

Deuteronomy 32 Worldview and the Divine Council

Deuteronomy 32:8-9 (ESV) When the Most High gave to the **nations** their inheritance, when he divided mankind, **he fixed the borders** of the peoples according to the **number of the sons of God**. ⁹ But the LORD'S portion is his people, **Jacob his allotted heritage**.

Deuteronomy 32:10-18 He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. ¹¹ Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, ¹² the LORD alone guided him, **no foreign god was with him**. ¹³ He made him ride on the high places of the land, and he ate the produce of the field, and he suckled him with honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. ¹⁴ Curds from the herd, and milk from the flock, with fat of lambs, rams of Bashan and goats, with the very finest of the wheat— and you drank foaming wine made from the blood of the grape. ¹⁵ "But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. ¹⁶ They stirred him to jealousy with **strange gods; with abominations** they provoked him to anger. ¹⁷ They **sacrificed to demons** that were not God, to **gods** they had never known, to **new gods** that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. ¹⁸ You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you **forgot the God who gave you birth**.

Genesis 11 The Tower of Babel and the Division of Nations

1. In Genesis 11, mankind attempts to build a tower to reach into heaven. If you want to study that further, just research ziggurats. They were built to reach heaven. To honor and worship certain gods and goddesses. It was mankind's attempt to bargain with gods, appease them, curry their favor.

- a. Now notice again how three sin passages of Genesis contain things that God actually wants to happen. But in each case they are doing it in a sinful way.
- b. In other words, **God does want earth and heaven joined**. But it is meant to be done by the **grace**, the gift, the love of God. Heaven comes to earth! But in Genesis 11, it is the prideful

activity of mankind thinking they can reach heaven by their **works**! And then they get led astray into the worship of other gods and goddesses who deceive them. Who respond to their prideful acts and rewards them.

- c. So God, the Father steps in and says “No!” This is not the way heaven and earth are meant to be joined. So God confuses their language, separates them into nations (Gen. 10: Table of nations), and scatters them across the earth. That’s the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.
 - i. Here we find the application of the **Deuteronomy 32 worldview**. Verses 8 and 9 show us God assigning members of the Divine Council to govern the nations, to serve the growth and maturity of civilization.
 - ii. But we know some of them rebel. That is the **Psalms 82** recording of God’s judgment on his rebellious sons.

The Divine Council

Psalms 82 (ESV) ¹ *God has taken his place in the **divine council**; in the midst of the **gods** he holds judgment:*

² *“How long will you judge unjustly*

and show partiality to the wicked? Selah

³ *Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.*

⁴ *Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”*

⁵ *They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.*

⁶ *I said, “You are **gods**, sons of the Most High, all of you;*

⁷ nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.”

⁸ *Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!*

In Michael Heiser's book: Reversing Hermon, what does it teach us about spiritual warfare?

In *Reversing Hermon*, Michael S. Heiser presents spiritual warfare as much bigger than individual battles with temptation or demons. He argues that the New Testament portrays Jesus as confronting and reversing three supernatural rebellions against God:

1. **The rebellion of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3)** — humanity's fall into sin.
2. **The rebellion of the "sons of God" or Watchers (Genesis 6:1–4)** — supernatural beings who corrupted humanity and spread forbidden knowledge.
3. **The rebellion at Babel (Genesis 11)** — the nations being placed under lesser spiritual powers, leading to idolatry and spiritual bondage.

According to Heiser, spiritual warfare is therefore not merely about resisting personal sin. It is God's campaign, through Christ, to reclaim humanity and the nations from hostile spiritual powers. Jesus' ministry, death, resurrection, and the spread of the gospel are all portrayed as acts of warfare against these rebellious powers.

Now the Jesus' story

1. We know of the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. But before he returns to take his seat at the head of the Divine Council, Jesus commands his followers to wait....

Luke 24:44-49 *Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. **But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**"*

2. So now we see God about to initiate what he had always intended. Instead of earth reaching into heaven by **works** (like the Tower of Babel), God's plan is that heaven would come to earth by his grace. It is the gift of God. The gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The fallen sons of God keep misappropriating what the Trinity is planning. They want it for themselves.
 - b. So the disciples and Jesus now wait 40 days. They wait in humility and prayer. **Unlike the people at the Tower of Babel, they were not trying to work their way up to heaven and into relationship with a god.** They waited as Jesus commanded. They waited for the gift of the Father. In response to their believing obedience, now **heaven comes to earth.**
 - c. **The Day of Pentecost** arrives and the **Holy Spirit** comes to rest on each individual as tongues of fires.
 - d. After the Holy Spirit had come upon them, he leads to go out into the streets and proclaim the mighty works of God. During the Feast of Pentecost, people from many different nations and tongues were celebrating in Jerusalem. As the disciples proclaimed God's greatness and the good news of Jesus Christ, every person, no matter what nation or language group they were from, **each heard the words of the disciples in their own language!**
 - e. **The work of Jesus has now reversed the Tower of Babel.**
 - f. And in the greatest reversal of Babel, we see at the end of the Bible, God joins heaven to earth.

Revelation 21:2-3 *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."*

The Rest of the Story

1. Jesus succeeds in uniting God's two families. All dearly loved by God. Jesus heals the division. He restores the oneness of the family of God.
 - a. Jesus integrates heaven and earth.

b. Jesus synthesizes matter and Spirit.

c. Jesus restores the loving union of God and mankind.

d. The New Testament has many other references to this story. **There are many subtexts and trails we could trace and see the marvelous story of God's two families and his unrelenting love.**

Ephesians 1:9-10 (ESV) *...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

Ephesians 1:19-23 *and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

Ephesians 3:8-10 *To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

A Summary of the Battle

If we combine all three perspectives, spiritual warfare looks something like this:

The Battlefield

- Human hearts.
- The nations.
- The church.
- The unseen spiritual realm.

The Enemy

- Satan.
- Demonic powers.
- Human rebellion.
- Deception and sin.

The Weapons

- Truth.
- Prayer.
- Faith.
- Holiness.
- Love.
- The gospel.
- The Word of God.

The Goal

- Faithful allegiance to Jesus.
- The expansion of God's kingdom.
- The restoration of people to God.
- The ultimate defeat of evil.

In that sense, Heiser's biggest contribution may be reminding modern Christians that the Bible presents a real supernatural conflict behind human history. But Jesus and Paul keep bringing the focus back to a simple question:

Will you remain faithful to Christ?

From the New Testament's perspective, that faithfulness—not fascination with the powers of darkness—is the heart of spiritual warfare and the clearest mark of spiritual maturity.