

INVISIBLE POWERS AND PLACES

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INTRODUCTION: WHO ARE THE ANGELS?

Scripture frequently calls angels "the heavenly host." Do a word study on "host" in both the Old and New Testaments and record what you learn: _____

Now, read Nehemiah 9:6 and Colossians 1:16 and answer the question, "where did angels come from?" _____

Continue your reading in Job 38:7 and answer the question, "when were angels created?" _____

Because angels have rank and order, it is believed that some who served under the headship of Satan chose to follow him when he fell. Fallen angels, sometimes called "demons," fit into one of two categories:

1. The angels who are currently unimprisoned and follow Satan as their leader. During the Great Tribulation, war will ensue between "Michael and his angels" and "the dragon and his angels." (Revelation 12:7) The dragon will be cast out of the heavenlies upon the earth, and his angels with him. (Revelation 12:8-9) Their leader, Satan, is sent to the abyss at the second coming of Christ (Revelation 20:1-3) and consigned to the lake of fire after his final postmillennial revolt. (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10)
2. The angels who are currently imprisoned, who are the more wicked spirits that did not maintain their original position, "but abandoned their proper abode," being "kept in eternal bonds under darkness" (the abyss) awaiting judgment. (Jude 1:6; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 Corinthians 6:3) Many Bible teachers hold that these include the fallen angels that cohabited with mortal women (Genesis 6:1-2) and were imprisoned in the nether world as a special punishment for their crime of breaking through God-ordained orders of being.

Certainly demons during the time of Christ knew of the abyss. Read Luke 8:29-31 and write your thoughts here: _____

Among other things, angels fulfill the following purposes:

- **Worship God and Christ.** Nehemiah 9:6; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:6
- **Are ministering Spirits.** 1 Kings 19:5; Psalm 68:17; Psalm 104:4; Luke 16:22; Acts 12:7-11; Acts 27:23; Hebrews 1:7, 14
- **Communicate the will of God and Christ.** Daniel 8:16-17; Daniel 9:21-23; Daniel 10:11; Daniel 12:6-7; Matthew 2:13, 20; Luke 1:19, 28; Acts 5:20; Acts 8:26; Acts 10:5; Acts 27:23; Revelation 1:1
- **Obey the will of God.** Psalm 103:20; Matthew 6:10
- **Execute the purposes of God.** Numbers 22:22; Psalm 103:21; Matthew 13:39-42; Matthew 28:2; John 5:4; Revelation 5:2
- **Execute the judgments of God.** 2 Samuel 24:16; 2 Kings 19:35; Psalm 35:5-6; Acts 12:23; Revelation 16:1
- **Celebrate the praises of God.** Job 38:7; Psalm 148:2; Isaiah 6:3; Luke 2:13-14; Revelation 5:11-12 and 7:11-12.

We don't know how many angels there are; consequently, we don't know how many can fit on the head of a pin! Read Job 25:3 and Hebrews 12:22, and answer the question, "how many angels are there?" _____

The existence of angels is assumed in the Old Testament. Angels sometimes took human form and could be mistaken for men. Read Ezekiel 9:2 and Genesis 18:2, 16 _____

The failure of believers to recognize the ministry of fallen angels, who are serving Satan, can be very serious. Scripture tells us that we struggle against the world, the flesh, and the devil and his minions. We know that demons are spoken of as spiritual beings (Matthew 8:16; Matthew 10:1; Matthew 12:43-45) at enmity with God, and as having a certain power over man (James 2:19 and Revelation 16:14).

They recognize our Lord as the Son of God (Matthew 8:20; Luke 4:41). They belong to the number of those angels that "kept not their first estate," "unclean spirits," "fallen angels," the angels of the devil (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:7-9). They are the "principalities and powers" against which we must "wrestle" (Ephesians 6:12).

But how do we recognize when we are in warfare?

