

4. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 carefully. What are the actions Paul calls us to take in battling the spiritual forces of evil?

Ephesians 6: ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...

5. Look again at the armor of God in Ephesians 6:14-17. What does putting the armor on look like in our daily lives (i.e., what is each part of the armor representing)? (After spending some time thinking through the pieces of the armor, check your work in a good study Bible like the NIV Study Bible, ESV Study Bible, Life Application Study Bible, or CSB Study Bible. A great study Bible that is free to use online is the FaithLife Study Bible at <https://bible.faithlife.com>.)

6. How does having an appreciation for and understanding of the spiritual battle help us in that fight?

The First Page (A Series on Genesis 1)

"5 Ways God is Not Like Us (Thank God!)" (Part 2)

Genesis 1:1

We are _____ beings and God is the supreme spiritual being.

The Unseen Realm

The _____ word of the first sentence on the first page is Elohim (אֱלֹהִים).

Elohim is similar to our English word "God" in that it can refer to God (capital G) and to a god or gods (lower case g). But it's also very different. It can simply mean "spiritual _____" or refer to an "inhabitant of the spiritual realm."

Elohim (who is Yahweh) _____ other elohim, other "spiritual beings" that inhabit the spiritual realm.

BibleProject "Elohim" Video:

"God (Elohim) alone is God (Elohim, the supreme Spiritual Being, Yahweh) and he is above all other spiritual beings (elohim). There is only one Elohim (the supreme Spiritual Being who is Creator, Yahweh)."

1 Corinthians 8: ⁴ Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 10: ¹⁹ What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

Deuteronomy 32: ¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons ["demons" are elohim (as a category title)] who were not God [Eloah], to gods [elohim] whom they have not known...

The Real Battle and the Real Enemies

If the Bible is to be believed, there is a _____ battle and there are spiritual forces of evil arrayed against humanity and against God in this world.

Ephesians 6:10-12

A Summary of the Bible's Teaching on the Heavenly Realm:

- One of the words for word for _____ is Elohim. The word Elohim can be used as a name.
- The word elohim is also a _____ title that can refer to every kind of spiritual being in the heavenly realm.
- God created elohim to _____ the spiritual realm and humans to inhabit the earthly realm.
- Some of the elohim _____.
- All humans rebelled and are susceptible to the cunning, destructive nature of the heavenly _____.
- When humans worship other elohim, not the one Elohim/Eloah/El (Yahweh), they are worshipping _____ elohim.

Training, Equipment, and Tactics in Warfare

Ephesians 6:10-18

If God was like us he'd be _____ to defeat the spiritual rulers, authorities, cosmic powers over this present darkness, and spiritual forces of evil from the unseen realm.

Resources:

- The "Spiritual Beings" BibleProject series (7 videos).
- The "God" BibleProject podcast series (22 episodes)
- For an engaging and accessible study of the resurrection see Lee Strobel, The Case for Easter or The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus. For an in-depth and scholarly study on the resurrection see N.T. Wright, The Resurrection of the Son of God (Christian Origins and the Question of God, Vol. 3)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Why do you think so many people have little trouble believing in the resurrection of Christ and his return but struggle to believe we are at war with personal, evil spiritual beings?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 8:4-6, 10:19-20, and Deuteronomy 32:17 (see sermon outline). How would you explain the perspective on spiritual beings of Paul and Deuteronomy to someone else?