



One World – Two Realms



ONE WORLD – TWO REALMS

Understanding Spiritual Warfare

The Battle for Truth

There is a fight on to determine how we see ‘reality’. How you define reality will define how you live your life, what you believe ‘works’ and ‘doesn’t work’.

Scientism – materialism – arrogant and high-minded academic thinking – all have been infiltrating theology since 18thC. False spirituality beforehand, now no spiritual reality.

To live as overcomers in God’s kingdom, we must understand the nature of the world we live in.

1. The Heavenly Realms

(Greek *epiourainios* means “of the heavens” – Eph 1:3, 1:20, 1:26, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12)

The Bible teaches that there are two realms that operate simultaneously in our lives.

- The Heavenly (spiritual) realm
- The Natural (physical) realm

Both realms completely real – events in one directly impact events in the other.

- God – The Creator
- Angels – Spirit beings – servants of God
- Satan – fallen Archangel
- Demons – servants/footsoldiers of Satan

Angels	Demons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Real – Luke 1:26 ▪ Powerful – Daniel 10:2-13 ▪ Having authority (given by God) ▪ Intelligence – Daniel 10:14 ▪ Desire – Genesis 22:12 ▪ Voice – 1 Cor 13:1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Real – Luke 4:41 ▪ Powerful – Revelation 16:14 ▪ Having authority (given by man) ▪ Intelligence – Mark 1:24 ▪ Desire – Mark 5:10 ▪ Voice – Mark 5:7
<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect – Luke 4:10 ▪ Guide – Acts 12:8 ▪ Prepare the way – Ex 23:20 ▪ Fight the demonic realm ▪ Minister to believers – Heb 1:14 ▪ Powerful – Daniel 10:2-13 ▪ Having authority (God-given) 	<p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To steal) ▪ To kill) John 10:10 ▪ To destroy) ▪ To deceive/sow lies – John 8:44
<p>Always good, always to bless</p>	<p>Always evil, always destructive</p>

The Authority Structure in the Heavenly Realms

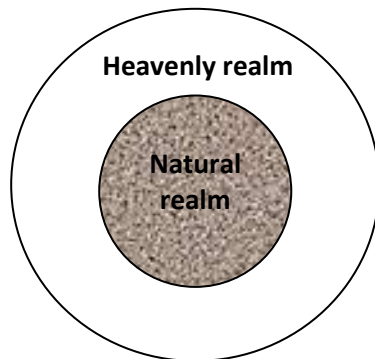
- God
 - Angels
 - Satan
 - Demons
- God and his angels are more powerful than Satan and his foot soldiers.
(Revelation 12, Job 1)





2. We live in Two Realms at the same time

The natural realm includes all that can be perceived by our natural senses in the physical world. The heavenly realm includes all that is spiritual, invisible and unseen in the natural realm. The heavenly realm existed first. The natural realm was created second and our lives are lived in the interplay between the two realms.



Life is lived with the heavenly realms affecting and energising the natural realm

Heaven

- 1 Peter 3:12 – “1st” heaven; sun, moon, stars – natural skies
- “2nd” heaven – Unseen realm where angels and demons reside
- “3rd” heaven – the unending realm of God’s uninterrupted rule and reign; the Kingdom of heaven

A. Learning from Job

Job’s world collapses

Job 1:13-19

Job 2:7-10

Look behind the scenes of Job’s disasters

Job 1:6-12

Job 2:1-6

Satan is aware of the activities of individuals on earth, but his access to people’s lives is severely restricted by God. On his own, Satan has **NO** authority to act in individual lives. In fact, there are very few ways that Satan can gain access to an individual’s life:

- he must be given specific permission by God; or
- as is most often the case, access is granted as a result of sin or the effects of sin, giving him legal entry to a person’s life.

B. Learn to ask the Lord to reveal what’s going on in any given situation:

Luke 22:4,5 – Judas betrays Jesus

Luke 22:3 – The source of the betrayal was Satan

Events in the heavenlies bear a direct impact on events in the natural realm. Ask and hear the revelation: “Is this just happening?” The world is a war-zone, a war that originates in the heavenly realm – a confrontation of powers, and we have a significant role to play in it. (Eph 6:12)

- Is my bad mood just happening?
- Is my strained marriage just happening?
- Is the breakdown between parent and teenage son just happening?
- Is the tension and division in church life just happening?
- Is the suppressed corporate worship just due to the awful weather?
- Is a persistent lack of joy just down to personality?
- Is the disintegration of society just happening?
- Are civil tensions (eg. Ireland, Middle East) just happening?
- Are ethnic cleansings just part of life?





3. The Western mindset is resistant to the Biblical / Jesus’ worldview

Mark 1:32-34

Jesus has 100% success rate in his ministry because He perfectly discerns the source of the problem, whether natural or supernatural.

Acts 10:38

The early church comprehend Jesus’ whole ministry as a supernatural battle in which He proactively and aggressively confronts the destructive power of the enemy.

Over-reliance on the 5 senses.

The Church and its leaders are hugely influenced by the academic and rational / man-centred worldview and mindset, which denies anything that cannot be proven empirically.

This is a central reason for the weakness of the church today in the West, which causes it to live in a worldly manner with natural realm thinking and strategy.

