



SERIES:	60 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The Invisible War
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 3:18-22

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In every war, strategy plays a role. Each side plans and makes movements in accordance to what it learns about the other side's tactics. If information is leaked, a counteroffensive can be launched. This can be seen in the grand and most profound war of the universe: *The Invisible War*. In this battle, Satan and his minions wage war against God, His angels, and His people. We'll consider it by looking again at one of the most enigmatic texts in the New Testament. Let's unravel it.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. There are things that go on around us that we are not aware of, even though they are very real
 - B. Common saying: "C'mon, man, *get real*"
 1. We live in the real world
 2. But there's a *really* real world
 - a. 2 Corinthians 4:18
 - b. All the things we do not see
 - C. In this passage, Peter says that between Jesus' death and resurrection, He went somewhere and preached a sermon
 1. This is difficult for us to understand 2000 years later
 2. We're combing over it again with a different pair of glasses
- II. There Is a Coexisting Invisible World (v. 19)
 - A. In verse 18, Peter speaks of two realms
 1. Flesh: the realm of what you see; the real world
 2. Spirit: the realm of what you don't see; the *really* real world
 - a. Heaven and the angels
 - b. The spirits in prison
 - B. Thirty-four out of sixty-six books of the Bible speak about angelic beings
 1. Seventeen books in the Old Testament; *angel* appears 103 times
 2. Seventeen books in the New Testament; *angel* appears 165 times
 - C. The Greek word *angelos* means a messenger, typically speaking of a spirit being
 1. An angel is a non-corporeal spirit being; Hebrews 1:14
 2. On some occasions, they are made visible or assume human form
 3. There are many of them
 - a. Luke 2:13-14
 - b. In the 1100s, Albertus Magnus came up with a precise number

- c. Revelation 5:11 (see ESV and NKJV)—more than one hundred million angels
 - 4. Hebrews 13:2
 - D. Satan began as an angel
 - 1. See Ezekiel 28 (and Isaiah 14)—Satan is called "the anointed cherub who covers" (see v. 14) or guards
 - 2. God did not create Satan as a wicked being—He created something very good with a will of its own, and Satan acted on that will, desiring to usurp God's authority
 - 3. Luke 10:18
 - E. Revelation 12:4
 - 1. As many as a third of the angelic host fell in the rebellion with Satan
 - 2. The fallen angels became a highly organized network with rankings and titles
 - 3. Ephesians 6:12
- III. There Is a Conflict in the Invisible World (vv. 19, 22)
 - A. There is a group of spirits incarcerated in some prison somewhere
 - B. Ever since the fall of Satan, there has been a cosmic conflict between the angelic forces of good and evil
 - C. Daniel 10 (see vv. 13 and 20)
 - 1. Implies that demons are assigned by Satan to geographical regions
 - 2. If the prince of Persia was that bad, what do you think the prince of Hollywood is like? Or Albuquerque, New Mexico?
 - D. One of the first rules in warfare is you have to know who your enemy is and how he works—2 Corinthians 2:11
 - E. In God's book, He reveals what His plans are for the future—Genesis 3:15
 - 1. Genesis 4—Satan possibly inspired Cain to kill Abel
 - 2. Genesis 6:5—Satan inspired such wickedness on the earth that God decided to destroy the world's population
 - 3. Genesis 27:41—Satan possibly inspired Esau to want to kill Jacob
 - 4. Exodus 1:22—Pharaoh was possibly an agent of Satan trying to destroy the Jews
 - 5. 1 Samuel 19—King Saul sought to kill David
 - 6. 2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 22—King Ahaziah's mother put to death all royal heirs in Judah, except Joash
 - 7. Matthew 2:16—Herod commands all baby boys in Bethlehem to be killed: a satanic attempt to destroy the seed
 - 8. Matthew 4:5-7—Satan takes Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple hoping Jesus would jump
 - 9. Luke 4:16-30—Jesus is taken to the brow of a hill to be pushed over
 - F. It's all attack and counter-attack
 - G. Revelation 12—the woman is Israel (see Genesis 37) and the dragon is Satan
 - H. God's plan of salvation involves the existence and continuance of a nation—if you can destroy that nation, you can defeat God
 - 1. Haman (see Esther 3:6)
 - 2. Hitler
- IV. There Are Convicts in the Invisible World (v. 20)
 - A. "Spirits in prison" (v. 19)
 - 1. Revelation 9:1-2 calls this prison "the bottomless pit," the abyss

2. Greek *abussos*
 3. It's the realm of fallen spirits
 4. These spirits did something really bad to be incarcerated in this prison
 5. Other demons do not want to go there; see Luke 8:31
 6. Revelation 20:1-3
- B. What did the spirits do to get put here?
1. Jude 6-7
 2. 2 Peter 2:4
 3. Incarcerated at the time of Noah
 4. Genesis 6:1-8
 - a. *Sons of God* is the Hebrew term *bene haelohim*, the Old Testament term for angelic beings
 - b. They are sons of God because they're direct creations of God
 5. According to the oldest Jewish interpretations and earliest church fathers, these were fallen angels that acted so wickedly that they overstepped their boundaries and entered the human realm to cohabit with women
 - a. These demons possibly possessed men in order to get to women
 - b. Produced a generation of children that were unredeemable
 - c. No one responded to Noah's message of judgment (see 2 Peter 2:5), so God judged the earth and incarcerated these demons in prison
- C. The fact that Peter mentions this but does not give any detail shows that his original audience was far more familiar with it than we are
- D. These are powerful demons, so much so they need to be incarcerated—but that's the point: God, being all powerful, incarcerated them
- V. There Was Conquest in the Invisible World (v. 22)
- A. Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison (see v. 19)
1. Greek *kerusso*, meaning to make a proclamation—though not in terms of evangelism
 2. Evangelistic preaching is the Greek *euaggelizo*
 3. *Kerusso* also means to herald something, to make an announcement
 4. A *herald* was somebody the king would dispatch to a town to make an announcement or, after the war was won, make a proclamation of victory
- B. These spirits in prison, thinking Jesus was finally gone, were soon to be disappointed when the resurrected Christ came and proclaimed victory over them
- VI. Closing
- A. These demons, incarcerated in the abyss, will one day be released
1. They will be re-incarcerated again with the devil and all his angels after this time
 2. See Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10
- B. One-third of the angels fell; they are demons and hate you
1. However, two-thirds did not fall
 2. Satan and his demons are way outnumbered
 3. 1 John 4:4
- C. Walk away encouraged that you are on the winning team and have stepped out of darkness into light
- D. As you walk in the real world, keep in mind whose side you're on

Figures referenced: Albertus Magnus

Greek/Hebrew words: angelos, abussos, bene haelohim, kerusso, euaggelizo

Cross references: Genesis 3:15; 4; 6:1-8; 27:41; 37, Exodus 1:22, 1 Samuel 19, 2 Kings 11, 2 Chronicles 22, Esther 3:6, Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Daniel 10, Matthew 2:16; 4:5-7, Luke 2:13-14; 4:16-30; 8:31; 10:18, 2 Corinthians 2:11; 4:18, Ephesians 6:12, 1 Peter 3:18-22, 2 Peter 2:4-5, Hebrews 1:14; 13:2, 1 John 4:4, Jude 6-7, Revelation 5:11; 9:1-2; 12; 20:1-3, 7-10

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