

COSMIC CONFLICT: A 6-WEEK BIBLE STUDY SERIES

PARTICIPANT HANDOUT – WEEK 1

Setting the Stage: The Unseen Realm and Divine Rebellion

Opening Reflection:

When you think of “spiritual warfare,” what comes to mind? How often do you consider the Bible’s supernatural worldview when reading Scripture?

Key Passages:

- Deuteronomy 32:8–9 (LXX, DSS) – God divides the nations among the “sons of God”
- Psalm 82 – God stands in judgment among the elohim
- Job 1–2 – “The sons of God” present themselves before Yahweh

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think “sons of God” refers to in these passages?
2. How does Psalm 82 challenge the idea that there is only one spiritual being in the Bible?
3. What does the council scene in Job tell us about God’s relationship with other divine beings?
4. How does this affect your understanding of how heaven operates?

Key Concepts:

- **Divine Council:** A biblical idea that God administers the cosmos through a council of spiritual beings
- **Cosmic Geography:** The Bible’s view that different spiritual beings were assigned to different nations
- **Delegated Authority:** God allows created beings (human and divine) to participate in governance

Key Terms to Know:

- **Elohim** – A term for spiritual beings, not limited to God alone
- **Divine Council** – The heavenly assembly where Yahweh rules among created spirits
- **Cosmic Rebellion** – The idea that evil originated from both human and divine acts of rebellion

Personal Reflection:

How does this perspective challenge what you were previously taught about the unseen realm?

Challenge This Week:

Reread Psalm 82 and Job 1–2. Circle every term or phrase that shows God is interacting with other beings. Write down one new insight and bring it next week.

PARTICIPANT HANDOUT – WEEK 2

Satan Unmasked: Tracing the Adversary's Development

Opening Reflection:

Most people assume Satan has always existed as the devil we know today. But is that what the Bible really teaches?

Key Passages:

- Job 1–2 – The satan accuses Job before God
- Zechariah 3:1–2 – Satan opposes Joshua the high priest
- Revelation 12:7–10 – Satan cast down as “the accuser” of the brethren

Discussion Questions:

1. In Job and Zechariah, is “Satan” a proper name or a title/role?
2. What role does “the satan” play in God’s heavenly court?
3. How does Revelation 12 describe Satan's identity and actions?
4. What does this “tracing” of Satan’s development reveal about God’s redemptive plan?

Key Concepts:

- **Ha-satan** – Hebrew for “the accuser” or “the adversary,” not necessarily a proper name
- **Theological Consolidation** – The process of identifying multiple evil agents as one primary adversary
- **Conceptual Amalgamation** – The fusion of serpentine, rebellious, and accusatory figures into a singular “Satan” figure by the New Testament

Key Terms to Know:

- **Adversary (Satan)** – One who stands against another, particularly in a courtroom setting
- **Accuser** – A prosecutorial role in the Divine Council
- **Serpent / Dragon** – Symbols linked to Satan’s progressive identity in the Bible

Personal Reflection:

How does the New Testament’s view of Satan deepen your understanding of spiritual conflict?

Challenge This Week:

Read John 8:44 and Revelation 12. List the traits and actions ascribed to Satan. What theme do you see emerging?

PARTICIPANT HANDOUT – WEEK 3

Watchers and the Sons of God: Rebellion Before the Flood

Opening Reflection:

Genesis 6 describes a strange story involving “sons of God” and giants. Is this myth, or is it key to understanding spiritual warfare?

Key Passages:

- Genesis 6:1–4 – “The sons of God took daughters of men”
- Jude 6 – Angels who abandoned their proper dwelling
- 1 Enoch 6–16 (summary) – Watchers, Nephilim, and judgment

Discussion Questions:

1. Who were the “sons of God” in Genesis 6? Why is this important?
2. How did ancient Jewish literature like 1 Enoch interpret this story?
3. What does Jude 6 suggest about angelic rebellion?
4. How does this event connect to the origin of evil spirits/demons?

Key Concepts:

- **Watchers** – A class of angelic beings who descended to earth and sinned
- **Nephilim** – Offspring of angelic-human unions; giants in the land
- **Demonic Spirits** – Seen in Jewish thought as the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim after death

Key Terms to Know:

- **Transgression of Boundaries** – A major sin theme in Genesis 6 (spiritual beings violating their domain)
- **Second Temple Literature** – Writings like 1 Enoch that shaped Jewish theology in Jesus’ time
- **Judgment Before the Flood** – The consequence of cosmic rebellion

Personal Reflection:

Why do you think the New Testament writers were comfortable referencing 1 Enoch to explain the origin of demons?

