

Three Spiritual Rebellions (continued)

Rebellion #2: The “Sons of God” (Genesis 6:1-5)

Divine beings rebelled against God’s created order.

The divine beings can be called “archangels” or just “angels” in the New Testament, but they are not exactly the same as cherubim and seraphim.

These beings taught men “wisdom” before the flood, according to ancient Mesopotamian texts. (Gen. 6:4, 11:4)

The descendants of the divine beings, called “watchers” in Enoch, were giants.

When the giants died, their spirits became the “unclean spirits” that Jesus encountered in the New Testament.

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling-- these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment;

1 Peter 3:19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits--²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water.

Rebellion #3: Rulers of the Nations. (Psalm 82)

Many remaining members of the divine council were assigned to lead different nations after the Tower of Babel. They rebelled by abusing their authority. These are the “powers” of Ephesians 6:12.

Genesis 10:32 These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.

Deuteronomy 32:8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.⁹ But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage. (see Deut. 4:19/Rom. 1)

Acts 17:26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Daniel 10:13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

When the national rulers rebelled, they joined with Satan in oppressing the nations.

However, Jesus will ultimately defeat them and take possession of the nations.

Matthew 4:8 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."

Colossians 2:14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Psalms 2:8 Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Though ultimately defeated, these spiritual forces continue to hold influence, working with Satan to deceive the nations.

Spiritual warfare is primarily about holding truth, standing against the devil's lies and schemes.

Spiritual Warfare in Entertainment (3/29)

Can Entertainment Be a front line in spiritual warfare?

Yes, because:

1. The Devil is always scheming to deceive.
2. Stories are a powerful tool of persuasion.
3. Stories are being used to subvert the truths of God's Word.
4. In some way, the Devil and the "Rulers and Authorities" are at work in this deception.

Remember:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (NIV)

Illustration: Disney Movies

The Classic Period:

Snow White (1937): A thoroughly "Christian" story:

The "Queen" disguises herself through magic and tricks Snow White into taking a bite of a poisoned apple she claims is a magic apple

The Prince "Saves" her, bringing her back to life.

Frozen (2013): The same values are turned around

- "Freezing" acts as a symbol of sin nature, one that Elsa embraces in the song, "Let it Go"

- The Prince never saves her, but is instead the villain.

Culture: "The stories we tell that express meaning about the world." (Daniel Strange, *Plugged In*, 23).

Christian Rules for Interacting with Culture:

(Being In the World but not of it)

1. Paul was a student of culture. (Acts 17:22-23)
2. Culture can offer a great bridge to evangelistic conversations.
3. We should always be careful about taking in culture in an uncritical way.
4. Immersion in unbiblical culture will be a danger to our thinking.
5. Some culture is inherently sinful to make.