

COSMIC CONFRONTATION

Text: John 1:43-51

Key Word: Confrontation

Key Thought: How Do We Confront Spiritual Wickedness?

The subject of spiritual warfare has been growing over the past few years. There have been many good writers and speakers who have addressed the issue from a Biblical perspective. There are others who have limited most of their thoughts to their own experience.

I realized a number of years ago that experience is not always a reliable teacher when it comes to spiritual matters. People have misunderstood what the meaning of a certain experience was. Therefore, we must keep to the authority of the Bible when dealing with these important matters of life and doctrine.

Spiritual warfare has a way of getting the untaught and immature into areas of confrontation that they know little about. They often walk where angels fear to tread. They say things and do things which cause a great deal of trouble for them. They often end up discouraged, depressed, frustrated, broken and fearful. **Lets consider what the Bible says so we don't fall into the trap of the enemy.**

I. OPEN & CLOSED HEAVEN (John 1:43-51)

II. OPEN & CLOSED HEART (Ephesians 3:10)

One of the first things that I want us to understand is the Biblical concept of an Open and Closed Heaven. Jesus said something to Nathanael that he probably didn't understand at first. This new disciple was about to begin a journey into spiritual truth. He was amazed that Jesus knew what kind of person he was. Jesus was given a Word of Knowledge in order to reach into the heart of Nathanael.

It offered Jesus an opportunity to touch on a much more profound truth of the scriptures. It led into a brief statement about an "**Open Heaven.**" Much has happened in areas when this truth is understood.

If there is an open heaven there also must be a "**Closed Heaven.**" Moses wrote about a closed heaven when he warned the children of Israel not to turn from the commandments and decrees of the LORD (Deuteronomy 28:15). The Bible speaks of this as a time of cursing from God. There were many disastrous results of disobedience including sickness, confusion, diseases, fever, inflammation, scorching heat and drought, mildew etc.

There is one thing that Moses was told to say that has a deep meaning for this message today. Moses said,

I. OPEN & CLOSED HEAVEN (John 1:43-51)

"The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron."

Deuteronomy 28:23

Heaven would become closed to the cries of the people in a direct result of their disobedience. This was a reemphasis to what he had already said in just a reversed order,

"If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over.

*19. I will break down your stubborn pride and **make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze.***

20. Your strength will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of the land yield their fruit."

Leviticus 26:18-20

The LORD warned Job of the precarious situation we can place ourselves into when heaven is cut off from us.

"Who can tip the water jars of the heavens . . .

38. when the dust becomes hard and the clods of the earth stick together?"

Job 38:37b-38

The prophet Amos helped us also understand that one city can receive the blessing of the LORD while another is cursed.

"I also withheld rain from you when the harvest was still months away. I sent rain on one town, but withheld it from another. One field had rain another had none and dried up.

8. People staggered from town to town for water but did not get enough to drink, yet you have not returned to me, says the LORD."

Amos 4:7,8

I. OPEN & CLOSED HEAVEN (John 1:43-51) (Contd.)

We must understand what the Scriptures teach us in order to become effective in spiritual warfare. Jesus understood this spiritual law. That is why He said to Nathanael that he would see heaven and the angels of heaven would be ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

The Patriarch Jacob was also confronted with the truth of an Open Heaven after he had left "**Beersheba**" ("*well of seven or the seventh well*") on his way to "**Haran**" (*mountaineer*). As the sun set, he made a pillow of rocks and fell asleep.

"He had a dream in which he saw a stairway (ladder - KJV) resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
13. *There above it stood the LORD,"*

Genesis 28:12,13a

It was at this place that God confirmed His covenant with Jacob. It had a profound effect upon Jacob.

"Surely the LORD was in this place, and I was not aware of it.
17. *He was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.'*

Genesis 28:16,17

He named the place "**Bethel**" ("*house of God*"). He had experienced an open heaven. He made a vow from that day on that he would tithe to the LORD (Genesis 28:22). It was his way of thanking God for the blessing of an open heaven. Many books have been written ("Taking Your Cities" etc.) based upon this spiritual principle. The New Testament also reveals this truth.

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 3:10

We can never expect to see revival until this principle of the kingdom of God is established in our area. We must let the spirits over this area know that we are God's Church for this area.

