

***Spiritual Warfare***  
***The Devil, and How to Stand Against His Schemes***



# ***Spiritual Warfare***

- *Definitions of Terms*
- *The Nature of the Enemy (part 1)*
- *The Nature of Spiritual Warfare*
- *The Mechanics of Spiritual Warfare*



# ***The Nature of the Enemy***

- So we defined our terms—including what we *don't* actually know about Satan (or demons)—but what do we know about them?



# The Nature of the Enemy



## Funky little teaching moment...

- In researching this class, I ran across a number of helpful definitive rules about Satan that might help us in our preparation for spiritual warfare
  - Satan—and his minions—can't quote Scripture
    - It burns in their mouths  
(and thus, that can be used as a test to see who's righteous and who serves the Evil One)

(in fact, since Satan is the “father of lies,” then he is actually *incapable* of telling the truth)  
(isn't that what John 8:44 teaches us?)

(“He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”)



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  - Satan—and his minions—can't quote Scripture
  - Satan can't read your thoughts
    - He can only discern what's in there by your observable words and actions
      - So never speak out loud what you don't want him to know



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  - Satan can't read your thoughts
  - Satan is never allowed to reveal himself
    - He *always* has to use a disguise or work through an agent  
(notice that he always pretends to be a snake, or pretends to be an “angel of light,” etc.)



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  - Satan is never allowed to reveal himself
  - Satan always has to ask for permission
    - He always has to get you to *agree* to allow him to act in your life—usually by trickery, or with threats, but you still have to give him a foothold (kinda like a vampire can't enter your house unless you invite him in)



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  - Satan is never allowed to reveal himself
  - Satan always has to ask for permission
  - Satan can't "make" anyone do anything
    - He can tempt you and confuse you, but we can't say, "The Devil made me do it!" because he can't force people to do anything against their will





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  - Satan always has to ask for permission
  - Satan can't "make" anyone do anything
  - Satan can't be in the vicinity of God or of holy things
    - So if you wear a rosary or a crucifix, or if you hang out on holy ground like a cathedral, or if you stay in proximity to a priest, then you're safe  
(NOTE: this also means that it's impossible for a Christian to be possessed by a demon, since a demon can't be in the same physical place as the Holy Spirit of God within you)



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- Of course, all of this is utter malarkey
  - None of it is actually found in Scripture—but more importantly, even a *cursory* glance at the Bible shows several of these to be clearly, demonstrably untrue
    - And if that's the case, then what's the danger in putting your faith in these "helpful rules" about warfare?
    - So why do people actually *believe* this stuff—even actually *teach* this stuff?



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  - Satan's motivations, disposition, and tactics
    - Okay, we don't *definitively know* his internal script but we can make some solid Biblical inferences
      - What seems to personally motivate him?
        - What was the *nature* of his temptation to Eve in Genesis 3:1-5?
        - If sections like Isaiah 14:12-14 or Ezekiel 28:12-17 even only *echo* the fall of Satan, then what does *God* seem to think motivates him?
        - What does Paul say about the qualifications of an Elder in 1 Timothy 3:6—and how is that relevant?
        - At his core, Satan seems to be motivated by a desire to set himself up as God—or at least as being “equivalent” to God—out of self-pride
          - If that's true, then what's your assessment of an observation that several of you have made in this course already—that our society seems to perceive God and Satan as adversaries in a balanced, cosmic war of opposing kingdoms of “light” vs. “dark”?



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      - Where *is* Satan right now?
        - The Bible doesn't talk about Satan having a throne in Hell, deriving joy from tormenting souls that legally belong to him
          - Again, that's more of a Greco-Roman perception of the god, Hades, that too many Christians have just sorta co-opted (and why might Satan *like* Christians to co-opt that image?)



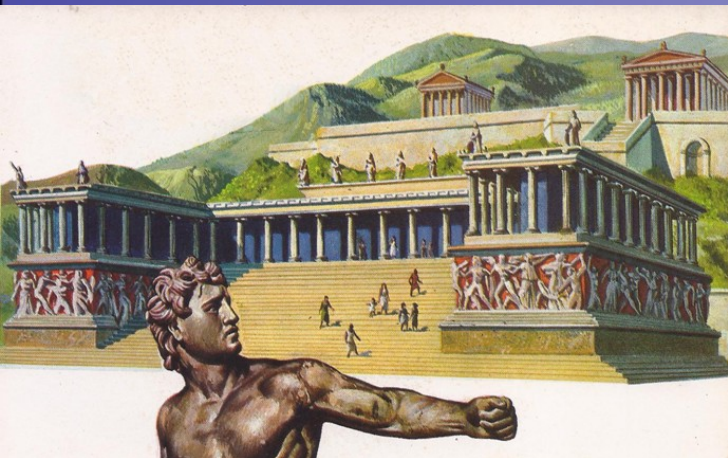
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          - Again, that's more of a Greco-Roman perception of the god, Hades, that too many Christians have just sorta co-opted
          - Satan is not linked to Hell or Hades or “the Underworld” or any of that until verses such as Matthew 25:41 or Revelation 20:10, when we're told that he himself will ultimately be “thrown into the lake of burning sulfur” to be “tormented day and night for ever and ever”
            - Hell is not his throne



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        - **No, his throne is in Turkey—specifically Pergamum**
          - What does Christ say through John to the church in Pergamum in Revelation 2:13?
          - Okay, it's not that Satan actually just *resides* in western Turkey
            - But the city boasted a huge altar in a temple dedicated to Zeus and Athena—as well as being a haven for followers of Balaam and the Nicolaitans, who had even begun to infiltrate the church itself
            - How was Pergamum a good example of “where Satan has his throne”?



