

## Casting Down Strongholds 4326

### I. Two Invisible Kingdoms (Matt. 12:24–28)

- A. Satan's kingdom (Eph. 6:12)
  - 1. Wrestling match with persons without bodies
  - 2. Against rulers with various areas and descending orders of authority
  - 3. Against the world dominators of this present darkness
  - 4. Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenlies
- B. "Heavens" are plural (Gen. 1:1)
  - 1. Third heaven/Paradise (2 Cor. 12:2–4)
    - a. Third heaven = God's dwelling place
    - b. First heaven = visible heaven: sun, moon, stars
    - c. Second heaven = Between God's heaven and visible heaven: Satan's kingdom
  - 2. Jesus ascended above *all* heavens (Eph. 4:10)
- C. Picture of angelic battles in the heavenlies (Dan. 10:2–3, 12–13, 20–11:1)
  - 1. We must "pray through"
  - 2. Satanic power over:
    - a. Cities
    - b. Nationalities/racial groups; i.e. American blacks and Indians
    - c. Earthly kingdoms (Persia and Greece)
  - 3. Christians *alone* have been given the weapons to intervene in this spiritual war: *intercession*

### II. How To Wage Spiritual Warfare

- A. We must be equipped to play our part (Eph. 6:13–18)
  - 1. Waist girded with truth
  - 2. Breastplate of righteousness
  - 3. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
  - 4. Shield of faith
  - 5. Helmet of salvation (thought-life) (1 Thess. 5:8). Optimism vs. pessimism
  - 6. Sword of the Spirit—the Word of God
  - 7. Praying *always* (v. 18)
- B. First identify, then bind, the "strong man" (Matt. 12:29)
- C. God has provided the necessary spiritual weapons (2 Cor. 10:3–5)
  - 1. Prayer (Matt. 18:18–20)
    - a. Bind
    - b. Harmonize
  - 2. Thanksgiving (John 6:11, 23; 11:41)
  - 3. Praise (Ps. 8:2; 2 Chron. 20:21–24; Acts 16:25–26)
  - 4. Proclamation (Rev. 12:7–11)—pattern of Moses' rod (the Bible)
- D. Need for revelatory gifts (1 Cor. 12:7–11)