

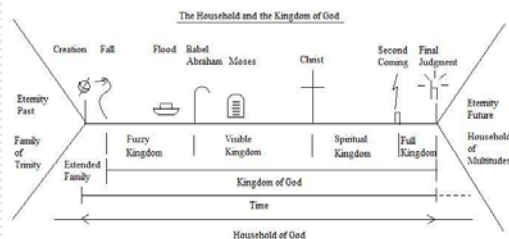
## The Five-fold Essence of the Church

(5) The Church as the  
Army of God

## Series Themes

- 1. The Church as the Temple of God: Holiness
  - Be a Confessing Church!
- 2. The Church as the Family of God: Love
  - Be a Loving Church!
- 3. The Church as the School of God: Truth
  - Be a Teaching Church!
- 4. The Church as the Hospital of God: Power
  - Be a Praying Church!
- 5. The Church as the Army of God: Discipline
  - Be a Discipling Church!

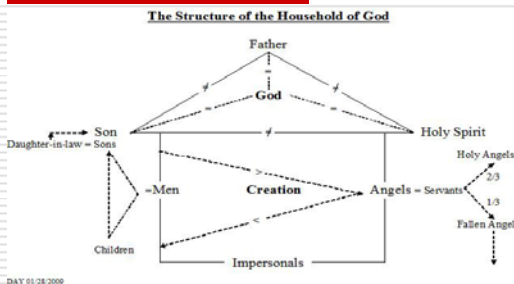
## Where Are We in History?



## Where Are We in History?

- The Household Is the Eternal Issue
- The Kingdom Is between the Fall and the Final Judgment, Dealing with Oppositions
- Now Is Near the End of the Dispensation of Spiritual Kingdom
- The Kingdom Now Is Invisible in Nature

## Where Are We in History?



## War between the Good and Evil

- Good: God, Holy Angels, People of God
  - God Created for Love, Giving Free Will to Angels (Servants) and Man (Children) in His Household
    - (Heb 1:14) Are they (Angels) not all **ministering spirits**, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?
    - (Rom 8:14) For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons of God**.
  - God Opened His Arms First, Knowing the Risk of Being Rejected & Hurt, yet Deemed It Worthwhile
    - (John 3:16) For God **so loved** the world, that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

## War between the Good and Evil

- Evil: Satan, Fallen Angels, Sinners
  - Lucifer Despised God's Sovereignty, Was Jealous of Man's Destiny; Became Satan (Accuser of Man) and the Devil (Enemy of God)
  - (Isa 14:12ff.) Bright Morning Star
  - (Ezek 28:12ff.) Covering Cherub in Eden
  - (Job 1:9-11) 9. Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face."

## War between the Good and Evil

- Evil: Satan, Fallen Angels, Sinners
  - Lucifer Despised God's Sovereignty, Was Jealous of Man's Destiny; Became Satan (Accuser of Man) and the Devil (Enemy of God)
  - 1/3 Angels Fell with Satan, Became Demons
    - (Rev 12:4) And his tail swept away **a third of the stars of heaven** and threw them to the earth.
  - Mankind Was Deceived into Sin (Rebellion)
    - (Gen 3:4) The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!"
  - Purpose: to Prevent as Many Man as Possible from Reaching Sonship in the Household of God
    - (1 Cor 6:3) Do you not know that we will **judge angels**? How much more matters of this life?