The Sadducees believed in God but denied the spiritual realm of angels and demons. Jesus declared to the Sadducees “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God,” – Matthew 22:29

4. The Mandate of the Church

a) Christ gives his people authority over the enemy

Luke 10:19-20

Colossians 2:9,10

Ephesians 1:18-22

Ephesians 2:6

b) The purpose is for the church to do Jesus’ ministry today

a) To discern – to be alert: 1 Peter 5:8,9

God’s will and truth : (“Thy will be done”)

Satan’s schemes and lies (Ephesians 6:12)

b) To gain victory over the forces of evil:

- OFFENSIVELY

Matthew 16:18-19

Matthew 12:28-29

Matthew 12:28-29

- DEFENSIVELY

Ephesians 6:13

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:18-19

Jesus is building a supernatural church that will overcome supernatural forces of evil

The Gates of Hades - Gates are defensive weapons - symbols of authority. The Gates will not overcome or prevail/withstand the assault of the Church.

WE’VE BEEN GIVEN THE KEYS Keys are a symbol of authority

BINDING AND LOOSING

Bind (deo): to forbid, to prevent, to restrict, to shackle, to tie, to render powerless, to inhibit, legally or contractually binding.

Loose (luo): to loose, to release, to empower, to set free, to enable.





Binding and loosing covers a wide range of meanings but they all express the use of authority to establish God's will. E.g. Preaching the gospel, church discipline (what is allowed, what is not allowed), granting forgiveness, healing, explaining truth.

Binding and loosing also includes exerting supernatural authority over demonic forces and releasing people into the will of God.

'Whatever you bind on earth shall have been found in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.' The key to exerting supernatural authority is to be in line with God's will and God's purpose so that you prohibit what God wants prohibiting and you release what God wants releasing. The word 'whatever' in Greek is a wide ranging word and really does mean what it says!

It is used on a number of occasions in relation to the breadth and power of our prayer (Matthew 6:22-23; Mark 11:24; 1 John 3:22; John 15:16 and John 14:13)

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours Mark 11:24

Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. John 15:16

We are called to aggressive spiritual warfare: NIKE - to overcome, to overpower, to win.

Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house. Matthew 12:29

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armour in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils. Luke 11:21-22

Notes:

1. The demon is the strongman.
2. The demon has weapons that enable him to guard and protect what he regards as his own house and possessions (this implies a legal ownership).
3. Jesus, being stronger than demonic spirits, can attack and overpower spirits. *He who is in us is greater than he that is in the world* - 1 John 4:4. Now the spoils can be divided up. This is the fruit of release from powers of darkness enabling people to walk into freedom.

WE ENFORCE THE VICTORY OF CHRIST

In spiritual warfare it is essential to understand that we do not have to win victories but rather we extend and enforce the victory Christ won on the Cross

We do not have to *produce* the victory. This takes the pressure off us working up enough faith, energy, passion...etc. Rather in simplicity, faith and obedience, we declare God's victory into a situation expressed in our words and actions. The powers of darkness know that they are defeated at the cross; however they try to bluff us into believing we cannot deal with them. Ignoring all distractions lies and fears, we listen to God, pray what he reveals to us and we thereby establish the victory in the heavenly realms so that transformation can take place in the natural realm.

c) Divine Transaction

When we operate in the spiritual realm, we engage with the supernatural laws irrespective of how we feel; they are legally binding.

Adoption	Key legal terms that apply to heavenly realities;
Redemption	Eg. A person's salvation is secured upon repentance and
Justification	Faith in Christ.

When a believer repents of sin, that is when the enemy's hold is broken, his jurisdiction is ended and he has to take his hands off!

When the believer rebukes the enemy he must flee, because Christ in us is greater and more powerful than the enemy!

Standing in God's truth and walking in obedience is the key to completing victory!





One World – Two Realms Worksheet

Barriers to Two-Realms Thinking

A. Man-Centred Reason

- I like to see things in a logical way, and struggle to embrace the improvable / intuitive perception of the heavenly realms
- I find people who see the demonic operating on a daily basis “over the top”
- I look first for logical and natural reasons for the cause of a problem before asking for the Spirit’s wisdom and understanding
- I have valued and relied on my mind and intellectual capacity to see me through life
- I have ridiculed / been ridiculed when I have acted or spoken intuitively
- My family placed a high value on thinking logically and clearly and on having good solid reasons for thinking/believing something
- I rarely look for an invisible spiritual reason for a natural problem / issue
- I think I understand the heavenly realms well and know the principles clearly – but it’s been a while since God used me to bring someone into freedom
- I struggle to believe the invisible realm is real and influential on a daily basis
- I can’t get my mind around the heavenly realms and so don’t give it much attention
- I think the idea of demons and angels is all a bit primitive and superstitious
- Surely all I need is to understand the Word and get on and live it. The supernatural realm is not my responsibility
- Other ...





B. Fear

- I am fearful that if I see the enemy's activity, I won't have the authority to overcome him
- I am fearful that if I enter the battle more fully, I will be taken out by my own weakness / sin / lack of awareness
- I am fearful that my kids / loved ones will be attacked if I step up in warfare
- I am fearful that if I look for the enemy's activity on a daily basis I will get demon-focussed and be even more vulnerable to attack
- I am fearful of seeing the enemy's influence in me
- I am fearful that if I speak about demons and warfare I will be seen as wacky / unsound / super-spiritual
- I am fearful that if I rise up to fight more fully, others will leave me isolated by not standing with me
- I am fearful of finding demons "behind every bush"
- Other ...