Challenge This Week:

Read Matthew 8:28–34 and imagine it through the lens of 1 Enoch 15. What would a first-century Jew understand about Jesus’ authority over demons?

PARTICIPANT HANDOUT – WEEK 4

Divine Judgments and Cosmic Fallout

Opening Reflection:

The Tower of Babel isn't just about language—it marked a turning point in the spiritual structure of the world. What happened in the unseen realm at Babel?

Key Passages:

- Genesis 11:1–9 – The Tower of Babel and divine judgment
- Deuteronomy 32:8–9 (LXX/DSS) – The nations divided among the sons of God
- Acts 17:26–27 – God's sovereign boundary-setting and missionary purpose

Discussion Questions:

1. What was humanity trying to accomplish at Babel, and why did God intervene?
2. How does Deuteronomy 32 describe the consequences of Babel in the spiritual realm?
3. What does it mean that God “gave over” the nations but chose Israel for Himself?
4. How does Paul's speech in Acts 17 reflect God's desire to reclaim the nations?

Key Concepts:

- **Cosmic Geography** – The belief that divine beings were appointed over different nations
- **Disinheritance at Babel** – God judged the nations and gave them over to lesser spiritual rulers
- **Mission of Israel** – God's redemptive plan to reclaim the nations through one chosen people

Key Terms to Know:

- **Tower of Babel** – Human rebellion symbolizing autonomy from God
- **Sons of God (bene ha'elohim)** – Spiritual beings involved in the division of the nations
- **Inheritance** – Israel as Yahweh's special portion

Personal Reflection:

How does understanding Babel's spiritual consequences change the way you view the gospel's global mission?

Challenge This Week:

Re-read Psalm 82 and reflect on what it means for God to judge other elohim. What connection might this have with the fall of the nations?

PARTICIPANT HANDOUT – WEEK 5

Angels and Demons: Agents in the Conflict

Opening Reflection:

Culture portrays angels as gentle and demons as horned villains. But what does Scripture say about these spiritual agents?

Key Passages:

- Daniel 10:12–21 – Angelic conflict and territorial spirits
- Ephesians 6:12 – The nature of our spiritual battle
- 1 Enoch 15 (summary) – Origin of demons from the dead Nephilim

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Daniel 10 reveal about spiritual warfare in the heavenly realm?
2. According to Ephesians 6, who or what are Christians really fighting against?
3. How does 1 Enoch describe the origin of demons, and why does that matter?
4. How does this background influence the New Testament's treatment of demonic forces?

Key Concepts:

- **Angelology** – Study of spiritual messengers who serve God's purposes
- **Demonology** – Understanding the origin and function of evil spirits
- **Territorial Spirits** – Spiritual beings associated with regions or nations

Key Terms to Know:

- **Archangel / Prince** – High-ranking angelic beings (e.g., Michael)
- **Principalities and Powers** – Pauline terms for spiritual hierarchies
- **Disembodied Spirits** – The Nephilim's spirits in Second Temple thought

Personal Reflection:

Does your current spiritual life reflect an awareness of the real but invisible cosmic battle?

Challenge This Week:

Read Ephesians 6:10–18 and pray through each piece of the armor of God. Write one sentence about how you can “stand firm” this week.

PARTICIPANT HANDOUT – WEEK 6

Christ’s Victory: The End of the Conflict

Opening Reflection:

The gospel is more than forgiveness of sins—it is the cosmic announcement that Christ has triumphed over the powers of darkness.

Key Passages:

- Colossians 2:13–15 – Christ disarmed the rulers and authorities
- Ephesians 1:20–23 – Jesus is seated above all powers
- Revelation 20:1–10 – The final judgment of Satan and full restoration

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Colossians mean when it says Christ “disarmed” the powers?
2. How does Paul describe the authority of Jesus in Ephesians?
3. How does Revelation portray the final defeat of Satan?
4. What does this victory mean for how we live as followers of Christ today?

Key Concepts:

- **Christus Victor** – A view of the atonement highlighting Jesus’ triumph over evil powers
- **Inaugurated Eschatology** – The idea that Jesus’ victory is both “already” and “not yet”
- **Restoration of Nations** – Through Christ, the nations once disinherited are reclaimed

Key Terms to Know:

- **Disarmed Powers** – Evil authorities stripped of their legal authority
- **Exaltation** – Jesus enthroned above all creation
- **Lake of Fire** – The final judgment for Satan and rebellious spirits

Personal Reflection:

How does Christ’s cosmic victory over evil shape your daily walk with Him?

Challenge This Week:

Take 15 minutes to reflect on the entire 6-week study. Write down three ways your view of spiritual warfare or the unseen realm has changed.