

## GOD AT WAR SPIRITUAL WARFARE SERIES

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**TEXT: Matthew 16:18** “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

**Exodus 15:1** Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: “I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! 2 The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father’s God, and I will exalt Him. 3 *The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is His name.*”

**Ephesians 6:10** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

### INTRODUCTION:

There are three levels of spiritual warfare. 1) Ground level: casting out demons. 2) Occult level: dealing with witchcraft, astrology, New Age, tarot cards, and other occult practices. 3) Strategic level warfare: where we wrestle “**against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places***” (Ephesians 6:12b).

There are three truths about spiritual warfare that I want to highlight:

**1) There is no comparison between God and satan. God is the Uncreated Creator who created satan, who is a fallen angel called lucifer.**

There is no Yin and Yang. There is no dark side of the force that is equal with the light side. Star Wars is called science *fiction*. God could have destroyed satan and his demonic cohorts in a snap of a finger. Why didn’t He? Because God wants us, His children, to learn how to reign with Him and to learn how to rule over satan. This is training for reigning!

2) **satan is real (Isaiah 14:12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit... 19 But you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, *like* the garment of those who are slain, thrust through with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a corpse trodden underfoot.”)**

3) **Jesus defeated satan at Calvary when He said, “It is finished!” (John 19:30; see also Colossians 2:15, Revelation 1:18, Matthew 28:18-20). God in His sovereignty has chosen to *reinforce* His victory through His Ekklesia (Matthew 16:18-19).**

## TRUTHS ABOUT THE EKKLESIA

### I. PETER IS NOT THE ROCK

- A. **Matthew 16:18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church...”**
1. Peter: *petros*, which means a small rock.
  2. Rock: *petra*, which means a boulder or a huge rock.

### II. THE EKKLESIA IS MORE THAN WHAT WE THINK OF CHURCH TODAY

#### A. “I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH (*EKKLESIA*)”

1. Jesus did not say, “I will build my Temple or Synagogue.” Jesus did not use a religious term but a secular one: *Ekklesia*. Ekklesia is not a building but people, “called out people.” But called to do what?
2. **He uses an ancient word out of Greece referring to a legislative body, parliament, congress.**
3. **The Church is God’s legislative body for His Kingdom.**
4. But this legislative body was meant to be in session 24/7—a building-less, mobile people movement, called to transform lives and culture.
5. We see in the early Church how they met corporately, from house to house, and how people were being saved as they evangelized and made disciples.
6. **Acts 2:46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness**

and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

### III. THE FOUNDATION TO THE CHURCH ARE APOSTLES, PROPHETS, AND CHRIST BEING THE CORNERSTONE

1. **Matthew 7:24** “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”
2. **Jesus is referring to the foundational stone of the church.**
3. **1 Corinthians 3:10** According to the grace of God, which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
4. **Ephesians 2:20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

### IV. THE CHURCH IS TO BE ON THE OFFENSIVE

#### A. THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE CHURCH (MATTHEW 16:18)

1. We are to attack the gates of hell with two tactics: prayer and evangelism.
2. “My house will be a house of prayer for all nations” (Mark 11:17).
3. “Go make disciples of nations” (Matthew 28:18-20), which begins with winning souls and discipling them.

### V. HE HAS GIVEN US WEAPONS FOR WARFARE, AND THE GREATEST WEAPON IS BINDING AND LOOSING IN PRAYER

#### A. **Matthew 16:19** (literally reads) “Whatever you bind on earth must first have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth, must first have been loosed in heaven.”

1. The specific weapon is prophetic intercession, meaning that prayer begins with God speaking to us a *rhema* word, what we are to pray.

2. **John 15:7** “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” The Greek for *words* in this verse is *rhema*, God’s revelatory words hidden in your heart.
- B. Example of binding and loosing in personal prayer.
  1. My mother-in-law, Dr. Roxas. “Bind the spirit of Mariolatry.”
- C. Binding and loosing with Lou Engle, my prophet.
  1. Gov. Gray Davis on April 5, 2003 at TheCall San Francisco. On Monday, April 7, a recall petition drive began and received over a million signatures. On October 7, 2003, Davis was recalled with 54% of the votes, and actor Arnold Schwarzenegger was voted in on November 17 of that year.

## VI. THREE PRINCIPALITIES OVER AMERICA (Jonathan Cahn, *The Return of the Gods*)

### A. Baal

1. **1 Kings 16:29** In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. **30** Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who *were* before him. **31** And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. **32** Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. **33** And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.
2. **Matthew 12:43** “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. **44** Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order. **45** Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”
3. The key date is 1962, when we took prayer out of the schools. Seven more evil spirits came into America.

### B. Asherah

1. **1 Kings 18:18** And he answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house *have*, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. **19** Now

therefore, send *and* gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

2. She is also called by the Babylonians "Ishtar"; by the Greeks, "Aphrodite"; by the Romans, "Diana." As the goddess of sexual immorality, she could change from a woman to a man and from a man to a woman.
3. Key year of opening this demonic gate: 1967, the sexual revolution.

### C. Molech

1. **Leviticus 20:2** "Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: 'Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives *any* of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. 3 I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given *some* of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name. 4 And if the people of the land should in any way hide their eyes from the man, when he gives *some* of his descendants to Molech, and they do not kill him, 5 then I will set My face against that man and against his family; and I will cut him off from his people, and all who prostitute themselves with him to commit harlotry with Molech.'"
2. People who offer child sacrifice to Molech. Today that would be abortion.
3. Key year of opening this door: 1973, *Roe v. Wade*.

## VII. COMING IN THE OPPOSITE SPIRIT AND BREAKING THE ALTARS OF THE GODS

### A. REPENTANCE AND PRAYER

1. **Judges 6:25** Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that *is* beside it; 26 and build an altar to the LORD your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."
2. **2 Chronicles 7:14** "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."
3. **You cannot wean yourself from sin. You have to be radical and tear down the altars of pornography, sexual immorality, voting for pro-**

**abortion candidates, advocating the separation of church and state, and taking God out of the public square. These are the things we must repent of.**

CONCLUSION: At the Bethel Leadership Summit, Sue and I received a prophetic word from Hayley Braun, that we are to mobilize intercessors to take prayer to another level. We must move in prophetic strategic warfare. But it begins with repentance. Let's pray.

