

# Spiritual Warfare and Worldview

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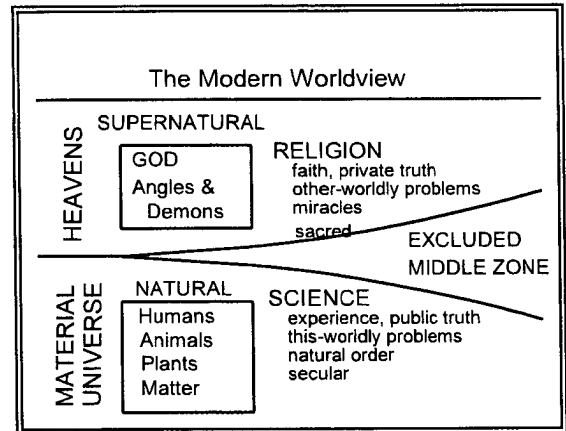
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## Introduction:

- current interest in the spiritual warfare
- stories of battles between good and evil are world wide
- importance of examining the worldviews we bring with us in reading Scripture.

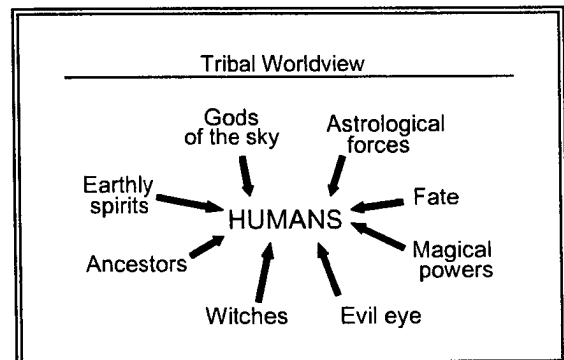
### 1. Modern worldview and spiritual warfare:

- Cartesian dualism
- secular materialism
- religious dualism
- excluded middle



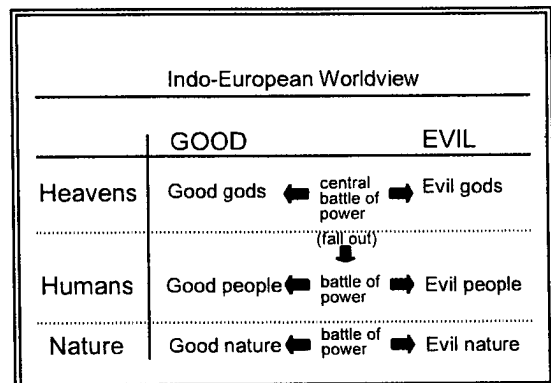
### 2. Tribal worldview and spiritual warfare:

- earth and sky are full of spirits, shades, ancestors, animal spirits, witches and magical powers
- these are neither totally good nor totally evil. They help those who serve or placate them. They harm those who oppose their wishes or who neglect them or refuse to honor them.
- spiritual warfare in animistic societies is seen as an ongoing battle between different alliances of beings.
- because tribes are territorial and have territorial gods, land plays an important role in their views of spiritual warfare.



### 3. Indo-European worldview and spiritual warfare:

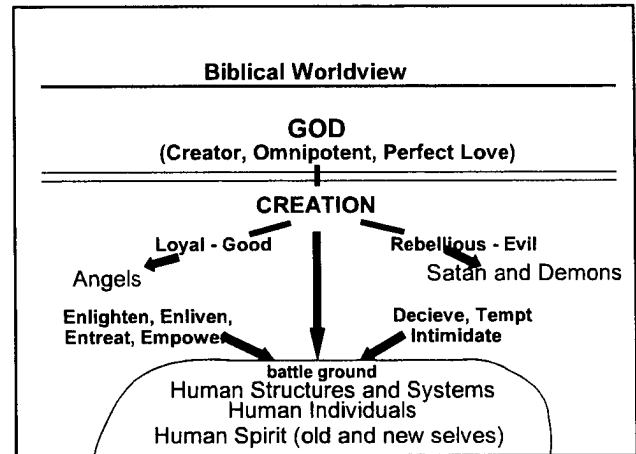
- cosmic dualism. Mighty gods battle for control of the universe: one seeking to establish a kingdom of righteousness and order, and the other an evil empire. The outcome is uncertain for both sides are equally strong, and the battle is unending for when good or evil are defeated they rises to fight again.
- myth of redemptive violence. Conflicts and competition are intrinsic to the world, and lead to evolution (biology), progress (civilization), development (economic), and prowess (sports).
- goal: win the battle
- method: power of force
- basic value: take control, establish order
- evil: chaos



- means: pragmatism—anything that works
- result: we become like our enemy
- focus: on the battle
- morality is based on the notion of “fairness.”
- Indo-European worldview in the west—entertainment, sports, stories.

#### 4. Biblical worldview and spiritual warfare:

- reality of spiritual beings
- battle between God and Satan for human hearts and godly societies.
- goal: win the enemy.
- method: power of love
- end: reconciliation and shalome
- evil: sin, broken relationships
- morality: we must remain righteous. the battle is not ‘fair’
- focus: on peace and reconciliation
- power encounters lead to greater opposition and persecution.
- the supreme power encounter is the Cross on which Jesus defeated Satan.



#### Appendix 1: **Jesus Confronts the Powers of Jerusalem and Rome**

1. Birth: challenges Herod and earthly kingdoms.
2. Overturns the tables; challenges the corrupt religious order.
3. Nicodemus: shows a religious leader the way.
4. Samaritan woman: violates Jewish religious exclusivism.
5. Heals on the Sabbath: attacks the legalism of the religious establishment.
6. Feeds the five thousand: ministers to those neglected by the establishment, and refuses earthly kingship.
7. Heals and raises the dead: shows the powerlessness of the religious establishment.
8. Triumphal entry: publically claims to be the Messiah.
9. Jewish and Roman leaders crucify J
10. Confronts the Pharisees: challenges their teachings.
11. Raises the dead: shows the powerlessness of the religious leaders.
12. Triumphal Entry: challenges the leaders’ understanding of the Kingdom.
- 13-19. Jewish and Roman Leaders Conspire and Kill Jesus.
- 20-21. Jesus rises from the dead. defeats Satan and the establishment and establishes his kingdom.

#### Appendix 2: **Some of the Power Encounters in the Book of Acts**

- 2: Pentecost → ridicule, some believe
- 3: Heal the cripple → jail
- 5: Ananias and Sapphira → death
- 5: Signs and wonders → jail
- 6: Signs and wonders → death
- 14: Heal a cripple → stoned
- 14: Cast out demons → jail