I. OPEN & CLOSED HEAVEN (John 1:43-51) (Contd.)

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

5. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

6. And we will get ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete."

II Corinthians 10:4-6

Notice that God has given His Church spiritual weapons to destroy the strongholds of Satan and his fallen angels. We need to often concentrate our forces on the battlefield of the mind. Yet we need to go into battle in full obedience. **We can never break the spiritual forces that have control over people's soul until we are walking in obedience to God and His Word.**

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

II Corinthians 4:4

We must establish our authority before we address the princes who work iniquity over unbelievers. Our message must be plain and simple. **We cannot back down from truth.**

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

I John 4:4

II. OPEN & CLOSED HEART (Ephesians 3:10)

I believe that God wants more than transfer growth in our churches. His desire is that many souls be saved and brought into His glorious kingdom. **We are not called to add to the message of Calvary but rather just to enforce it.**

The prophet Jeremiah was given the understanding of how to reopen heaven and then reopen the hearts of the people.

II. OPEN & CLOSED HEART (Ephesians 3:10)

*"Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me,
'Now I have put my words in your mouth.
10. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."*

Jeremiah 1:9,10

There is an order to be followed when taking over an area for God. **The works of the enemy MUST be destroyed before we can effectively be used of God.** There is a host of rebel spirits who are trying to enforce themselves around the world.

When Satan fell from heaven he was cast down to the earth. The earth was his prison. Adam became the first warden of the prison. He failed to subdue, rule and have dominion over all that God created. The second Adam (Jesus Christ) came to reestablish God's rule on earth. Jesus has now given us the authority to be His prison guards over the forces of the enemy.

We have been given the right to take control over cities as much as over the spirits that deceive individuals. They can be cast out of cities as well as out of people.

Cities have a soul (mind, intellect, will) but this soul is not eternal. It is existence as long as the city exists. Cities can be judged right now (Sodom & Gommorah/ Tyre & Sidon). **No two cities are alike because the spiritual forces controlling them are different.**

OTTAWA - Politically driven (Capital Hill)
MONTREAL - Ethnically driven (Sovereignty)
KINGSTON - Intellectually driven (Queen's University)
TORONTO - Business & Commerce driven
CORNWALL - Freedom through exploring and conquering

Those who study this subject speak about **SPIRITUAL MAPPING**. It helps in understanding the territorial rulers in the heavenly realms. Those who have become sensitive in this area can notice when they leave one territory and enter into another. Gabriel told Daniel that he was wrestling against the **prince of Persia** and needed the help of Michael the archangel and was also told that the **prince of Greece** was about to follow.

II. OPEN & CLOSED HEART (Ephesians 3:10) (Contd.)

The Bible tells us Satan was at the Garden of Eden and then later at Tyre and then at Pergamus.

"I know where you live - where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city - where Satan lives."

Revelation 2:13

Hitler had a huge rock transported from Pergamum (Pergamus) in the 1930's to Berlin because he felt it had intrinsic powers. Pergamus means "**city of Cathedrals or temples.**" It was a very idolatrous city. It was the official city of emperor worship in Asia. Tradition says that Antipas was slowly roasted to death in a bronze kettle during the terror-filled reign of Domitian.

Paul told us what to do to overcome these forces.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, and against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13. Therefore put on the whole armor, of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Ephesians 6:10-13

It is never to be entered into lightly. The forces are very real. They have continued to subdue nations and cities and therefore many souls have been hindered from entering God's kingdom.

A mature Christian understands how this realm works and is prepared to overcome it. There is a growing need for a **COSMIC CONFRONTATION** between the forces of evil and the authority of Jesus Christ which has been invested into His Church.

Diligently seek the Lord in how you can be used to open the heavens above us and the hearts around us so that Jesus Christ is proclaimed as the Lord of Cornwall.

C:\Documents\WPWin(2022)\Sermons.22\Warfare\John 1_43.51.wpd

Date: Jan 9/22

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: It's Time for the Reign of God - E

COSMIC CONFRONTATION

Text: John 1:43-51

Key Word: Confrontation

Key Thought: How Do We Confront Spiritual Wickedness?

Deuteronomy 28:15

I. OPEN & CLOSED HEAVEN (John 1:43-51)

*Deuteronomy 28:23; Leviticus 26:18-20; Job 38:37b-38; Amos 4:7,8; Genesis 28:12,13a;
Genesis 28:16,17; Ephesians 3:10; II Corinthians 10:4-6; II Corinthians 4:4; I John 4:4*

II. OPEN & CLOSED HEART (Ephesians 3:10)

Jeremiah 1:9,10; Revelation 2:13; Ephesians 6:10-13