RECOGNIZING WARFARE

Today, we will begin by looking at the nature of spiritual warfare. Since we are either with Jesus or against Him (Matthew 12:30), it is clear that every living person is already on one side or the other in the area of spiritual issues. Here are some key questions that will help you determine whether warfare is or has been an issue with you:

- ❑ Have you ever felt like quitting because the hassle of Christianity was too much?
- ❑ Have you had doubts about the truth of God's Word or the reality of Christianity? Have you been tormented by blasphemous thoughts against God?
- ❑ Have you felt captivately drawn to the things of the world?
- ❑ Is there anything you feel compelled to do or believe and yet you know it is not of God?
- ❑ Are you bombarded with doubt about God's goodness and His love for you?
- ❑ Have you been plagued by feelings of worthlessness and inadequacy?
- ❑ Do you live under a feeling of condemnation even though you have confessed past sins?
- ❑ Have you been overwhelmed with depression?
- ❑ Have you thought about suicide?
- ❑ Have you been tormented by some derogatory remark, thought, memory, or desire that you couldn't shake? Have you heard voices? Were you afraid to tell anyone? Is your mind filled with noise?
- ❑ Are you filled with anger, bitterness, or unforgiveness? Do you know it's wrong and yet feel powerless to deal with it?
- ❑ Are you sick and the doctor can't find the cause? Have you ever been joyfully serving the Lord and then suddenly been attacked unjustly?

Warfare is the causative agent in many of the above problems; it may or may not be the cause of others. I Timothy 4: 1 clearly indicates that the aggressive,

overt activities of Satan and demons are to be much more pronounced as the end times close in on us. Until recently, the evangelical church largely ignored this fact. Believers were lulled into an attitude of passively assuming their victory over Satan instead of aggressively applying it. Our increased awareness of battle may in part be due to the witness of the Spirit in our lives. We recognize the sin around us. The more wicked man becomes, the more open and obvious will be the display of Satan's power. This is particularly true of sins that involve occultism and sexual error. A society that is deeply characterized by pornography, drugs, sorcery, witchcraft and satanism will see much open and obvious demonic activity.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO PREPARE OURSELVES TO MEET THE CHALLENGE?

BE ALERT! (1 Peter 5:8-9)

1. Since Satan's a deceiver, one of his primary tactics is to keep us blind to the warfare. You won't take up arms if you don't believe there's a war. When you do begin to understand truth, your study will not go unchallenged. Satan wants to keep you ignorant, misinformed, or fearful of the subject of spiritual warfare.

A. Read John 8:31-36

Who was Jesus speaking to? _____

What is the "if" portion of His statement?

1. _____

What are the "then" portions?

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

From what does the truth free us according to this passage? _____

In what three ways is sin manifested?

1. Romans 6:23 _____

2. Romans 8:5-7 _____

3. 1 John 2:15-17 _____

B. Guard against "theories" about the enemy and/or God's working.

2. No believer who willfully walks in the sins of the flesh and the world can hope to escape Satan's hurt and bondage. (Galatians 5:1.3-26; 1 John 2:15-17) Would a soldier take a little stroll into enemy territory during the height of a war? He would be surrounded and captured! Yet, there are believers who think they can carelessly engage in sin without being vulnerable to Satan.

List the deeds of the flesh from Galatians 5:20-21: _____

Now, list the fruit of the Spirit that begin to manifest themselves in your life as you begin the sanctification process, the process of becoming a disciple and living in the truth. (Galatians 5:22-23) _____

Ephesians 4:27 warns, "And do not give the devil a foothold." We must take care that we do not develop an excessive curiosity about Satan's workings. On the pretext of becoming informed, Satan might trick some into being preoccupied with his forces and his activities, thus giving him undue prominence.

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. Satan roars to make us afraid and more vulnerable, but our purchased right is courage to resist him. Ephesians 6 tells us that we are in a wrestling battle--a close hand-to-hand struggle. But the underlying thesis of this chapter is that we can stand through Christ.

SOME BEGINNING TRUTHS

1. We do not struggle against flesh and blood. (Ephesians 6:10-20) List here who our struggle is against: _____

2. Satan is a liar. (John 8:44)

3. He deceives the whole earth (Revelation 12:9)
4. Consequently the whole world is under the influence of the evil one. (I John 5:19)
5. Satan cannot change your position in Christ (Ephesians 2)
5. Jesus' death and resurrection triumphed over and disarmed the rulers and authorities of the kingdom of darkness. (Colossians 2:15)

EXTRA READING ASSIGNMENT

This extra reading may be helpful if the above material has been new to you.

