

I Corinthians First Things First VI notes

We ended last time by looking at a broad sweep of Scripture from the viewpoint of this war between Satan, his angels and God.

--I referred to it as a genetic war because it was declared as such by

God: "**I will put enmity between your (Satan's) seed and her seed** (God's genetic line of the Messiah).

--This war was punctuated with the fallen angels breeding giants that God wipes out in the flood, and God choosing Abraham and then David, and David's defeat of this Nephilim named Goliath.

--Another way to think of this classic battle is God's genetic line defeating Satan's genetic line. *Not a coincidence for sure.*

--The final and all-encompassing victory of the war was the coming of Jesus, born of a virgin, The Son of God who defeated Satan and his angels and rescued sinners all by means of the cross.

Jesus disarmed these angelic principalities and powers by His sacrifice. **Colossians 2:15**

--What were they armed with? They are still here, still active, still ruling the world alongside Satan, so, in some ways, nothing has changed for them.

--Why do we still have all this evil if they have been disarmed?

--**Hebrews 2:14 – Ephesians 2:1-2**

--As far as believers are concerned, they are disarmed, but as far as the lost are concerned, they are still their overlords.

From the position of understanding what Jesus did in defeating Satan and his angels and putting an end to this genetic war, we can better understand a more difficult passage: **1 Peter 3:18-22**

--**V. 18** – Remember this war is over the souls of humanity, but our part is to pick a side: if Jesus, then Heaven, but if not, then Hell.

--**VV. 18-19** – Jesus was triumphant over the Devil and His angels and went to the holding place of those angels to declare His victory.

--**V. 20** – These are the angels who fell and attempted to breed an army to poison the Genetic line of the Messiah.

--Notice: in the flood, people were saved **from** the water **not by the water.**

--**V. 21-22** – This has been confusing; just remember what its pointing to--the flood where a few were saved **from water not by it.**

Baptism is a proclamation of what's happened to you on the inside, it is also a proclamation of whose side you are on.

--Baptism is a public proclamation of your passing from death to life, and it's a proclamation to both people **and angels.**

--Just like Jesus proclaimed final victory over these fallen angels, so every baptism is a reiteration of their doom! **Ephesians 3:10**

--Have you been publicly baptized? It is essential that you let the world know, people and angels, whose side you are on!

One of the rules of Bible interpretation that we discussed a couple sermons ago is that we are not coming very close to the right interpretation until we understand the issue from the perspective of the original hearers.

--How did the ancient Jews and early church interpret these issues?

--They all saw a clear difference between fallen angels and demons:

1. Fallen angels who ruled geographic territories (principalities and powers). 2. Demons who were the disembodied offspring of these fallen angels

If the first angels that fell were locked away and were still away when Jesus died, who are the fallen angels that we deal with and are prominent in spiritual wickedness today?

--Why do we still have to deal with fallen angels if they are locked up?

Simple answer: Not all are locked up.

--Apparently, there was another fall that the Bible does explain to us but can be surmised by the fact that we still have fallen angels causing problems.

--In fact, it can be demonstrated from the Scriptures that these angels have been left here as a form of judgment from God because of mankind's sin.

Deuteronomy 32:8

This is a troublesome verse because scholars in the past have had a hard time making sense of it – in fact, it doesn't make no sense.

1. When did God divide the nations? The Tower of Babel, Genesis 11
several hundred years after the flood.

--God divided the nations at the tower of Babel where He confused the languages because the people refused to obey Him. Genesis 11:8

--Immediately after this the Bible describes 70-some-odd nations that are created from this event.

2. According to Deut. 32:8, God divided them up among the sons of Israel. This has led to confusion for very long time.

--If anything, we are certain that God didn't divide them according to the number of the "sons of Israel."

--How do we know this? Because the sons of Israel did not exist at this time—This is a major problem with this passage.

--Abraham, the father of the Jews wasn't born for another 260 years after the event at Babel according to the Scriptures.

--Another problem: there were only twelve sons of Israel/Jacob, and there are far more nations listed in Genesis that were divided off.

Our English translation of Deut. 32:8 comes from the King James, primarily, which was interpreted from the Hebrew manuscripts that the scholars had at that time in 1611.

--Since the time of King James translation, we have found much older Hebrew manuscripts that say something different in Deut. 32:8.

--Understand: As time has gone by, we haven't gotten further from the original writings of the Bible, we've gotten closer because of the discovery of ancient manuscripts that the interpreters of the KJV did not have at their disposal.

--The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947-49, do not say "according To the sons of Israel" but "according to the Sons of God".

--This also agrees with the Septuagint which is the Greek translation of The Old Testament translated by 70 Hebrew scholars 200 years Before Jesus.

--Several of our more modern translations follow this better rendering.

--ESV, RSV, NLT, Common English, New American Bible, MSG.

Deuteronomy 32:8-9

God takes Israel to be His and effectively gives the jurisdiction of the rest of the nations to the angels.

--Which angels? The good ones or the bad ones? The bad ones!