

SPIRITUAL WARFARE part 1

TERRITORIAL STRONGHOLDS

by Duane Burgess

Across the globe many Christians are mobilizing for spiritual warfare. They are sincerely determined to tear down demonic strongholds for the proclamation of the gospel and the advancement of the kingdom of God. Reports of prayers, fasting, praise marches and power encounters are increasing. Novels, warfare handbooks, seminars and boot camps abound.

However, the battle plans for spiritual warfare are being drawn up based more on subjective opinions and on the fanciful, artistic liberties of novelists than on a valid biblical foundation. The Bible actually presents a picture of spiritual warfare that is quite different than what is commonly taught.

A CALL TO ANGELIC ARMS

In recent years some believers have complained that Christians were ignoring the reality that we wrestle daily with principalities

and powers (Eph. 6). But novels like Frank Peretti's, *This Present Darkness* have stirred up a lot of interest in the subject of spiritual warfare.

ANGELIC REALITIES

The biblical record of spiritual realities is clear. God created angelic beings on a level a little higher than mankind. One angel, known to us as Satan, rebelled against God, and one-third of the angels joined with him. Their destiny is eternal torment in the lake of fire, which God has prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

Meanwhile the demons are active in the world, seeking to steal and to destroy. Satan is called the god of this world, who is like a roaring lion, roaming about, seeking whom he may devour. He may even appear as an angel of light, and is continually coming before the throne of God to accuse the saints.

(*Strongholds* continued on p. 3)

From Evolution to Creation Seminar & Kids Workshop

see page 2 for details

Why is Creation Science Necessary?

By Duane Burgess

Science has brought us incredible technologies. But the discoveries of scientific study are limited to learning what is true about that which exists, and what can be done with that knowledge. Scientific study does not explain *why* things are as they are: it can only theorize about origins and purpose. The *Beginning* was a one time event, not observed by mankind. Without special revelation we cannot be certain what took place. Creation Science is necessary because it acknowledges the reality that there

(*Creation* continued on p. 2)

Changes in CAF!

(*We're Baaaaaack!!!*)

Dear Friends,

Without exception, those of us involved with CAF have felt the strong conviction that God was leading this ministry toward a different direction. CAF founder and president Jack Gracie has retired from CAF in order to devote more time to his own church, where he regularly teaches.

Because of the lack of organized leadership, we have seen some portions of the ministry slow down and even come to a complete stop. When this happens we fail to be a useful ministry. As a result we have sought the Lord for direction to continue this ministry, which He has called us to.

Months ago the option of letting CAF come under the direction of another organization was entertained. We discussed the possibility of becoming a Tucson location for other counter-cult ministries and

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CREATION (continued from p. 1)

is a Creator, and takes into account the Creator's design and purpose as man seeks to understand what exists.

Creation Science is necessary because scientific inquiry requires a model for interpreting the evidence and our observations. A model is needed which interprets the evidence in a way that is consistent with the revealed Word of the Creator. Scripture exhorts us to deal truthfully with what we observe in our world.

Creation Science is defined as the attempt to prove, using the scientific method, that The Creation account of the Bible is a viable scientific theory. For example, the global catastrophe of Noah's flood helps us understand why there are billions of dead things, laid down by water, all over the earth (fossils).

The Bible provides a framework for ethics and morality in scientific pursuits and defines the limits of scientific inquiry. For example, the Bible says that, "in the

beginning, God created..." (Gen. 1:1) and everything reproduces, "after its kind" (1:25). Therefore, to pursue evolutionary theories about the origin and development of the material universe cannot be productive for it assumes a false premise.

Everyone is biased in the interpretation of his or her observations, but Creation Science puts this bias into a biblical perspective. Author and speaker Ken Ham has said its really just a matter of which bias is the best bias to be biased with! The atheist is biased against considering the possibility of God being Creator. The naturalist denies the possibility of the supernatural. The Christian is biased, beginning with the Bible as a source of authoritative truth.

If the Genesis record of origins isn't literally true, how can we be certain which portions of Genesis and the rest of Scripture are true? Genesis is the very foundation of the Christian faith and gospel message.

That's why Creation Science is necessary.

From Evolution to Creation: A Scientist Looks At Genesis Seminar

at Calvary Chapel, 5170 S. Julian Dr. Tucson at 7:00 p.m. Friday June 16. The featured speaker, Dr. Gary E. Parker, has been on the science faculty of the Institute for Creation Research for 12 years and is now a speaker for Creation Science Ministries and is Professor of Biology at Clearwater Christian College, Fla.