1. Read Ephesians, chapters 1,2,3. Note every use of the phrase "in Him," "in Christ," etc. List everything that belongs to those who are in Christ.

2. In the first chapter of Ephesians, Paul outlines three strategic truths. Read Ephesians 1:15-23 again and list these three truths. (each begins with "what is" or "what are")

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. Since Satan is first mentioned in the third chapter of Genesis, this is where we will begin next week. If you want to read ahead, you can begin with this chapter.

SATAN: A CREATED BEING

Since we know we're engaged in warfare, accurate intelligence on the enemy is crucial in making tactical decisions. We need to know the enemy's position, weapons, defenses, etc. This week we will gather intelligence information on Satan.

- A. All of us plummeted into spiritual and physical death because Eve was deceived by the serpent and Adam followed what she did.
- B. Saul's kingdom fell when he consulted the witch of Endor.
- C. David (and the nation) suffered when Satan enticed him to number the children of Israel.
- D. King Ahab went to his death on the battlefield because he listened to a deceiving spirit speaking through the mouth of a prophet.
- E. Daniel fasted and prayed for three weeks, unaware of the spiritual conflict between God's angelic messenger, sent to answer his prayer, and the prince of Persia. Satan was determined to keep Daniel in the dark, but God's angels prevailed.

God has provided us with combat information so that we will know that there is a war! Ephesians, the book that most completely addresses issues of spiritual warfare, starts with a section of praise to God who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing that we need. The prayer is that we will know three truths that are critical in warfare because they give us a proper assessment of our position and power:

Read Ephesians 1:15-23. List the three truths here. Each begins with a "what is" or "what are."

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

From this passage we learn that the Lord Jesus Christ is seated with the Father in heavenly places far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age, but in the one to come. All things are subject to our Lord, even the enemy.

THEN WHY ARE WE IN CONFLICT WITH THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS?

Since we want to study the whole counsel of God and the subject of warfare, we are going to incorporate as many scriptures as possible. Satan first appears in Genesis chapter 3. List here everything that you learned about the serpent (tactics, future, etc.) from this passage. _____

How do we know that the serpent is Satan (the devil)? Read Revelation 12:9.

Where did Satan come from? Has he always existed, or was he created? Was he created by God? Was he created as an evil being? There are two passages which theologians believe give us a glimpse into how Satan became the enemy of God.

EZEKIEL 28:11-19

List everything that you learn about the king of Tyre: _____

This is a controversial passage. Some believe that it is simply a lamentation against an earthly king. Earlier in the same chapter, the king of Tyre is told that he is "only human." However, we must consider the following: Ezekiel 28:2 makes it clear that the "leader" of Tyre is a man. However, in Ezekiel 28: 11-19, there is a definite transition in which God tells Ezekiel to take up a lamentation against the "king" of Tyre.

Two different Hebrew words are used. In 28:2, *nagid* is used, which means ruler, leader. In 28:12, *melek* is used, which means chief magistrate. It seems that there is a distinction being made between the two authorities. Ezekiel 28:11-19 is a dirge (funeral lament). This king didn't end up in the state in

which he was created. He started well, but ended up thrown off of the mountain of God. He is called a cherub, not a man (cherubim are angels). He was in the garden of Eden. There is no biblical record of any humans except Adam and Eve ever being in the garden of Eden, or the "garden of God."

This cherub was created by God, not born of man, and was placed in the garden by God. Can a cherub be a man? He was blameless until unrighteousness was found in him. Does this sound like a man to you? Except for Adam and Eve, the Bible indicates that all men are born into sin.

This is beginning to get complicated! Why would God make the devil? How could Satan have fallen?

ISAIAH 14:3-15

In this passage we get further insight into how Satan became the adversary of God and man. As with many Old Testament prophetic verses, there can be dual fulfillment in the present and the future. This happens especially with verses that deal with Jesus' first and second comings.

Record the five "I wills" in Isaiah 14:3-15:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Isaiah 14 seems not to be speaking of an earthly king. The king Isaiah is talking about fell from heaven, brought down to earth because of his ambition to take over God's place. This sounds much like Ezekiel 28:11-19.

