

# Wrestling With Spiritual Forces

# 1. Identifying Spiritual Forces

**Elohim: “spiritual being”**

# Psalm 82:1

God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods (*elohim*) he holds  
judgment:

# Psalm 89:5-7

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your  
faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!  
For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?  
Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,  
a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy  
ones, and awesome above all who are around  
him?

# Psalm 97:9

For You are the Lord Most High over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.

# 1 Kings 8:23

And he said, “Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping the covenant and showing faithfulness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart

**Yahweh is an *elohim*, but  
no other *elohim* is Yahweh**

**Elohim: “spiritual being”**

**Cherubim / Seraphim : throne room guardians**

**Elohim: “spiritual being”**

**Cherubim / Seraphim : throne room guardians**

**- *sārāp*: snake**

# Dr. Michael Heiser

Cherubim and seraphim would be viewed as a blessing by those welcome in the sacred space they guarded, but a terror to those unwelcome.

**Elohim: “spiritual being”**

**Cherubim / Seraphim : throne room guardians**

**Rebellious elohim (gods)**

**- New Testament: *daimōn* (greek)**

# 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 (*elohim*).

But the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.

# Deuteronomy 4:19-20

And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. <sup>20</sup> But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

# Dr. Michael Heiser

Yahweh in effect decided that the people of the world's nations were no longer going to be in relationship to Him. He would begin anew by entering into a covenant relationship with a new people who didn't exist yet: Israel.

**Elohim: “spiritual being”**

**Cherubim / Seraphim : throne room guardians**

**Rebellious elohim**

**Satan: “adversary” or “accuser”**

# The Serpent in Genesis 3

Hebrew *nachash*: “serpent” (noun)

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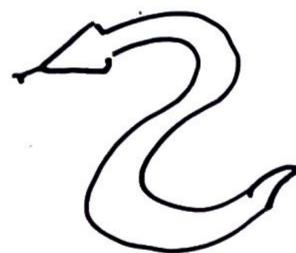
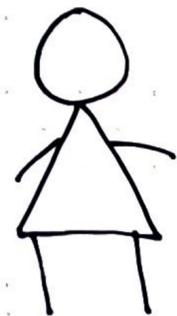
Hebrew *nochesh*: “diviner” or “one who gives divine information” (verb)

# Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

HOSTILITY

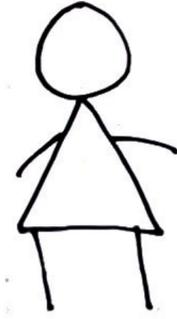
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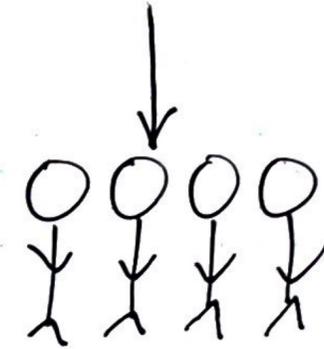
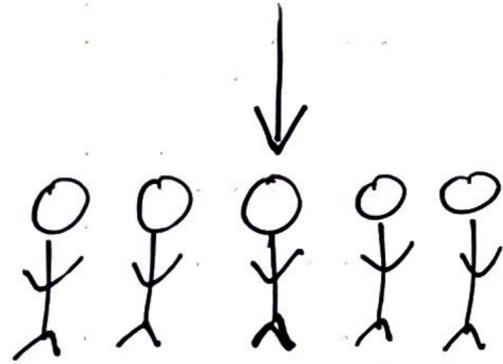
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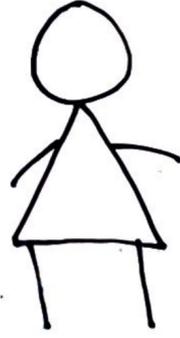


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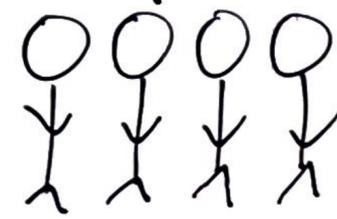
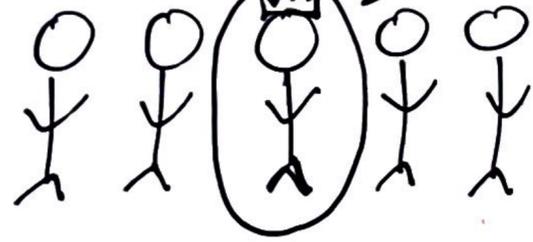


HOSTILITY

WOMAN



SNAKE



# John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies

# Matthew 23:33

You snakes, you offspring of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?

# 1 John 3:8-10

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

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**The Satan and Demons**



**Dive Deeper and Explore More**



## **2. Identifying How The Forces Work**

**Angel: “messenger”**

**Hebrew: *mal’ak***

**Greek: *aggelos / angelos***

# Ephesians 6:12

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers (*archē*) and authorities (*exousia*) and worldly rulers (*kosmokrator*) of this darkness and spiritual forces (*pneumatikos*) of wickedness in the heavenly places

**The enemy seeks to  
destroy and pervert**

# 2 Mistakes We Can Make

1. Overestimate the enemy

- This can lead to unhealthy fear and anxiety

# 2 Mistakes We Can Make

1. Overestimate the enemy
2. Underestimate the enemy
  - This can lead to us not taking them seriously

**The enemy is invisible,  
but not fictional**

# **3. Identifying How Jesus Connects**

# Colossians 2:13-15

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross

# Colossians 2:13-15

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

**The enemy's kryptonite is the  
cross and an empty grave**

# Ephesians 1:20-21

He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

# A.W. Tozer

As long as Christ sits on the throne, every day is a good day and all days are days of salvation

**Jesus won by dying**  
**Jesus won by living**

**We win because He won**

**The enemy is real but they  
hold no real power**