

Spiritual Warfare & The End Times

Heaven & Earth

I. Unclean Spirits

A. Jesus' Ministry

Mark 1:21-28 (NASB®)

²¹ They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and *began* to teach. ²² They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then **there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit**; and he cried out, ²⁴ saying, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" ²⁵ And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" ²⁶ Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." ²⁸ Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.

Matthew 4:8–11 (NIV84®)

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Luke 13:10–17 (NIV®)

¹⁰ On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, ¹¹ and a woman was there who had been **crippled by a spirit for eighteen years**. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. ¹⁴ Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." ¹⁵ The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? ¹⁶ Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

Luke 8:26–31 (NIV®)

²⁶ They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" ²⁹ For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. ³⁰ Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. ³¹ And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

B. Jesus' Followers

Acts 16:16–18 (NIV®) (Philippi)

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave **who had a spirit by which she predicted the future**. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

Acts 19:11–12 (NIV®)

¹¹ God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

II. Spiritual Forces Influence History

Matthew 26:53 (NIV®)

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?

Revelation 5:11 (NIV®)

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

III. An Assertive Posture

Colossians 4:12 (NIV®)

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always **wrestling in prayer** for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

Romans 15:30 (NIV®)

I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to **join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.**

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV®)

For **our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV®)

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (NIV®)

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, **they have divine power to demolish strongholds.**

1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIV®)

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? **Run in such a way as to get the prize.**

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (NIV®)

²⁶ Therefore **I do not run like a man running aimlessly**; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Proclamation of God's Protection

I rejoice in the protection of Almighty God over my life. I am the Lord's servant, I rest in the completeness of His strength and care. No weapon formed against me will prevail. I will refute every tongue which rises against me, this is my heritage as a servant of the Lord. A thousand may fall at my side but destruction will not overwhelm me. I have made the Most High my dwelling place. God is my refuge and my security. No harm will befall me, no disaster will overtake me. God has commanded his angels to watch over my life. My life and my future are secure through the strength of my Lord and my redeemer.