

The Spiritual Infrastructure behind World Events

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In this issue of Prayer Matters I feel led to focus on the dynamics occurring in the spiritual realm in conjunction with the events that have so dramatically awakened our country and many others from a false sense of national security and led us into a new kind of war. As we face the uncertainty of what this may develop into, we cannot say how near or far we may be to the “end of the age,” but we know that the current strife fits somewhere along the continuum leading in that direction.

In order to pray most effectively concerning this “new war,” Christians must realize that all that is happening in the physical realm is accompanied by or, perhaps more accurately, directed by the forces of darkness in the spiritual realm. 1 John 5:19 says that “the whole world is under the control of the evil one.” This was one of the concessions God gave to Satan when He established Satan’s role as an alternative object of devotion for mankind. In order for man to have a choice regarding the object of his love and worship in the spiritual realm, God actually created a powerfully alluring supernatural being to be His competitor.

Satan is not really seeking a love relationship with man as God is, but he desires to win man’s allegiance so he can use man to accomplish his ultimate goal of world domination. Ephesians 2:2 says that Satan is actively working in “those who are disobedient.” Therefore those plotting to disrupt the current power structure of the world are essentially pawns in Satan’s hand. Being by very nature a sly and crafty being who was created “full of wisdom” (Ezek. 28:12), the schemes he devises are extremely shrewd as we have certainly seen in recent weeks. His demonic forces also encircle the globe, giving him a worldwide grasp of the affairs of the nations. He seemingly establishes some sort of parallel, international infrastructure in the spiritual realm with his own hierarchy of spiritual authorities assigned to each country (Dan. 10:13, 20; Eph. 6:12). This spiritual domain over which Satan is the reigning “prince” is known as the “kingdom of the air” (Eph. 2:2) and is generally believed to be the second heaven (2 Cor. 12:2).

In spite of his ruling position in this realm and the other advantages that God has given him, Satan cannot automatically accomplish his will on earth. He can do so only with man’s cooperation. Even though the warring entities in the spiritual realm ultimately serve either God or Satan, the battle they are engaged in is focused on gaining supremacy over the earthly realm. Therefore, man seems to play a critical role in this battle. In fact, it appears that the effectiveness of the two sides of the battle may be directly related to the strength of the followers of God and the followers of Satan (in his many counterfeit “religions”) on earth. Rather than just being a numbers game, however, certain godly actions, such as repentance, righteousness, prayer, fasting, and spiritual warfare (2 Chron. 7:14; Dan. 10:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:7; 10:3-5) seem to be key factors in strengthening God’s side of the battle. Presumably certain acts of loyalty, sacrifice, and worship do the same for Satan’s side.

Therefore, as our armed forces fight for the cause of freedom and justice on earth, God’s children must actively engage themselves in those activities which strengthen the angelic hosts of heaven warring against the forces of darkness in the spiritual realm (Dan. 10; Eph. 6:12). This is not a time for Christian soldiers to take an “R & R.” We must be fully armed, on high alert, and actively engaged in battle.