### WHITES RUN BAPTIST CHURCH

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# August 18th, 2024

#### **Announcements**

- 6:00 PM Bible Study: Join us for interactive sessions that dig deeper into the truths of God's Word.
- Food Pantry: Please bring shelf-stable food products, especially cereal, to the church for the food pantry.
- Family Dinner, every Sunday 12:00-?. Everyone is invited.
- Prayer Meeting, Wednesday 7:00 PM: Come pray with us for our church, and our community.
- Please subscribe to our **YouTube channel** at youtube.com/@whitesrun.

# The Spiritual Landscape; 1 Kings 22; Ephesians 6:10-20.

Today's Point: Although dark spiritual forces are at work deceiving the people of the earth, Jesus Christ has already won the victory and makes his people overcome through all times.

### Who's really in charge here?

- Ahab: King of the Northern Kingdom / Israel. 1 Kings 16:29-33, 21:18-19.
- Jehoshaphat: King of the Southern Kingdom / Judah. 1 Kings 22:41-44.
- Lord = Adonai (Lord or Master); LORD = Yahweh (I am). Exodus 3:13-15.
- Primary lesson: Ahab fails to listen to God's true prophet and pays with his life.
- Secondary lesson: Dark spiritual forces are at work in the world.

## Are there good and bad spirits in God's Divine Council?

Satan (or the adversary) is seen in Job still presenting himself before God with the other "sons of God," even though it was clearly after his fall. Job 1:6, 2:1; Genesis 3:1-15; Revelation 12:8-9;

- Deuteronomy 32:8-9 says that God appointed "sons of God" over the divided nations, presumably at the Babel incident. Israel in contrast belongs to Yahweh. See also Daniel 10; Psalm 82.
- Psalm 82 is a rebuke by God of divine beings in His Divine Council. Note "gods" and "sons of the Most High." Note that these have responsibility for justice among humans. Finally, notice that God will inherit all the nations.

### What influence do they have upon people?

- Although defeated by Jesus at the crucifixion and resurrection and awaiting judgment, John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; Colossians 2:15; they are a dominating force upon the earth, Ephesians 2:1-3; leading people astray with their own sinful desires, James 1:14-15, Romans 1:18.
- Satan himself is described as the ruler of this world, John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; the prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2:2; the god of this world 2 Corinthians 4:4; the evil one, 1 John 4:4, 5:19; Matthew 13:19; a roaring lion seeking someone to devour, 1 Peter 5:8; and blinding the minds of unbelievers, 2 Corinthians 4:4. So do not embrace the myth of neutrality.
- The Devil made me do it? A reminder that every human being is responsible for his own behavior. "Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire," James 1:14. And also, "who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth," Romans 1:18.
- What about Christians? These have no authority over Christians, (Colossians 2:20; Matthew 28:18-20 with Psalm 82:8;) but can still influence them as enemy combatants, (Ephesians 6:10-12).

#### So what do we do about it?

- Put on the whole armor of God, Ephesians 6:10-20.
- Get in the fight! We are here: Psalm 82:8; Matthew 28:18-20.
- Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves, Matthew 10:16, 12:30.

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