

## A Call to Arms

Ephesians 6:10-20, Deuteronomy 20:1-4

April 19, 2015

- Vignettes: Uzbekistan. Sex trade.  
5,000 Uzbeki sex slaves in Israel make \$1billion/year. (Yesterday's prayer walk.)
- Jessica Lacey McCarty, Palm Bay in March. Strangled 3 adorable children.
- Greed of both the rich and the poor.
- Religious Spirits
- Radical Islam. Yesterday, there was another suicide bomber in Afghanistan.  
Notorious videos of Isis radicals chopping off the heads of Christians.
- Can all of this, and so much more, really be explained just on the basis of human sinfulness? Don't such realities point to a deeper, more depraved level of evil?

### 1. We struggle against spiritual forces.

Ephesians 6:12 ***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

- The Old Testament talks about these spiritual forces.

Deuteronomy 32:16-17 ***They made him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols. 17 They sacrificed to demons, which are not God-- gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear.***

- Parallelism. We certainly see it in Psalm 106.

Psalm 106:37-38 ***They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. 38 They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood.***

- We find the idea in the New Testament, too.

I Corinthians 10:19-21 ***I Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.***

Revelation 9:20 ***The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk.***

- I always thought the gods of mythology were purely fictional, like Darth Vader. But the Bible indicates otherwise.
- \*CS Lewis suggests the ancient Greek and Roman gods were really angels.
- *First Apology of Justin Martyr* ch. 5 “... and being carried away by fear, and not knowing that these were demons, they called them gods, and gave to each the name which each of the demons chose for himself.”
- *Ibid.* ch. 9 And neither do we honour with many sacrifices and garlands of flowers such deities as men have formed and set in shrines and called gods; since we see that these are soulless and dead, and have not the form of God , ...but have the names and forms of those wicked demons which have appeared.
- \*\*Tom White, in *The Believer’s Guide to Spiritual Warfare*,” says “In my view, these powers coincide with the pagan gods and goddesses worshiped by the Greeks and Romans, territorial deities or “princes” (Daniel 10:13,20) who sought the worship of men. Others became connected with the worship of certain planets and astral bodies (Zeus, Mars, Hermes). Thus these forces became part of the domain of darkness, manipulated by Satan, the mastermind of deceit.”
- If Greek and Roman deities, then Norse, Asian, Indian, American etc.
  
- *Eros* might be the name of a power behind Pornography and the sex trade etc  
*Molech* was a Canannite god who desired the slaughter and sacrifice of children.  
*Mamon* might be the name of the principality over greed and materialism  
*Python*.Religious spirits  
 What might you call the spiritual power behind Radical Islam? (Allah).
- (How I came to believe in demons.)

## 2. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

I John 3:8 ***He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.***

- He did that in two ways. First, by casting out demons, healing etc.

Acts 10:38 ***how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.***

- More definitively, in His sacrifice for us

Colossians 2:15 ***And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

- Jesus tells us what the final sate of these spiritual forces.

Matthew 25:41 *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

Revelation 20:10 *And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

- If we are His followers, if we are His body, what is our mission?

### 3. We continue the mission of Jesus.

Matthew 16:18 *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

Mark 16:17-18, 20 *And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." ...20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

### 4. We are armed and dangerous!

- I won't ask God to make you safe, I'll ask God to make you dangerous!

Ephesians 6:13-17 *Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

I Thessalonians 5:8 *But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.*

- It isn't so much that breastplate = righteousness and helmet = salvation, but that we clothe ourselves in the character of Christ, in the things of the Spirit.
- Note we need to be protected if we are going to do this kind of warfare!

II Corinthians 10:3-5 *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

- A stronghold is a castle or fortress.
- A spiritual stronghold is a structure of ideas, attitudes, habits or behaviors that provide housing and a base of operations for evil spirits.

- That's the indicative. What's the imperative? Such are the fact of our situation. What do we do about it?

5. We have a divine strategy.

Ephesians 6:18-20 *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

5.1 Our strategy is to pray in the Spirit.

- This could be praying in tongues. It is praying with the Holy Spirit in charge. Listening to the Holy Spirit to pray His will.

5.2 Our strategy is to pray for the saints.

- *Not against the demons as much as for the saints!*

5.3 Our strategy is to pray for the proclamation of the Gospel.

- More than we want the destruction of Isis, Boko Haram, the sex trade, materialism, murdering of children etc. we want people to come to Christ!

- I am working on a project on worship as spiritual warfare.

- (Praise. Confession and forgiveness. Proclamation of the Word of God. The Creed. Prayer. Communion.)

- Tonight we will have a special prayer gathering with a video and prayer strategy, particularly about the spiritual forces behind Isis, but there are things that will apply.

- We struggle against spiritual forces. It is a cosmic war. The final outcome is already determined by Jesus Christ, but you and I play a vast role in the day to day victories. The war is won, but to a large degree, the battles depend on us. So this is a call to arms.

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\*In *That Hideous Strength* p. 327 introduces a being, “known to men in old times as Jove, and under that name, by fatal but not inexplicable misprision, confused with his Maker – so little did they dream by how many degrees the stair even of created being rises above him.” Other Greco-Roman gods also appear in the trilogy.