KIDS CREATION WORKSHOP Saturday June 17. Registration starts at 8:00 am. Workshop runs from 8:30 to 11:45 with Dr. and Mrs. Parker. Cost is \$10 for one child or \$15 for more than one. Workshop is limited to 60 students grades K to 6. Pre-registration is suggested by sending payment to CAF.

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also being part of a local church. One church, Calvary Chapel of Tucson, has shown a great interest in the ministry that CAF provides. After prayer and discussion, CAF's directors unanimously felt that joining with Calvary Chapel is the direction that God had been moving us towards.

On April 15, 1995 Christian Awareness Fellowship officially became an outreach of Calvary Chapel of Tucson. It's office and research library are now located at the church's main campus with Calvary Chapel Bible College. We at CAF are very excited with this new move and believe God will continue to use this ministry to provide the community with answers about the Christian Faith. As a part of this move there will be many more opportunities for the ministry's expansion into other related areas such as Apologetics and Creation Science in addition to "Counter-Cult" research and counseling.

Although CAF is ultimately overseen by Calvary

Chapel's board of directors, CAF itself is a separate, self-governing, inter-denominational outreach (Only two of CAF's officers are members of Calvary Chapel). We do not receive regular financial support from Calvary Chapel and rely on the Lord using His people to pray for this ministry and to meet the printing, mailing and office costs. All officers and workers are volunteers, there is no paid staff at CAF. Your contributions go directly to those who need help and information. **Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!**

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STRONGHOLDS (continued from p. 1)

The activity of holy and fallen angels is described throughout the Bible. However, little information is given about the structure and workings of the angelic hosts. II Tim. 3:16 says that the Scriptures are sufficient to thoroughly equip the believer. Therefore we can be sure that God has supplied us with all the revelation we need to understand what He requires of us. Apparently we do not need to know much about the workings of the spiritual world. Our duty is to obey what we have been told.

The book of Daniel gives us a glimpse into the nature of demonic activity:

“Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me...” (Dan. 10:10-12)

However, nothing in this passage describes a systematic demonic hierarchy which operates on a global

“So little light is given us on this realm that delving into it is fascinating, but speculative... hard to get a theological handle on it.”³

The speculations of deliverance teachers, not Scripture, is cited as the authority. Scripture does not instruct believers to engage in identifying or binding demonic powers. If believers can bind demons, it follows that they can eventually bind them all and bring an end to spiritual warfare. Yet spiritual battles rage daily. If believers can bind demons, how do they get loose again? The Bible says the battle will continue until Christ himself comes and disposes of Satan and his demonic hosts.

EVANGELISM & ANGELIC WARFARE

Some teach that demons must be bound by believers before preaching the gospel will be effective: “Only after they sense that spiritual powers over the region have been bound will they begin to preach.”⁴

In contrast to this teaching Jesus said, “I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Those who teach that if Christians don’t identify and

God has supplied us with all the revelation we need to understand...

basis. And while Ephesians 6 describes the realities of spiritual “principalities and powers,” there, again, is no elaboration of the arrangement or working of a demonic hierarchy. In fact, Scripture provides only limited insights into the spiritual realm.

ANGELIC TEACHINGS

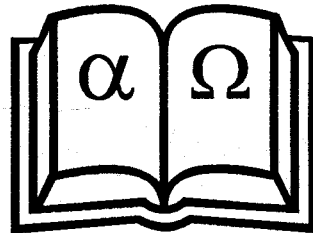
In spite of the scarcity of definitive biblical revelation about the spiritual world, many books and articles are being written to instruct believers about waging spiritual warfare. Extensive teachings are presented. However, serious questions must be raised about much of what is being taught.

C. Peter Wagner is considered an authority on spiritual warfare. But rather than offering biblical instruction, he betrays the integrity of his teaching. He writes, “A case could be made... I have a strong suspicion... but no conclusive proof.”¹

How is it that questionable opinions are being turned into authoritative teaching? A study of many of the teachings on spiritual warfare reveals that opinions, subjective experience, and clinical observations form the basis of many of these teachings, coupled with a few supposed proof texts from Scripture. Often these passages are quoted out of context.