Cross reference 1 Timothy 3:6. What can we learn from this verse regarding the appointment of leaders in the church? Can you see how the enemy would try to lure us into sin in this area of pride? Is this why God resists the proud?

THE NEXT OBVIOUS question is where the demons came from. Where did the rulers and spiritual forces of wickedness and darkness originate? Read the following verses and record your findings:

You will find that it includes angelic beings.

Colossians 1: 15-16 _____

There seems to be no doubt that invisible rulers and authorities were created. Were they created as evil? Genesis I repeatedly tells us that God saw what He created and it was good. Even the anointed cherub was perfect until he sinned. It appears that Satan (as well as other angelic beings) possessed a free will--and used it. Corrupted by his own splendor, he wanted to take God's place. He became the classic example of "pride going before a fall."

In Isaiah 14, we saw the "king" called the "star of the morning" (*Helel*-shining one.) It was the "son of the morning" who wanted to raise his throne above the stars of God.

A STAR WANTED TO HAVE A THRONE ABOVE THE STARS? Were these literal stars?

JOB 38:4-7

Since this passage is poetic, the author used a common trait of stating the truth in two ways: in verse 7, sons of God and morning stars probably refer to the same thing. There are other places where "sons of God" (bene elohim) is used:

Job 1:6 _____

Job 2:1 _____

Also cross reference:

Revelation 1:20 _____

Revelation 9:1-2 _____

Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9 _____

Now look at these verses and write what they teach with respect to God's throne, God's power, and the angels:

Psalms 103:19-22 _____

Hebrews 1:7-9, 13-14 (be sure to note Hebrews 1:4) _____

Hebrews 1:4 gives the stated purpose for this chapter as showing that Jesus is better than the angels.

SUMMARIZE: Given these passages, where do you think evil spirits (demons-fallen angels) come from? There isn't much in the Bible, but this is my interpretation. Please seek God's counsel as you read His Word for yourselves.

When God created the heavens and the earth, I believe the angelic host was already in existence and they sang for joy (Job 38:7). At some point (before or after?) one of the highest cherubim, haughty and proud because of his beauty and splendor, decided to try to take over God's position on the mount of assembly in the north. This resulted in Satan's fall. When he fell, he took a third of the angels with him. These became what we call demons. Satan apparently still has access to heaven.

There is no redemption mentioned for angels. God has prepared a lake of fire for them--although they will not be the only ones headed for that lake. Satan was placed in the garden of Eden, where he tried to gain control over another empire--the human race. This time he succeeded. Sin entered the world, and death by sin. Man lost ownership of the earth, which God had given to man to oversee. Man lost eternal life--both spiritually and physically. From that time on there has been enmity between demonic forces and humanity .

But. . . God had a plan! He began revealing that plan in Genesis 3:14-15: "He will bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel."

Revelation 12:7 tells us of a future war in heaven. Michael and his angels will wage war with the dragon (Satan) and his angels, and will win!

EXTRA ASSIGNMENT

If the information above is new to you, the following extra reading may be helpful to you:

Isaiah 14:12 translates Satan's name as "Lucifer," the translation of "helel" which means bright (from the root "halal" which means clear in either sound or color--thus to shine.) The word also means to praise with clarity. This bright, shining one who was created to praise God and give Him glory instead has become God's arch enemy and rival. Look again at the five "I wills" in Isaiah 14.

Compare these with Philippians 2:5-11 and James 4:13-17.

If you are running your life rather than letting God run it, you are trying to be like the Most High. You are trying to take God's rightful place. Do you have to be number one? The best? The most impressive? Compare your thoughts to the following verses:

Psalm 127:1 _____

Psalm 75:6-7 _____

Daniel 2:20-21 _____

Revelation 4:11 _____

SATAN'S INTIMIDATION

The Roaring Lion

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (I Peter 5:8)

The purpose of the lion's roar is to intimidate its prey--to strike terror. Scientists tell us that there is some resonating quality to this sound that makes it difficult for the prey to know what direction the roar is coming from. I Peter 5:6-11 gives us specific action to take when confronted by this tactic.

