(13) Studies on the Holy Spirit

Spiritual Warfare

The Real World

2 Cor. 4:18

…We look not at the things which are seen, but at **the things which are not seen;** for the things which are seen are temporal, but **the things which are not seen are eternal.**

God At War

**Widely Known & Understood Among God’s People in the OT & NT**

**Moses Sings of The Warrior-God’s Feats in Battle**

**Exodus 15:3-6**

“**The Lord is a warrior;**
The Lord is His name.
**4**“Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea;
And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea.
**5**“The deeps cover them;
They went down into the depths like a stone.
**6**“Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power,
Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

**David Calls on the God of War**

**Psalm 35:1-3**

Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me;
Fight against those who fight against me.
**2Take hold of buckler and shield
And rise up for my help.
3Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me;**

**Elisha and the Invisible Army**

**2 Kings 6:15-19** **15**Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” **16**So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” **17Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” And the Lord opened the servant’s eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.** **18**When they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, “Strike this people with blindness, I pray.” So He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. **19**Then Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he brought them to Samaria.

**King Jehoshaphat Goes to War with a Choir** 2 Chronicles 20:12-17; 20-24  **12**O our God, will You not judge them? **For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us**; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”**13**All Judah was standing before the Lord, with their infants, their wives and their children. **14**Then in the midst of the assembly **the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; 15and he said, “Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, ‘Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God’s. 16**Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. **17You *need* not fight in this *battle*; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you.”**

**20**They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the Lord your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed.” **21**When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the Lord and those who praised *Him* in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, “Give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.” **22**When they began singing and praising, **the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed. 23**For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying *them* completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. **24**When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they *were* **corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped.**

**Daniel Is Encouraged By Angelic Warriors Doing Battle in Response to His Prayers Daniel 10:7-14; 20-21** Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. **8**So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. **9**But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. **10**Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. **11**He said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for **I have now been sent to you.”** And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. **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.** **13But 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. **14**Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet *future*.” **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.**

**John’s Vision in Revelation Gives Us Glimpses of the Cosmic War of the Ages**

**Revelation 12:7-12; 19:11-21**

**7**And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, **8**and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. **9**And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. **10**Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,

“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. **11**And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. **12**For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.”

**11**And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. **12**His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. **13***He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **14**And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and*clean, were following Him on white horses. **15**From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. **16**And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

**17**Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, **18**so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” **19**And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

**20**And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. **21**And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

**Soldiers of Christ**

**Christians as the Army of God on Earth**

**1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3-4**

**12**Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

**3**Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4**No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

**Paul Describes the Raging War All Around Us**

**Ephesians 6:12-17**

**10**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11**Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

**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*. **13**Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **14**Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15**and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16**in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. **17**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

How the Spirit Equips & Trains Us For War

**Divine Weapons of Our Warfare**

**2 Cor. 10:3-5**

**3For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5***We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every th

ought captive to the obedience of Christ…

**Homework:**

What are the divine weapons available to us that wage war in the real world of the spiritual?

Which are the most effective?

How do you learn to wield them?

What is the Spirit’s role in spiritual warfare?