# The Nature of the Enemy



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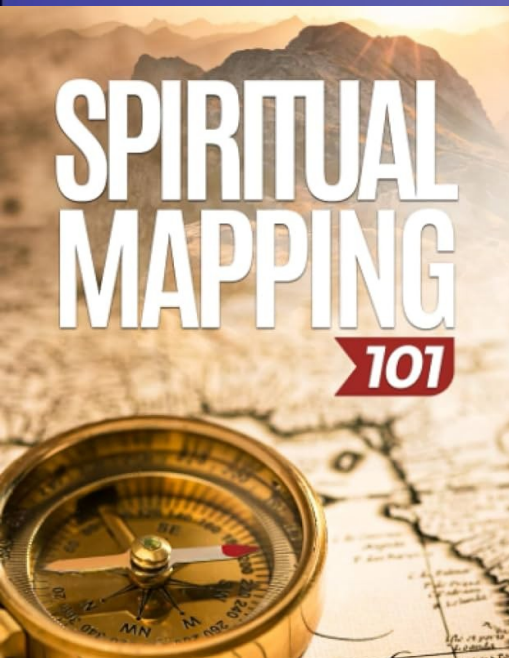
- Super-short tangent, 'cuz it's important...
  - There's a whole teaching out there that demons are territorial, and that they have sway over specific geographical regions with specific powers and tactics
  - It comes from three verses in Daniel 10—

[An angel] said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. 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... (Daniel 10:11-13)

So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince...) (Daniel 10:20-21)

(NOTE: "prince" is "שָׂר" or "śar" in Hebrew, meaning "leader"—usually as in "official" or "commander")

- So can you lay out a definitive demonology from these verses to explain what this angel meant here?

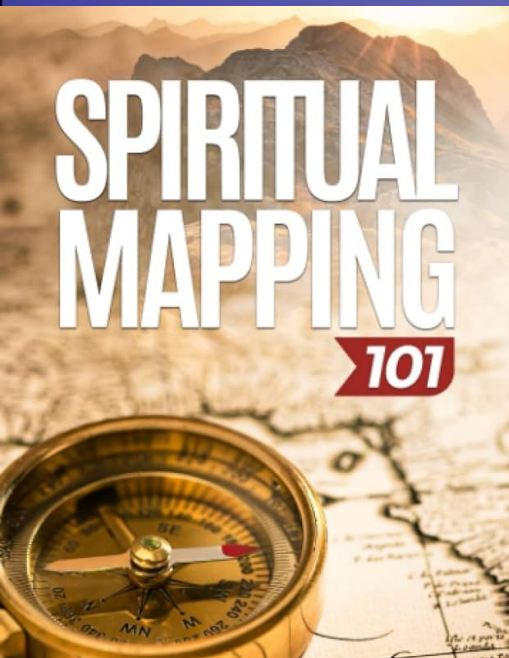


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    - It comes from three verses in Daniel 10, which are then often *eisegeted* back into other verses (such as Deuteronomy 32:8, which says, “When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He divided all mankind, He set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel” —though the Septuagint translated that verse as saying, “according to the number of the **sons of God**” and *that* has been taken to actually refer to “*angels*” and *that* clearly proves the doctrine of territorial spirits)



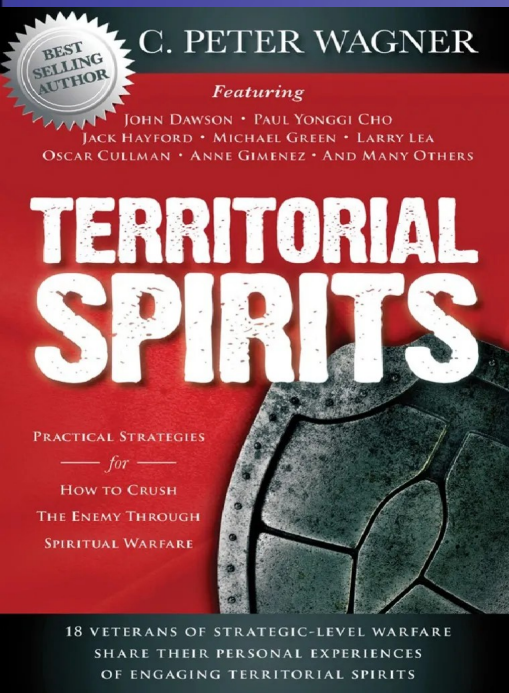


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    - C. Peter Wagner's "Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare" (SLSW) capitalizes on this interpretation—  
"praying against territorial spirits, seeking to 'map' their strategies over given locations by discerning their names and what they use to keep people in bondage, and then binding them so that evangelism may go unhindered"
  - But even if that's true, such "mapping" and "demon name assignments" have no actual Biblical basis nor is there any Biblical support for such "territorial spirits" having physical, tangible effects on a region (the "prince of Persia" is only discussed as interacting and fighting with the *angels*, not with any *people*)

