

Message Three

Spiritual Warfare to Bring in the Kingdom of God

Scripture Reading: Rev. 11:15; 12:10; 4:11; Matt. 6:10; 7:21; 12:26, 28

I. The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God—Matt. 6:10:

- A. Spiritual warfare is necessary because Satan's will is set against the God's will—Eph. 5:17.
- B. Spiritual warfare has its source in the conflict between the divine will and the satanic will—Matt. 6:10; 7:21; Isa. 14:12-14:
 - 1. Lucifer's pride in his high position and beauty gave rise to an evil intention, which became the satanic will—Ezek. 28:12-19; Isa. 14:12-15.
 - 2. Before the archangel of God rose up to contradict the divine will, there was no war in the universe; the rebellion of Lucifer was the beginning of all the fighting that is now taking place among nations, in society, in the family, and within individuals—cf. Rev. 12:3-11; Gal. 5:17.
- C. God wants His creature *man* to deal with His fallen creation *Satan*; for this, the human will must stand with the divine will—Gen. 1:26; Matt. 26:39; 12:30; 7:21.
- D. As the church, our fighting is to subdue the satanic will and defeat God's enemy—Eph. 6:11-13.

II. Spiritual warfare is the warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan—Matt. 12:26, 28:

- A. The kingdom of God versus the kingdom of Satan—vv. 26, 28:
 - 1. God's kingdom is eternal, both in time and in space; Satan's kingdom is not eternal.
 - 2. God's kingdom is legal, whereas Satan's kingdom is not legal, for it was established by rebellion against God.
- B. The kingdom of God will not come automatically; in order for the kingdom of God to come, there is the need of spiritual fighting—vv. 22-29.
- C. The responsibility of the church is to continue the victorious work that Christ has carried out against Satan—Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8b; Col. 2:15; Psa. 149:5-9.
- D. The kingdom of God is the exercise of the divine will and the overthrowing of the power of Satan by the power of God—Matt. 6:10.
- E. Whenever the devil has been cast out and wherever the work of the enemy has been displaced by God's power, the kingdom of God is there—12:28.

III. "Your people will offer themselves willingly / In the day of Your warfare, / In the splendor of their consecration"—Psa. 110:3a:

- A. In a spiritual sense, we are now in the day of Christ's warfare, and for Him we need to be voluntary offering, a freewill offering—Lev. 22:18; Deut. 12:6.
- B. In order to engage in spiritual warfare to defeat God's enemy and bring in the kingdom of God, we need an absolute and thorough consecration to the Lord; in the eyes of God, such a consecration is a matter of splendor—Psa. 110:3a.