## War between the Good and Evil

- Primary Battle Ground: Man's Mind
- Strategy of the Evil: Planting the Wrong Philosophy
  - Epistemology (How Do I Know?):
    - By Experience
    - By Reason
    - By Faith in Self or Other Man, Not the Word of God
  - Metaphysics (What Is There?):
    - No God
    - Other Gods
    - Bad God
  - Ethics (What Should I Do?)
    - What I Want
    - What Everyone Does
    - What Satan Wants Me to Do

## War between the Good and Evil

- Strategy of the Good: Planting the Right Philosophy
  - Epistemology (How Do We Know): by Faith in the Word of God (Not Self or Other Man)
    - In Print: Bible
    - In History: Christ
  - Metaphysics (What Is There?):
    - 1 Good God of 3 Persons
    - 2 Kinds of Angels; 2 Kingdoms; 2 Destinies
  - Ethics (What Should I Do?)
    - What God Wants Me to Do

## War between Good and Evil

- Great Battles in the Past
  - Creation and Eden (+)
  - Temptation and Fall (-)
  - Great Judgment in the Flood (+)
  - Great Division at Babel (-)
  - Election of Israel for the Visible Kingdom on Earth (from Abraham) (+)
  - Redemption of Israel from Egypt (+)
  - Sanctification of Israel by the Law (+)
  - Failure of Israel in Obedience (-)
  - Discipline of Israel by Exile (-)
  - Promise to Israel of the Messiah (+)

## War between Good and Evil

- Decisive Battle in History
  - Sending the Son of God as the Messiah (+)
  - Jesus Defeated Temptations (+)
  - Satan Thought That He defeated Christ by Crucifying Him (-?)
  - Actually, the "Son of Woman" Crushed the Head of the Serpent (+!)
  - Another (& Greater) People of God (the Church) Was Redeemed (Chosen for Heaven before the Foundation of the World) (+)
  - The Full Kingdom May have been Be Delayed; but the Spiritual Kingdom Is Established (+)

## War between Good and Evil

- Great Battles during the Church Period
  - Early Church Persecuted (-)
  - Early Church Evangelized the Known World (+)
  - State Tried to Use/Control the Church (-)
  - Church Fathers Formulated Trinitarian and Christological Doctrines (+)
  - Barbarism Destroyed the Christian Roman Empire (-)
  - Catholic Church Preserved Civilization (+)
  - Islam Invented Evolution of Religion (-)
  - Islam Kept Out of Europe (+)

## War between Good and Evil

- Great Battles during the Church Period
  - Catholic Church Became Corrupt (-)
  - Reformation Returned to the Bible (+)
  - Christian-Republican-Capitalist Nations Turned Prosperity into Colonialism (-)
  - Missionary Movements Flourished (+)
  - Catholic & Reformed Churches Confused the Spiritual Kingdom with the Full Kingdom (-)
  - Restoration of Premillennialism-Dispensationalism (+)
  - Liberalism Took over Denominational Seminaries (-)
  - Independent Churches Evangelical Scholarship Thrived (+)

## War between Good and Evil

- Great Battles during the Church Period
  - Fundamentalist Churches Withdrew (-)
  - Evangelical Churches Reached Out (+)
  - Evangelical Became Worldly (-)
  - Charismatics Are Enthusiastic in Evangelism (+)
  - Health & Wealth Gospel Corrupts the Church (-)
  - Remnant Churches Return to Truth and Love (+)
  - Western Nations Forget God (-)
  - Third World Christianity Thrives (+)

## War between Good and Evil

- Current Major Battle Grounds
  - Islam vs. the West:
    - Evolution of Religion or Restoration to Divine Revelation
  - Slavery vs. Freedom:
    - Secular-Statist-Socialist Model or Christian-Republican-Capitalist Model
  - True Science vs. Ideology:
    - Scientist Pantheism or Biblical Scientific World View
  - Truth vs. Love?
    - Doctrinally Correct Churches In-fight, While Doctrinally Incorrect Churches Love Their Own
  - Individualism vs. Corporatism
    - Too Much Corporatism in the World, but Too Much Individualism in the Church

## War between Good and Evil

- Future Major Battles
  - Weakening or Taking over of America
  - World Wide Crises Calling for Antichrist
  - The World against Israel
  - The Rapture of the Church
  - Temporary Peace under the Antichrist
  - The World against God: Armageddon
  - The Second Coming of Christ
  - The Millennial Full Kingdom of God
  - The Last Rebellion
  - The Last Judgment => Eternal State