Read these verses and answer the following:

WHAT I AM TO DO: _____

WHAT GOD WILL DO: _____

"God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

"I know You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted." (Job 42:2)

In previous chapters, we looked at the origination of Satan and of sin on earth. In this chapter, we will look more carefully into the character of the adversary. The word "Satan" is used fifty-four times in the Bible. The word "devil" is used thirty-four times and is only in the New Testament. The Greek word for devil is *diabolos* which means "accuser, slanderer." The Hebrew word is exactly translated Satan which means "adversary, accuser." The first time the name Satan is used is in 1 Chronicles 21:1 where Satan provokes David to number Israel. The next occurrence is in the book of Job, which we will study today. Job gives us insight into Satan's strategies and shows us the limits of Satan's power.

Read Job 1:1-22. Answer the following questions:

1. Where was Satan when he conversed with the Lord? _____

2. Who called Satan's attention to Job? _____

3. How could Satan have known about the hedge?

Note that Job did not sin or blame God. Clearly, Satan felt that Job feared God because God had blessed him and allowed his possessions to accumulate. Satan told God that Job only served Him for a profit motive!

Read Job 2:1-10. Obviously, Satan wasn't finished. Notice that Satan didn't overstep God's limitations on him. Why not? Satan's power is limited by God--it always was and always will be. God alone is sovereign. We can clearly see this in Ephesians. However, Ephesians was written after Jesus' resurrection, and after He obtained all authority in heaven and on earth. Was God sovereign before this?

Read Daniel 4:34-35 and record everything you learn about God's sovereignty:

Clearly, God is sovereign in the angelic host, which includes both the angels who remained loyal to Him and those who followed Satan. Satan could only do to Job what God allowed him to do.

Does such a statement cause you to ask, "What kind of a God is that"? The answer is: the only kind of God there is. Listen to His words: "I am the Lord, and there is no other, the One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity Isaiah 45:6-7." Kay Arthur

With the knowledge we have gathered already, do you think Satan is primarily targeting those who are zealously living for God's kingdom, or those who are complacent, apathetic believers?

If Job could withstand the attack of the enemy and come out a conqueror, how much more should we, with the indwelling Holy Spirit, be able to do the same thing. If we're tempted to quit the race before it's ended, it's the devil's prompting. He wants us to be ignorant of our position and authority through the risen Christ. The truth will be challenged by the enemy every step of the way.

STAND FIRM.

Suppose Satan were to stand before God today. What part of your character could God boast of to him? If Satan challenged your motives for serving God, could God count on you to confidently stand? In the middle of conflict with the enemy, will you quit the race?

Satan is mentioned in the first and last books of the Bible. Since the Garden of Eden, Satan has tried to deceive and blind men to the truth of the gospel. As the prince of this world and of the power of the air, legions of angelic beings serve under him in capacities such as rulers, authorities, powers, and dominions--the world forces of this present darkness and spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places. He has seduced Kings and prophets. He has sought the downfall of righteous men. He seeks to devour all that he can. Demonic spirits serve him, spreading false doctrines and causing some to fall from the faith.

Read the following verses and record what you learn:

1. Matthew 16:23 _____
2. Luke 22:31 _____
3. 1 Thessalonians 2:18 _____
4. 1 Thessalonians 3:5 _____
5. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 _____
6. Matthew 13:24-30, 38, 39 _____
7. Revelation 12:12 _____
8. 1 John 3: 8 _____
9. Ephesians 2:2, 6:12 _____
10. 2 Corinthians 11: 14-15 _____
11. 2 Corinthians 4:4 _____

The mind is the devil's primary target, but he attacks the body as well. The day is soon coming when the devil will no longer be able to access the throne of God and accuse us day and night. He will be cast down to earth with all his demons. Then, his wrath will be unthinkable--but short-lived. Those who follow God have no reason to fear. The King is coming--the Kinsman Redeemer that we will study later.

SHOULD WE FEAR SATAN? NO--THERE IS ONLY ONE WHOM WE ARE TO FEAR AND THAT IS GOD. We are Christ's--seated with Jesus in heavenly places above all the power of the enemy. We will study this in subsequent chapters.

In the meantime, ask God to keep you aware of Satan's strategies. It is much easier when we have good intelligence.

There is much to be learned in other sections of scripture as well.