Even the spiritual warfare teachers admit to the subjective nature of their beliefs:

“Nothing in this verse itself (Ephesians. 6:12) indicates that one or more of these categories would necessarily fit the description of territorial spirits, but many, including myself, feel it is highly probable.”²



cast out presumed territorial spirits that the gospel won’t be effective are saying, in effect, that Christ is unable to build his church - the gates of hell are prevailing against it!

The reason for these questionable teachings about territorial spirits and spiritual warfare is really quite simple: Christians want to see tangible results to their ministry.

An important Biblical truth has been

missed. Believers are called to obedience, not to results! God brings the results in His time, according to His sovereign plan. Missionary William Carey labored for a lifetime in India with few results. But those who followed him reaped a harvest!

An erroneous belief is that it is the duty of the Church to establish God’s kingdom on earth. Wagner insists that improving unity as members of the Body of Christ:

“...will hasten the weakening of the enemy and the advance of God’s kingdom.”⁵

Citing what he calls a “gift of intercession” Wagner says, “God has chosen that His will be done through our asking and taking dominion... (by this) “we establish His will on earth as it is in heaven... Jesus commands us to move out in His authority to retake the nations Satan has under his dominion.”⁷

This is not the record of Scripture. The kingdom is future. Believers are called to preach the gospel and to make disciples of those who believe. We are not called to build God’s kingdom on earth; Christ Himself will come to establish it according to God’s plan and timetable.

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STRONGHOLDS (continued from p. 3)

CALL TO DISCERNMENT

False teachings about issues like spiritual warfare exist primarily because of the biblical illiteracy of believers. The President of the Christian Research Institute, Hank Hanegraaff identifies the root of the problem for us when he says that there is a serious lack of spiritual discernment in the Church.⁸

Christians need to be like Bereans, comparing what they've been told to the Word of God. Erroneous ideas are found in the teachings of men like C. Peter Wagner, Dr. Timothy Warner, Tom White, Neil Andersen, Mark Bubeck and C. Fred Dickason. Their teachings must be carefully scrutinized for they all depart significantly from

sound Scriptural authority in portions of their teaching about spiritual warfare.

NOTES

1. Wagner, C. Peter. *WARFARE PRAYER*, p. 97.
2. *ibid.* p. 18
3. White, Tom. *THE BELIEVER'S GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE*, p. 37.
4. *ibid.* p. 63
5. *ibid.* p. 170
6. *ibid.* p. 174
7. *ibid.* p. 174, 129
8. ABC television interview 20/20, March 16, 1995.

Casting Out the Demons Of Tucson

Recently an event was organized to "break down the walls of demonic strongholds over Tucson." The organizers said the idea was given to them through visions and prophecy. The event was sponsored by churches, local Christian radio stations, and other ministries.

We thank God for the zeal our brothers have in Christ and their concern for the lost. And we join with our brothers in prayer for the salvation of Tucsonans. But we declined to participate in the event because we feel God has not called us to rebuke demons or to command them to leave from geographical areas. One cannot cast the world out of the world.

In many segments of the Church we're being told that evangelism will not be effective unless territorial spirits are identified, rebuked and cast out of an area, and signs and wonders are performed.

Ephesians 6:11-20 describes how Christians should participate in spiritual warfare. According to Missionary and theologian Eric Villanueva in the *Christian Research Journal*, "To fight this war, Paul tells believers to 'stand' against them in God's power using His armor. The weapons he lists for battle are: honesty, righteousness, witnessing, assurance of salvation, belief in God, and proficiency in the Scriptures. But wait, isn't this simply obe-

dient Christian living? Where's the mystical mumbo jumbo—the direct encounter with the supernatural? It would appear that Christians who effectively live out their faith assault satanic oppression of a society with an onslaught that verbal rebukes cannot approach.

"Paul then asks for spiritual warfare prayers. But Paul doesn't ask the Church to pray against demonic rulers or map out demonic strongholds or to pray to or bind Satan or the like. His request is that the Church would pray for him to fearlessly and flawlessly preach the good news. 'Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth, words be given to me so that I would fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains' (v 19,20)."

We may or may not experience revival again in America. But in the end America is a gentile nation which will be judged. We cannot bring about the kingdom of God by claiming to cast out territorial spirits. Instead, we are called to preach the Gospel.

The Church fails to "redeem the time," when it is diverted from its mission and purpose by pursuing superficial experiences. Events like these have no foundation in Scripture and distracts believers rather than edifying them according to biblical truth.

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