
THE HEAVENLY HOST

BASED ON THE SERMON: "The Divine Council"

THE BIG IDEA: God has a spiritual family as well as an earthly family. The elohim are different types of spirits that inhabit the unseen realm and interact with our realm and the rebellious elohim are the true enemies in our life.

PRIMER Q: What do you envision when you hear the word God? Satan? Angel? Demon?

SERMON RECAP Q: What stood out to you in this week's sermon? Why did it stand out? How has God used the sermon to challenge and/or change you this week?

WATCH: "The Divine Council" by the The Bible Project (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1rai6WoOJU>) is a 6 minute video to help us understand spiritual beings in the Bible. Take notes as you watch this video on your own or in a group. **Q:** What misunderstandings did you have about spiritual beings prior to this week's sermon and/or this video? **Q:** What questions do you have up to this point?

READ: Let's turn in our Bibles and read **Psalm 82** (Remember "God & god(s)" is the same Hebrew word in our Old Testament; elohim.) **Q:** What stood out to you in these verses? Why did it stand out? What is God's judgment against the other gods (elohim) who ruled unfaithfully? **Q:** What does verse 6 teach us about these rebellious *elohim*?

READ: Let's read **Job 1:6-12** **Q:** Describe this scene in your own words. **Q:** What does this story teach us about how the spirit beings (elohim) & the Satan interact with God in heaven?

READ: One of the most important aspects of reading the Bible is remembering that the Bible was written FOR us but not TO us. The Bible was written to ancient people who had a different view of the world, and learning to see through their eyes will help us better interpret the Bible in context.

READ: Let's read **Ephesians 6:10-20**. **Q:** What does this passage teach us about who our true battle is against? **Q:** How we can defend and fight against these powers if they're not part of our realm?

Q: How does this view of spiritual battle change your perspective on humans who you view as the enemy? [see vs 12]

Discuss: Talk about the pieces of the armor of God and how they might help you battle against the cosmic power over this present darkness. [Discussion Q's on next page if needed for further discussion.]

Sneak Peak

Read the following passages to prepare for next week:

- Genesis 1
- Genesis 6
- Genesis 11

For Bible Nerds

For an in depth introduction to this topic watch "The Unseen Realm documentary with Dr. Michel Heiser." It's free on YouTube and was produced by Logos Bible Software.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QM7anD5vSI&t=1582s>

Prayer Requests

Take prayer requests in your group. Instead of *only* praying for people at your gathering set up a calendar event or reminder on your phone later in the week with prayer details as well.

Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-20 continued

Q: Why is it important that we take up the whole armor of God? (Vs 13)

Defense:

Q: (vs 14) How does the belt of truth help us fight against spiritual rebels? Why do you think Paul used a belt for this analogy?

Q: (vs 14) How does the breastplate of righteousness help us against the spiritual rebels? Why do you think Paul used breastplate for this analogy?

Q: (vs 15) For shoes; the readiness given by the gospel of peace. What significance do "ready" shoes for the gospel have to do with spiritual battle?

Q: (vs 16) What is the purpose of the shield of faith in this verse? Discuss how faith in God has the power to defend against the darts of the evil one?

Q: (vs 17) The helmet not only protects but is an identifier showing which army you belong to. Your helmet of salvation shows who you belong to! Why is this important when dealing with spiritual rebels?

Offense:

Q: (vs 17) The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. This is a description of our only primary offensive weapon. Why do you believe Paul tied the sword of the Spirit to the word of God? What is the significance of having the Spirit and the Word?

Q: (vs18) What rhythms of prayer do you practice daily? Weekly?

Closing Thoughts: Taking this week's sermon and bible study into account, what area of faith and doctrine do you feel compelled to study further?

CLOSE IN PRAYER