

The Spiritual Life Contrasted!

KJV 1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Paul calls the believers in Corinth carnal and worldly; he says they were living like **common, ordinary men**.

Paul is contrasting and revealing there are (2) two types of people in the world; natural people and supernatural or spiritual people.

There is a natural world and a supernatural world—the spiritual world existed before the natural world.

And within these two classes of people there are levels; levels of carnality and worldliness and levels of the supernatural and spirituality.

The apostle Paul mentions the hierarchy and classification of the ungodly spiritual world in both **Eph 6 and Col 1**.

They are **thrones, dominions, principalities and powers**.

❖ **Thrones are of seats of authority over specific regions like kings!**

ESV Deuteronomy 32:8-9 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.

Other translations including the KJV have *children of Israel* rather than *sons of God*. According to Dr. Michael Heiser the **Dead Sea Scrolls** now confirm the ESV translation as correct.

What this suggests is at the tower of Babel back in **Gen 11** God dispersed the nations and disinherited them giving **The Watchers** (supernatural beings) governance of those (70 or 72) nations while God chose the nation of Israel called “Jacob” for Himself.

ESV Psalm 82:1 A PSALM OF ASAPH. God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

The Hebrew word for **divine council** is “*elohim*” also translated “gods”

They were to help govern the affairs of men on earth but they rebelled.

^{KJV} Psalm 86:8 Among the gods (elohim) there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works.

^{ESV} 1 Kings 22:19 And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left;

20 and the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another.

21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.'

22 And the LORD said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.'

We see here that a spirit was sent from the Divine Council in heaven to effect the outcome of an event on earth!

Again with king Nebuchadnezzar the “Watchers” or Divine Council intervene in the affairs of Babylon.

*^{KJV} Daniel 4:13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a **watcher** and an holy one came down from heaven;*

Nebuchadnezzar was judged by The Watchers!

*^{ESV} Daniel 4:17 The sentence is by the decree of the **watchers**, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.*

*^{KJV} Daniel 4:23 And whereas the king saw a **watcher** and an holy one coming down from heaven,*

I think *The Watchers, elohim, the glorious ones* also called “*The Divine Council*” are the **thrones** Paul is talking about.

This information is common in ancient Jewish and early Christian literature; somehow along the way these writing lost their importance.

❖ **Dominions refer to lordship and rule.**

In Eph 6 Paul calls them **rulers of the darkness of this world!**

Darkness in the bible always refers to **ignorance, misery and sin!**

KJV Acts 4:26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

There are evil spirits whose job is to keep people ignorant, uninformed miserable, sick and sinful!

They control areas where certain mindsets prevail; keeping people from understanding The Word; perpetuating cycles that keep people miserable poverty stricken and ignorant of the things of God.

KJV Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

❖ Principalities are evil princes over regions

In **Dan chp 10** an angel comes to Daniel during his 21 day fast and tells him when he first set his heart to seek God his prayers were heard but the **prince of Persia** stood in the way of his coming to Daniel.

The angel told Daniel after the evil spirit that controlled Persia was defeated a new evil spirit would emerge with Greece as it came into power.

ESV Daniel 10:13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

It's clear that principalities can hinder the answer to our prayers!

❖ Powers are spirits with “authority” to act on earth!

KJV Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

This is why Jesus came and set up another governmental system.

NIV Romans 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Whatever **powers** we submit to it becomes our **master**—alcohol, drugs, crime, sex outside marriage, gambling etc.

KJV Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Here Paul says that Christ won the victory over the evil spirits that controlled regions and the evil spirits that exercised their authority on earth at will.

But Paul says nothing about “*thrones and dominions*” in this passage!

For we know the kingdoms of this world are still under the control of Satan & The Divine Council until the 7th angel sounds his trumpet:

ESV Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

Just as every kingdom including Satan's has a hierarchy and ranking, so too does The Kingdom of God!

According to scripture: God The Father, Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, Arch angels, apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors, teachers, elders, deacons, saints and ministering spirits (angels).

We must understand there is an order and rank to the spirit realm just as there is in the natural realm if we are going to survive and thrive.

Peter when talking about Lot and his life in wicked Sodom was surrounded by all types of lust, sexual perversion and witchcraft.

ESV 2 Peter 2:10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,

11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

12 But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction,

Jude also addresses this issue of spiritual rank and authority during Lot's time in Sodom and Gomorrah says:

ESV Jude 1:7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

8 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.

9 But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you."

10 But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

Even angels (divine beings) of greater rank and power do not speak disrespectfully to the fallen angels; even Michael when disputing with the devil over the body of Moses—simply said to the devil:

"The Lord rebuke you"

The key to understanding and walking in spiritual authority is humility and knowing our rank and place in The Kingdom of God.

There are 72 nations mentioned in scripture and interestingly Jesus had 72 disciples—each one was to go to a nation and preach the gospel.