

Remnant Life Church
June 6, 2021
“Spiritual Warfare –
Part 2
A Biblical Drama”

In biblical terms, spiritual warfare encompasses satan’s rebellion against God and the manifestations (or visible aspects) of that rebellion in the created order of the world. But at the heart of this warfare is the fact that God is sovereignly in control of His creation, and, as the Sovereign One, He has already decided that satan’s rebellion will ultimately fail.

Last week: Spiritual warfare: what is it?

1. It started with satan’s rebellion against God
2. The efforts of his rebellion are seen in the physical elements or manifestations of this world
3. God is in sovereign control over all His creation
4. As sovereign, God has already decided that the rebellion will ultimately fail

Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

The threads of satan’s rebellion and the responses of Almighty God are interwoven throughout the Scriptures as an ongoing drama played out on the stage of human history

There are 6 acts to this drama and we will look at the first three this morning and the last three next week

Act 1 – God’s creation of the universe and everything in it

- All of creation both living and inanimate; both physical and spiritual are wholly and completely dependent on God
 - Without the creative power of God, nothing exists
 - The Big Bang is one of the most ludicrous scientific hypotheses ever dreamed up
 - Scientists want you to believe that all of the matter necessary to make up the universe spontaneously occurred, on its own, out of nothing!
 - They want you to believe that all of the matter that suddenly sprang into being has been steadily evolving into higher forms of intelligence, function, and being
 - Even though both of these foundational stones of the scientific community to explain the presence of all things, are disproved many times over by...wait for it...their own tests, studies, and physical laws of matter, biogenesis, and thermodynamics.
 - I have heard it said that to believe that the formation of the universe, in all of its vast complexities was formed by a gigantic spontaneous explosion, would be the same as believing that if a paper factory sitting next to a type-setting office both exploded at the same time, that you would find in

the rubble a complete bound 26-volume copy of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

- You say, why that is ludicrous – exactly!
- And yet that is what is being taught in our schools, it is what our children are being told is truth, and it is a manifestation of the rebellion of satan against God
- The fact, as is being proven by science more and more (when are willing to acknowledge it) is that spontaneous creation is not possible – it is only the hand of God that could have been responsible

Act 2 – The fall of man into sin

- In the third chapter of Genesis, Adam and Eve are tempted to embrace and assert their independence from God
 - IOW – to rebel
 - satan could not physically force them to eat from the forbidden tree
 - He had to convince them to choose to do it of their own free will
 - They had to make the decision for themselves
 - That is the at the heart of all rebellion – a conscious choice to act out against something or someone
 - The battlefield of virtually all spiritual warfare is for the heart and mind of the believer
 - The victory for satan only comes when we choose to disobey God
 - As a parent, you know that part of the training of your child is to teach them the correlation between choice and consequence
 - I can recall saying to my two sons many times that the consequence of their actions is a result of their choices
 - When you do that, parents, you are ensuring that your child will not live his/her life with a victim mentality
 - Because that truth does not change when we become adults – but the consequences become much more grave
 - **Rom 12:2** - *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
 - That renewing is not a one and done
 - It is a continual, ongoing surrendering of your mind, your will to God
 - This is the place that the enemy is most effective
 - He is subtle and clever
 - Because it is most often a gradual decline in your spiritual defenses where you allow the little things to creep into your life that give way to the bigger things
 - It is what we are witnessing in our culture and society today
 - The little things of the past 50 years, beginning in the 60's and early 70's, what was known as the counter-culture, have now given way to the big things today that are destroying the foundation of this nation

- The past consequences of the moral destruction of a people can be seen, not only in the accounts of the OT and Israel, but throughout modern history as well
- After Adam and Eve fall a battle is announced with a foreshadowing of God's ultimate victory given
 - (God's pronouncement of the curse over the serpent) **Gen 3:15** - *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; (the declaration of war) He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.* (the coming victory)
 - The fall, however, was not limited to Adam and Eve
 - Because as the keepers of God's original creation, their fall brought the punishment for sin into the whole of God's creation and dominion

Act 1 – The rebellion against God's creation

Act 2 – The rebellion in the fall of man

Act 3 – **The rebellion seen throughout the rest of the OT**

- It involves the people that God has called out to be His own
- He sets the Hebrew people apart as the nation of Israel to receive His blessing and to become a blessing to the rest of the world through the birth of His Son
 - But look at the encounters, scenes in this act, that demonstrate the spiritual encounters resulting from the declaration of war
 - Moses and Pharaoh (**Ex 7-12**)
 - Moses is a type of Christ as well as a representative of God's people and Pharaoh a type of satan in his efforts to steal and dominate God's people
 - If Pharaoh had been victorious in this battle scene, what would have been the result?
 - The people would have never become an independent nation and never reached the promised land
 - God and satan over the life of Job (**Job 1-2**)
 - This one needs little explanation
 - satan states that anyone will follow God if they are protected and blessed
 - God allows the tests to inflict Job
 - The victory of Job's mind can be seen in his refusal to give in to his wife's plea to curse God and die, and how he responds to the three men who come to "comfort" him
 - Then Daniel's vision found in **Daniel 10:4-11:1**
 - He is told by an angel of a battle between the angel and the Prince of Persia (a demonic territorial ruler)
 - How the archangel Michael came to assist him
 - Out and out warfare in the spirit realm
 - These are 3 examples of the battles that took place throughout the OT and are still being waged today

- But it is not ground or wealth that is being fought for
- It is your mind, your heart, and your soul

The rebellion satan is leading is not one that he wants to keep to himself

- He has two primary goals
 - Pervert, twist, and corrupt all that he can of God's creation
 - Steal as many hearts, minds, and souls as he can to prevent them from living a life centered on Jesus Christ
 - The ultimate is to keep them from spending eternity with God
- As Paul wrote in **Romans 12**, it is a renewing that occurs through a transforming of your mind
- Prayer, accountability, discipline
 - satan is persistent
 - "Opportunity knocks but once, but temptation leans on the doorbell."
- But listen to this promise written by the apostle Paul
 - **2 Cor 13:11** - *Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.*

A single battle can determine the outcome of an entire war. Like Gettysburg and the Invasion at Normandy, a telling battle for the future of England had come. General Wellington of the British Army represented the last formidable opposition to the French army under the command of Napoleon. To communicate the outcome of a battle, English towns from Belgium across the English Channel devised a system of flashing lights to be emitted from one church top to another. When the battle ended, England had proved victorious and the message was sent "Wellington Defeated Napoleon." As the message was received and sent by each church towards the island of Great Britain, a great fog began to settle in. By the time the message reached the island, the fog cut the message short as the churches received the message "Wellington Defeated." And so for hours, the people of Britain feared the eventual overthrow of their country until the fog began to lift and they received the completed full message. "Wellington Defeated Napoleon."

In the midst of the battles, the most important one ever fought being that of Jesus going to the cross, the fog of rebellion would mean that on the day of His death Good Friday, we are like those in England believing "Jesus Defeated." What we must remember is that is not the complete message. When the fog lifted on Resurrection Sunday, we then can see the rest of the message, "Jesus Defeated Death." Fellow believer do not live believing an incomplete message. The war is over, it has been won, and you, through the power of that resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can have victory every day in your battles. The rebellion wants you to believe something that is not true because the victory belongs to the Lord and to His children if you will stand for the truth of our sovereign God in the face of the rebellion.