\*\* “Understanding Principalities and Powers” in *The Believer’s Guide to Spiritual Warfare*” reprinted in *Engaging the Enemy: How to Fight and Defeat Territorial Spirits* by C. Peter Wagner p.61

**Una Llamada a Las Armas**  
**Ephesians 6:10-20, Deuteronomio 20:1-4**  
**Abril 19 de 2015**

1. Nosotros luchamos contra \_\_\_\_\_.

Efesios 6:12 Porque nuestra lucha no es contra sangre y carne, sino contra principados, contra potestades, contra los poderes de este mundo de oscuridad y contra las fuerzas espirituales del mal en los cielos.

Deuteronomio 32:16. Celos con los dioses ajenos y ensañaronle con sus abominaciones. 17 Sacrificaron a los demonios, que no son Dios, dioses que no habían conocido, A nuevos dioses, dioses que sus padres no tuvieron miedo.

Salmo 106:37. Sacrificaron sus hijos y sus hijas a los demonios. 38 Derramaron sangre inocente, la sangre de sus hijos e hijas, a quienes sacrificaron a los ídolos de Canaán, y la tierra fue profanada por su sangre.

I Corintios 10:19. Yo quiero decir, entonces, que el sacrificio ofrecido a un ídolo no es nada, o que el ídolo es algo? 20 No, pero los sacrificios de los paganos son ofrecidos a los demonios, y no a Dios, y no quiero que se los participantes con demons.21 no puede beber la copa del Señor, y la copa de los demonios; no puede haber una parte de la mesa del Señor y de la mesa de los demonios.

Revelacion 9:20. El resto de la humanidad, que no fueron muertos por estas plagas todavía no se arrepintieron de las obras de sus manos, y no dejar de rendir culto los demonios, y los ídolos de oro, plata, bronce, piedra y madera, ídolos que no pueden ver ni oír ni caminar.

2. Jesús vino a \_\_\_\_\_ las obras del diablo.

1.Juan 3:8. El que hace pecado, es del diablo, porque el diablo peca desde el principio. Esto apareció el Hijo de Dios, para deshacer las obras del diablo.

Actos 10:38. Cómo Dios a Jesús de Nazaret le ungió con el Espíritu Santo y con poder, y cómo él pasó haciendo el bien y sanando a todos los oprimidos del diablo, porque Dios estaba con él.

Colosenses 2:15. Y los principados y las potestades, sacólos hizo una en público, triunfando de ellos en la cruz. Mateo 25:41 "Entonces dirá a los de su izquierda: "Apartaos de mí, malditos, al fuego eterno preparado para el diablo y sus ángeles.

Revelaciones 2:10. Y el diablo que los engañaba fue lanzado en el lago de fuego y azufre, donde estaban la bestia y el falso profeta. Y serán atormentados día y noche por los siglos de los siglos.

3. Tenemos\_\_\_\_\_ la misión de Jesús.

Mateo 16:18. Y yo también te digo, que tú eres Pedro, y sobre esta piedra edificaré mi iglesia, y las puertas del Hades no prevalecerán contra ella.

Marca 16:17a, 18, 20 y estas señales acompañarán a los que creen: en mi nombre fuera demonios; hablarán nuevas lenguas; 18 tomarán serpientes en las manos, y cuando beben veneno mortal, no les duele a todos, y coloca las manos sobre los enfermos y se les hará bien."

...20 y los discípulos salieron a predicar por todas partes, y el Señor con ellos y confirmando la palabra con las señales que acompañan a la misma.

4. Estamos\_\_\_\_\_ y\_\_\_\_\_ !

Efesios 6:13. Por tanto, tomad toda la armadura de Dios, para que en el día malo, puede ser capaz de permanecer en tu tierra, y después de haber hecho todo lo posible para permanecer. 14 Estad, pues, firmes con el cinturón de la verdad abrochado alrededor de la cintura, con la coraza de justicia, 15 y con los pies equipados con el apresto del evangelio de la paz. 16 Además de todo esto, el escudo de la fe, con que podáis apagar todos los dardos de fuego del maligno. 17 Tomad el yelmo de la salvación y la espada del Espíritu, que es la palabra de Dios.

I Tesalonicenses 5:8. Mas nosotros, que somos del día, seamos, vestidos de cota de fe y el amor como una coraza, y la esperanza de salvación como yelmo. II Corintios 10:3 a pesar de que vivimos en el mundo, no vamos a la guerra en el mundo. 4 Las armas que no se lucha con las armas del mundo. Por el contrario, ellos tienen poder divino para derribar fortalezas. 5 Demolemos argumentos y toda pretensión de que se erige contra el conocimiento de Dios, y nos lleva cautivos cada pensamiento para que sea obediente a Cristo.

5. Tenemos un \_\_\_\_\_.

Efesios 6:18. Y orar en el Espíritu en todas las ocasiones con todo tipo de oraciones y peticiones. Con esto en mente, debemos estar alerta y mantener siempre en oración por todos los santos. 19 Orad también por mí, que siempre que he abierto la boca, las palabras se le puede dar para que yo, sin miedo a conocer el misterio del evangelio, 20 por el que soy un embajador en cadenas. Orar para que yo pueda declarar sin temor alguno, como no podía ser de otra forma.

5.1 Nuestra estrategia es el de la oración \_\_\_\_\_.

5.2 Nuestra estrategia es rezar por \_\_\_\_\_.

5.3 Nuestra estrategia es rezar por \_\_\_\_\_ la del \_\_\_\_\_.