei (human family) - Genesis 1:27-31
- God commands man: Extend Eden - multiply, rule, subdue, dominion - Genesis 1:28
- Garden temptation – serpent (*nachash* Heb. – divine being): Satan – Gen. 3
- Divine judgment – man - Gen. 3:17-19 & serpent Gen. 3:14-16
- God declares Messianic war on Satan – Genesis 3:15
- God casts Satan down from heaven – Ez. 28; Is. 14

# FBT (cont)

## Act 2

- Angelic corruption – sons of God corrupt human bloodline – Gen 6:1-4
- God strikes back with flood – Genesis 7
- God reiterates to Noah: multiply, rule, subdue the earth – Genesis 9:1
- Noah's descendants build tower to bring God to them contrary to His command they spread over earth – Genesis 11
- God lets man go own way with other gods (divorce!) – Deuteronomy 32:8
- God decrees Israel as His people & inheritance – Deuteronomy 32:9
- Sons of God ruling nations become corrupt – Psalm 82

# FBT (cont)

## Act 3

- God's people Israel follow gods of other nations
- God lets Israel go its own way – removes His glory
- Jesus' incarnation: mankind's redemption by direct hand of God
- Jesus stirs up wicked gods against Him – dupes them
- Crucifixion & resurrection: ultimate deception of the ages
- Church takes war to the nations to the false gods
- Rapture: God's preparation for restoration of man's holy purpose
- Tribulation: engagement of the enemy & victory; Israel redeemed
- Millennium: glorified humanity – God's human-divine family rules with Jesus
- New Heavens – New Earth: restoration of God's Edenic vision

# God's Response to Every Rebellion

- The Fall: the seed of the woman – JESUS CHRIST
  - Redeem mankind from sin nature (Genesis 3:15)
- The fall of God's divine sons – The FLOOD
  - Wipe out corrupted bloodline
  - Start over with humanity
- The rebellion of God's appointed sons over nations – ISRAEL
  - Reclaim the nations
  - Fruition of Genesis 12:1-3 – blessing to the nations
  - Jesus brings blessing & completion

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

- 1 Corinthians 15:24-25

# Summary

- Bible extensively references the Unseen Realm of God's Kingdom – We're so used to not looking for it that we don't see it in all the numerous passages throughout the Bible
- When we begin seeing what's in plain sight that we never see, a much bigger picture emerges. God's redemptive plan goes far beyond the typical teaching to which we're exposed.
- The spiritual war that we're in is much greater than we realize. Our enemy isn't simply Satan. The benai Elohim – the spiritual rulers of the nations - dictate much of the battle we face. No doubt they are the ones advocating behind the scenes – under Satan's direction – for the numerous false religions and for the pushback & persecution we receive as Christians.
- The spiritual war against God has been fought for millennia. Israel is at its center. Humanity will soon be fully redeemed to join in co-ruling the nations with Jesus when we become divine (glorified). God will accomplish His objective for mankind to restore Eden.

## Part 2 - Next

- In the next teaching we'll look more closely at angels & fallen angels
- Abilities of angels
- Default abilities of fallen angels
- Angel of the Lord
- Visions
- Prophetic implications
- We'll even get a little "out there" in our discussion