1 Timothy 2:26 _____

1 Timothy 3:7 _____

Luke 13:16 _____

Acts 10:38 _____

John 12:31 _____

Revelation 12:7-9 _____

Matthew 13:19 _____

1 Timothy 4:1 _____

Have you started to wonder where the idea of Satan as a red creature with horns, and a tail, and a pitchfork came from?

Now that we have developed his character, we will consider his methodology.

The book of Ephesians deals with many aspects of spiritual warfare. It is the most complete book on the subject in the Bible. By now, you should have read through the entire book. Notice the structure:

Ephesians 1-3: Where the believer is **seated** in Christ

Ephesians 4 – 6:9: The way the believer should **walk** worthy of the calling

Ephesians 6:10-20: The way the believer should **stand** firm

The book of Ephesians has been called the "Sit, Walk, and Stand" epistle. Reread Ephesians 2:1-3. What is the condition of those who are lost?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How did people get so sinful? Read Genesis 2:7-17 and Genesis 3:1-7. List what you learn below:

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

SATAN'S METHODOLOGY

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

What are Satan's first words to Eve? _____

Today it is the same: TRUTH or lie; GOD'S WORD or man's word. Compare what happened here to the passage in 1 John 2:16. Do you see the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life?

In the Garden of Eden, Satan saw his big chance. He could:

- A. GET BACK AT GOD
- B. RULE OVER THOSE GOD HAD CREATED FOR HIMSELF
- C. GAIN CONTROL OVER CREATION
- D. TAKE CONTROL OVER EARTH EVEN THOUGH GOD STILL CONTROLLED HEAVEN

How? Because you cannot serve two gods. You must make a choice to serve the one true God. Adam and Eve made the wrong choice. They sinned, and their one act of disobedience caused sin to enter the world--and with it death--just as God had said. It looked like Satan had won, but **GOD HAD A PLAN!**

In the fullness of time, Jesus would come with the title "The Last Adam."

Read Romans 5:12 and record your findings here: _____

Adam and Eve reproduced after their own kind. (sinners) Read Psalm 51:5 and record your findings here: _____

Eve gave birth and Adam became the "father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image." Genesis 5:3

From that point on, the whole world was in the power of the evil one. Read 1 John 5:19 and record the information here: _____

Satan became the prince of this world. The creation Adam was to subdue and govern was relinquished to Satan when Adam chose to disobey God. From that moment on, we were all born in sin, Satan had the power of death over every human being, and the wages of sin is death. (Hebrews 2:14, Romans 6:23)

But notice that even in the beginning, God started revealing His plan. Read

Genesis 3:14-15. Notice that God said that He would put "enmity" between Satan and the woman and her offspring. Enmity is a condition of conflict and turmoil.
SIN HAD DESTROYED PEACE

This is the source of our warfare. At the crucifixion, Satan seemed to have won--the demons must have been relieved, thinking they had chosen the right side. For three days they could celebrate, but then Jesus rose from death, defeating death and breaking Satan's power over those who would believe. Hallelujah!

The people of the world were the living dead, doing what feels good, living by their appetites, motivated by self, controlled by unholy spirits, dead to righteousness, children of wrath, in rebellion against God.

Read Romans 1:18-32 and record the ways in which sin has distorted truth. What has Satan's lie produced in men? _____

Read Romans 3:10-18. Record the same sorts of insights. _____

Read Romans 5:6-8,10. Record what you find. Do you see hope? What is the light that can dispel the darkness of sin? _____

EXTRA READING

Have you ever thought that those without Christ are the "living dead?" The Bible tells us that they will sink ever lower in sin until Jesus comes back.

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-8. Discuss the state of the world in the last days.

Now read Revelation 9:18-21. We see that even when God pours out plagues on the earth and a third of men are killed, many still continue to worship demons and idols. They do not repent. When Eve sinned, failing to believe that God had her best interest at heart, she did not know the destruction and desolation that would result for those who continued to live in the lie.

We deserved hell. We were ungodly sinners, enemies of God. But we have been given the chance to choose life, righteousness, peace, and freedom from Satan's realm by choosing to be God's child.

Read Ephesians 2:1-13. Write below how God does this, and why He chooses to do so.
