

## THE UNSEEN: What the Bible says about the Supernatural

A World of God and gods

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**INTRO: \*pic\* Beach - 1940s.** *In the summer of 1944, a group of friends go to the beach. But the beach was Normandy. \*pic\* Beach - Normandy*

**We assume life is meant to be white sand beach on a perfect 80 degree day. In reality, life is a battlefield...**

“Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us to take part in a great campaign of sabotage.” - **C.S. Lewis** (Mere Christianity)

**Ephesians 6:10 NIV** Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in his mighty power.

**Be strong against what?**

**Ephesians 6:11-12 NIV** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against **the devil’s schemes**. <sup>12</sup> 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**.

**“The powers...” → kosmoKRATORAS → “Cosmic Powers”**

*You know what I think of when I hear “cosmic powers”? \*pic\* Thanos-Kosmokratoras This is **outside the paradigm through which we view the world**. But the **Biblical authors** had a very different **worldview**...*

**2 Corinthians 10:3-4 NIV** For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish **strongholds**.

**Ephesians 2:2 NIV** The ways of this world and of the **ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

**1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV** Be alert and of sober mind. Your **enemy the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith...

*And it’s **not just the devil and dark spiritual forces** that the **Bible** talks about...*

**Genesis 1:1 NIV** In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth.

**“God” → “Elohim”**

**“Elohim” - 2,602x** in OT

- **Yahweh** (the proper name of our Father God)
- **False/pagan gods + Human leaders** (e.g. kings, judges)
- **Supernatural beings** (e.g. God’s divine council, angels)...

**Psalm 82:1 NIV** **God** presides in the great assembly; he renders judgment among the **gods**.

**Psalm 82:1 NIV** **Elohim** presides in the great assembly; he renders judgment among the **elohim**.

**Psalm 136:2 NIV** Give thanks to the **God of gods.**

**Psalm 136:2 NIV** Give thanks to the **Elohim of elohim.**

**“Elohim” is a plural masculine noun. But when the word is used to describe Yahweh, it is attached to a singular masculine verb, which breaks the rules of Hebrew grammar; this is done to distinguish that Yahweh is the “God of gods.”**

The **Biblical authors**, along with the rest of the **ancient world**, believed that there was a **spiritual realm full of spiritual beings**, both good and evil, that **exists right alongside the physical world** we can see, hear, and touch.

**We live in a world of God and gods.** [westgatechurch.org/unseen-resources](http://westgatechurch.org/unseen-resources)

## **THE CHALLENGE OF MATERIALISM**

**Why is an unseen, supernatural reality so difficult for us to believe?**

**“We are living in a material world and I am a material girl.” - Madonna** (Material Girl, 1984)

**“Materialism is the view that everything is ultimately material in nature. [...] Every object is a purely physical object. Every event that occurs has a purely physical cause (if it has any cause at all). In short, the universe is just a collection of clumps of matter following the laws of physics.” - James Anderson** (What's Your Worldview?)

An **early version of materialism** was introduced by **Greek philosophers in the 5th c. BC.** The **modern version of materialism** took root in the **17th c.** and for **the last 300 years, the Western worldview** has become **increasingly materialistic.**

**“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” - C.S. Lewis** (Mere Christianity)

**If and when we believe the myth of materialism—that the only reality is that which we can see, hear, touch—then we’re missing the actual story playing out before us.**

**\*Set up series—Devil + Spiritual realities in Culture (Lies) + What to do\***

## **WHY DOES THIS MATTER?**

Why does an **understanding of unseen, supernatural realities** matter?

**Personally, unless we live aware that there is a war being waged for our souls, we'll live perpetually vulnerable to the enemy's tactics.**

**Colossians 2:8 NIV** See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the **elemental spiritual forces of this world** rather than on Christ.

**Communally, unless we live aware of spiritual enemies fighting for our souls, we'll make enemies out of one another.**

**“A culture that has removed the supernatural from its thinking will not do away with the concepts of the supernatural; it will transfer them to the natural. Without acknowledging actual fallen angels and enemies of God, we turn others into fallen members of our desired social conditions and enemies of ourselves.” - Jon Tyson** (Beautiful Resistance)

**EX - Political division** (especially online)

**Satan, God's enemy and our enemy, has a singular goal:**

**The fracturing of souls and societies.**

But **if we are in Christ, there is nothing to fear.** \*Invite Worship Team back up\*

**Colossians 2:13-15 NIV** God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> And having **disarmed the powers and authorities**, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

**CLOSE:** Harper. 3 years old. Nightmare. "Something in my closet." **"Tremble"**

**Jesus, Jesus, you make the darkness tremble**

**Jesus, Jesus, you silence fear**

**Your name is a light that the shadows can't deny**

**Your name cannot be overcome.**