

Remnant Life Church
March 7, 2021
“The Natural and the Supernatural”
Hosea 4:6

Within your understanding of the Bible, how do you define the words natural and supernatural

- Certainly, our culture is very interested in the supernatural
 - Television shows, movies, books, magazines, websites
 - We’re fascinated with it
 - Why?
 - For some it is a healthy curiosity of the unknown
 - For others it is the attempt to explore something beyond their own mundane lives
 - An attempt to enter the world of excitement where it would seem anything is possible
 - Yet there is absolutely no understanding of the legitimate evil that is being promoted
 - Let me give you some examples of what I am talking about
 - A quick search of supernatural television shows revealed more than I had time to review
 - Listen to the synopsis of the plots of just a few
 - A young woman, destined to slay vampires, demons and other infernal creatures, deals with her life fighting evil, with the help of her friends.
 - Lucifer Morningstar has decided he's had enough of being the dutiful servant in Hell and decides to spend some time on Earth to better understand humanity. He settles in Los Angeles - the City of Angels.
 - Two brothers follow in their father's footsteps as hunters, fighting evil supernatural beings of many kinds, including monsters, demons and gods that roam the earth.
 - Three twenty-somethings share a house and try to live a normal life despite being a ghost, a werewolf, and a vampire.
 - After a supernatural event at his church, a preacher enlists the help of a vampire and his ex to find God.
 - Most of these story lines revolve around young people because that is the target audience
 - The vast majority of them are made to look sexy, romantic, adventurous, and exciting
 - But that side of the supernatural is none of those things
 - Go and browse the young person’s section of B & N and look at the most common themes of the books – the supernatural
- But here is what you must understand as a Christian
 - God is the creator of the natural

- Because of that fact, God is not bound by the laws of the natural meaning, He is supernatural
- The world of the supernatural is good, right, filled with life when it is within the realm of the Father
- When it is not – it is perverted and that is what we see being promoted by Hollywood
 - Make no mistake – Hollywood is under the influence and control of satan
- But the supernatural should not be feared or squelched in our minds and hearts as purely evil
- As in all things, what God does is done in perfection and light while satan brings a counterfeit and twists it into darkness

- What is the natural?
 - It is those things that occur within the realm of our 5 senses
 - As well as understanding and explanation within the boundary of our minds
 - Many might add that to quantify something as natural means that must be explainable by scientific means and method
 - BUT the problem with that is science is not permanent nor exact (what does that mean?)
 - Until just a few hundred years ago everyone KNEW and believed that the earth was flat
 - Modern medicine has replaced the belief in evil elves, black bile astral influences, and bleeding with leeches
 - It was not until the late 1800s that doctors came to understand the correlation between germs and infection
 - I certainly believe in and support the advance of science although it is regularly changing many times to give their own theories validity
 - Mid 1800s William Thomson (The First Baron Kelvin)
 - Was a brilliant Irish-born British mathematical physicist
 - Dealt in the scientific realm of temperature, movement, gravity, earth sciences...
 - He worked in and developed terms such as absolute zero and kinetic energy
 - He stated in 1896 that, through undisputed scientific fact and proof, heavier than air objects could never be artificially suspended above the ground except through floatation as in balloon flight
 - Seven years later in Kitty Hawk, NC the Wright Brothers plane flew
 - Evolutionists and their attempts to bridge the “evolution gap” have been providing us with scientific “proof” of evolution that we are told are absolutely true as opposed to the nonsense that Christians believe
 - 1922 a great proclamation from the scientific community was made
 - It was heralded as the first higher primate of North America.
 - In other words, a clear connection between ape and man proving the theory of evolution

- It was originally described by Henry Fairfield Osborn
 - And American paleontologist and geologist
 - A Princeton graduate
 - President of the American Museum of Natural History
 - This discovery was announced on the basis of a tooth found by rancher and geologist Harold Cook in Nebraska in 1917
 - The scientific community was in a frenzy as lectures were given, graphs and charts of the evolutionary timeline were adjusted, tours with the model of this missing line were taken around the country on display...
 - ...there was only one small problem with “Nebraska Man”... this linking primate had been developed using the tooth of an ancient, extinct pig
 - Science continues to explain things that we cannot grasp with research with much of it being solid and trustworthy
 - My point in this is that science cannot be viewed as the all in all form which all other things are set against
 - Only the Word of God has been proven again and again to be timeless yet most the scientific community stands directly against the things of God
 - The natural is what the vast majority of people would accept as common or experienced knowledge
- What is Supernatural?
 - Anything that operates outside of what is commonly or scientifically accepted
 - Jesus operated in the supernatural the entire time He lived on earth
 - The evidence of it we call “miracles”
 - Every miracle Jesus performed was an act of the supernatural
 - In His 3 years of ministry, the Bible records 36 miracles – although likely many more that were not
 - The first is recorded in **John 2** – changing of water into wine
 - The last in **John 21** - catching a great number of fish
 - Only 1 of those miracles is recorded in all four Gospels
 - Feeding of the 5000
 - All 4 tell of Malchus, the servant of the high priest having his ear cut off in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night Jesus was arrested, but only Luke tells of Jesus healing him
- It is important not only to know what the difference is between natural and supernatural but to ask...
 - Should we be concerned or afraid of the supernatural?
 - How can we tell what is from God and what is not?
 - Will the supernatural harm me?
- We must always remember that everything came first from God
- Everything within and without of the realm of our understanding is first from God
- As I said earlier, satan desires to pervert and twist everything that God created pure

- The place that he attacks first and the hardest is our minds
 - Once we perceive something that we think is impossible our mind will not go beyond that point
 - What lies beyond? - FAITH
 - **Heb 11:1** - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*
 - **Matt. 17:20** - *Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*
- Why does it take such little faith to accomplish great things?
 - Because our little faith joins to the awesome power of God
 - More and more in these times Christians need to just relax and have faith
 - Do not claim you have faith and then not live that way
 - Not our power but His
 - Clement of Alexandria (Greek Christian Theologian) *Faith is a voluntary anticipation.*
- You do not to be fearful of the supernatural – why?
 - If you are seeking God, you never need to be afraid
 - The love of God drives out fear
 - If you desire the supernatural to His glory, He will protect you from the counterfeit
 - **Hosea 4:6** - *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*

Where do we find that knowledge?

- The Word of God