

THE WAR IN HEAVEN COMES TO EARTH

Part 1 of New Days, Old Gods. 1 Kings 16:29-34.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. June 30, 2024.

NEW TEACHING SERIES

We're exploring the life and ministry of Elijah, the Old Testament prophet.

- Elijah's circumstances have many parallels today..
- The battle between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Darkness.
- These are new days but the ancient demon gods are still around.
- The fight is real. Our spiritual health and witness for Christ are at risk.

THE CONTEXT OF 1 KINGS 16

King Solomon was Israel's greatest king, and he ruled a vast empire.

- Sadly, for political reasons, he married daughters of pagan kings.

1 Kings 11:4-6 (CSB) When Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away to follow other gods. He was not wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his God, as his father David had been. 5 Solomon followed Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom, (possibly the same as Molech) the abhorrent idol of the Ammonites. 6 Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight, and unlike his father David, he did not remain loyal to the LORD.

- After Solomon's death, the nation divided, and a series of unjust, faithless, and idolatrous kings followed. The nation was economically prosperous and spiritually bankrupt.
- Leaders and people worshipped a pantheon of demonic gods.

Psalms 106:34-37 (CSB) They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them 35 but mingled with the nations and adopted their ways. 36 They served their idols, which became a snare to them. 37 They sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons.

1 KINGS 16:29-34

- **Introducing Ahab:** verse 29.
- **Evaluating Ahab:** verse 30.
- **Describing Ahab:** verses 31-33.
- **Ahab's Broader Influence:** verse 34.

SUMMING UP AHAB'S REIGN

Ahab led Israel into its worst period of spiritual darkness.

- Jezebel was a demon-possessed “Baal evangelist.”
- Ahab abandoned God and opened the door to all kinds of evil.

1 Kings 21:25-26 (CSB) ... there was no one like Ahab, who devoted himself to do what was evil in the LORD's sight, because his wife Jezebel incited him. 26 He committed the most detestable acts by following idols as the Amorites had ...

- This is the cultural and spiritual backdrop to Elijah's ministry.

THE WAR IN HEAVEN

Heavenly spiritual beings rebelled against God.

- Satan and his angels rebelled against God.

Revelation 12:7-9 (CSB) Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, 8 but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was thrown out — the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.

- The “gods” rebelled against God. The “Elohim.”

Psalms 82:1-4, 6-7 (CSB) God stands in the divine assembly; he pronounces judgment among the gods: 2 “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? 3 Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. 4 Rescue the poor and needy; save them from the power of the wicked.” 6 I said, “You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. 7 However, you will die like humans and fall like any other ruler.”

- Powerful spiritual princes rebelled against God.

Daniel 10:12-13 (CSB) Don’t be afraid, Daniel,” he said to me, “for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me after I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

THE WAR IN HEAVEN IS NOW ON EARTH

We are at war whether we like it or not.

- God’s enemies are waging war against us because we represent God.

Most people have no idea they are at war.

- Demonic deception dominates our culture - See 2 Corinthians 4:4.
- Many Christians are also deceived - See Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 4:1.

THE ONLY SAFE PLACE

Good news: evil does not win. No one has to live in the lies.

- Faith in Jesus changes everything. He is the safe place in the battle.
- Jesus has already won the war.

Colossians 2:15 (CSB) God disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in Jesus Christ.

CHRIST'S VICTORY AND HOW TO STAND IN IT

1 Corinthians 15:57 (CSB) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Colossians 2:15 (CSB) God disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:20-22 (CSB) God exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens — 21 far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church,

Revelation 12:10 (CSB Strong's) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, “The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been thrown down.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (CSB Strong's) ... so that through his death he might destroy the one holding the power of death — that is, the devil ...

Romans 16:20 (CSB) The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

1 John 4:4 (CSB) You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Ephesians 6:11-13 (CSB) Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens...

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (CSB) For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, 4 since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments 5 and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.