## The Church as the Army of God

- The Primary Battle Ground Is in the Mind
  - (Rom 12:1-2) 1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

## The Church as the Army of God

### □ The Mental Enemies

- (Gal 5:19-21) 19 Now the **deeds of the flesh** are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

## The Church as the Army of God

### □ The Mental Weapons

- (Phil 4:8) Finally, brethren, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is of **good repute**, if there is any **excellence** and if anything **worthy** of praise, dwell on these things.
- (Gal 5:22-23) 22 But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

## Roman Soldier Image



## The Church as the Army of God

### □ The Spiritual Enemies

- (Eph 6:12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

### □ The Spiritual Armor (Defensive Weapons)

- (Eph 6:13-14) 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, **HAVING GIRDLED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,** and **HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,**

## The Church as the Army of God

### □ The Armor of God (Defensive Weapons)

- (Eph 6:15-17a) 15 and having **shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;** 16 In addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. 17 And take THE **HELMET OF SALVATION,**

### □ The Armor of God (Offensive Weapons)

- (Eph 6:17b-18) and the **sword of the Spirit,** which is **the word of God.** 18 With all prayer and petition **pray at all times in the Spirit,** and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

## What Good Armies Do?

### □ Love Their Soldiers:

- They form the "Band of Brothers"
- (John 13:35) "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for one another."

### □ Keep Training Their Soldiers:

- (Matt 28:19) "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them to observe** all that I commanded you; and lo, I am **with you always**, even to the end of the age."

## What Good Armies Do?

- ❑ Equip Their Soldiers: **Discipleship**
  - Basic Discipleship:
    - ❑ Navigators 2:7 DFD or Series
    - ❑ CCC Holy Spirit Booklet and 10-steps
  - Evangelism:
    - ❑ Evangelism Explosion (EE)
    - ❑ CCC Four Laws
  - Christians Life
    - ❑ Biblical Manhood
    - ❑ Biblical Womanhood
    - ❑ Biblical parenting
    - ❑ Biblical Stewardship

## What Good Armies Do?

- ❑ Equip Their Soldiers: **Discipleship**
  - Advanced Discipleship
    - ❑ Christian Worldview Training
    - ❑ Christian Cultural Warrior
  - Leadership Training
    - ❑ Biblical and Theological Education:
      - BTCL
      - BTCP
    - ❑ Christian Servant Leadership Training
      - Training for Eldership
      - (1 Pet 5:2) shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight **not under compulsion, but voluntarily**, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness

## What Good Armies Do?

- ❑ Train Obedience:
  - (Heb 13:17) **Obey** your leaders and **submit to them**, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account.
- ❑ Practice in War Games: Learn Wisdom from Both God and Man to Deal with Issues
  - What Should We Do if Conflicts Arise at
    - ❑ Personal Life
    - ❑ Home
    - ❑ Church
    - ❑ State
    - ❑ World

## What Good Armies Do?

- ❑ Make Strategies for Victory
  - Training People
  - Sending Out Missionaries
  - Win the Hearts of the Community
  - Win the Minds of the People
  - Occupy Strategic Locations
    - ❑ Government
    - ❑ Education Institutions
    - ❑ Military

## What Good Armies Do?

- ❑ Prepare for Disaster
  - Respect the Fallen
  - Comfort the Surviving
  - Regroup for Battle
- ❑ Seek for Divine Help
  - (Ps 3:8) Salvation **belongs to the LORD**
  - (Ps 83:18) For our shield **belongs to the LORD**
  - (Prov 21:31) The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But victory **belongs to the LORD**.
- ❑ Have Confidence:
  - Our Final Victory Is Guaranteed!
  - Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to **render to every man according to what he has done.**"

## Conclusion

- ❑ 1. The Church Is the Temple of God
  - Our Church Must Be a Confessing Church!
- ❑ 2. The Church Is the Family of God
  - Our Church Must Be a Loving Church!
- ❑ 3. The Church Is the School of God
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