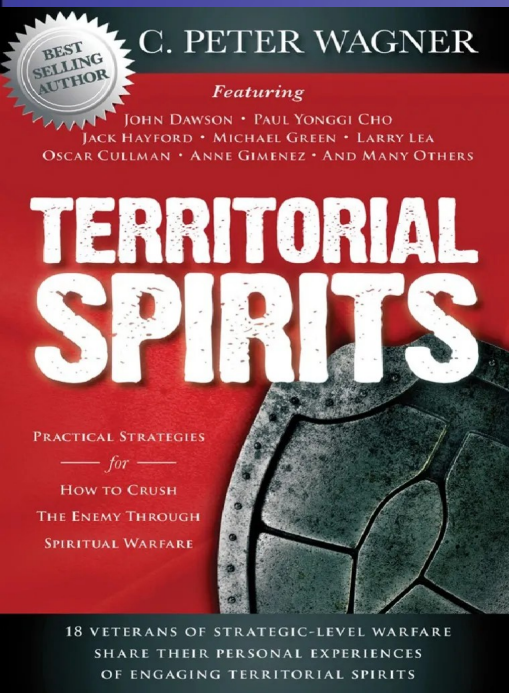


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  - But even if that's true, such "mapping" and "demon name assignments" have no actual Biblical basis nor is there any Biblical support for such "territorial spirits" having physical, tangible effects on a region nor is there any Biblical support for our prayers ever having any effect on angelic/demonic warfare  
(*Michael* helped subdue the "prince of Persia"—  
*not* any prayers of God's people)



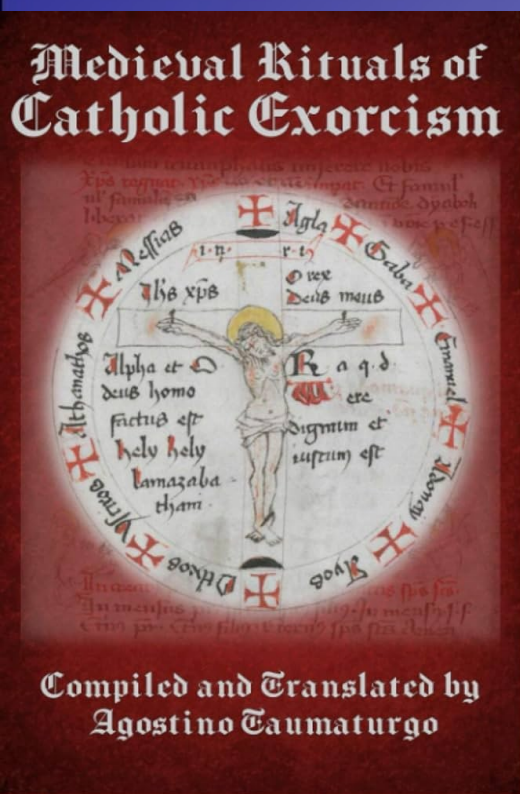
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  - There's a whole teaching out there that demons are territorial, and that they have sway over specific geographical regions with specific powers and tactics
  - Again, is any of that a huge deal?
    - Maybe not—it might even have some actual truth to it but it's still creating whole series of coursework and battleplans for spiritual warfare that at best only *marginally* have anything to do with what we actually know from Scripture

(and which—ironically—run the risk of echoing the same extended and convoluted Roman Catholic Latin “liturgies” for exorcisms that Wagner decries as medieval incantations rather than solid Biblical practices)



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      - **Where is Satan right now?**
        - The Bible doesn't talk about Satan having a throne in Hell, deriving joy from tormenting souls that legally belong to him
        - No, his throne is in Turkey—specifically Pergamum
        - **But the Bible says that Satan is *here*, with *us***
          - Read John 12:31
          - Read John 14:30
          - Read John 16:8-11
          - Read 1 John 5:19
          - Read 2 Corinthians 4:4  
(the Greek word there is “*αἰών*” or “*aiōn*” of this world, meaning an “age” or “epoch”—i.e.; that Satan is the god of the “*zeitgeist*” or “overarching paradigm” of this world)



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- (when we follow the “*αἰὼν*” or “*aiōn*” of this world, then we're following the ruler of *this place*—the “kingdom of the air” rather than a geographical one)



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          - **Arguably, that's what is meant by the curse in Genesis 3:14—to be cursed to *this* place**
            - How is that far from what he'd wanted in Isaiah 14:12-14 or Ezekiel 28:12-17?



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          - **How is Satan described in 1 Peter 5:8?**
            - How is that strong... yet weak?



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          - How is Satan described in 1 Peter 5:8?
          - **How is that double-sided image portrayed in verses like Revelation 12:12 as well?**

