

# Week 1 – NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL

## INTRODUCTION

### The Battle for Truth

John 8: 32 - *Then you will know the truth, and the truth with set you free*

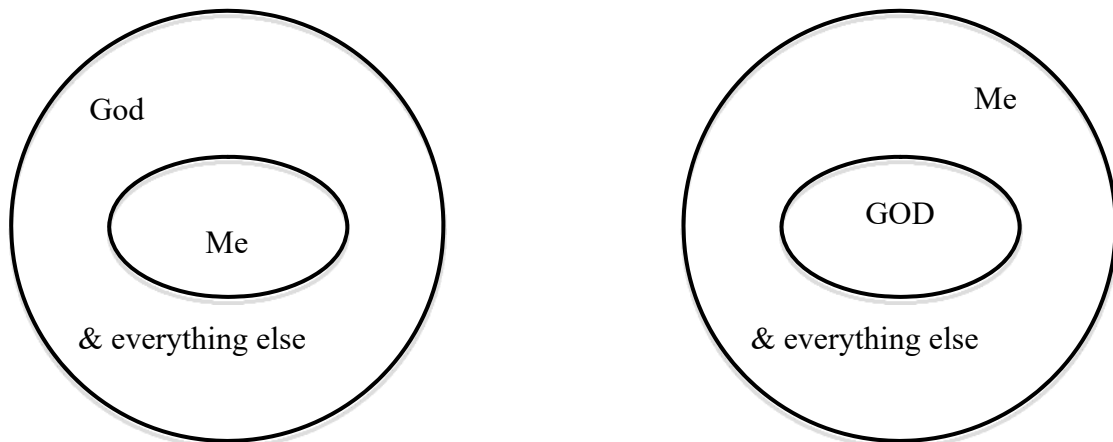
How you define reality will define; how you live your life and what you believe 'works' and 'doesn't work'. There is a fight to determine how we see 'reality'.

### God is bigger than our world-view –

**What is Truth?** – The authority as to what is truth is what is in line with scripture.

### Truth = God's opinion

Which way round do we try and understand things?



Accept MYSTERY

### Biblical World View

Breaks down into 3 components;

- a. **God** – pre-exists everything, He is uncreated, holy, distinct – existed before all things. – He is the creator and ruler of the universe.

The word of God teaches that there are two realms that operate simultaneously in our lives. Eg Genesis 1v1 - *In the beginning God created the **heavens** and the **earth**.*

- b. The **Heavenly** Realm Greek *epiourainios* means “of the heavens”  
Ephesians 1:3, 1:26, 2:6, 3:10, 6:12

c. The **Natural** Realm The physical world we *see, hear, taste, touch* and *smell*. – The world we're familiar with.

## THE HEAVENLY REALMS

- a. The cast list of the heavenly realms;  
 God – The creator  
 Angels – spirit beings – servant of God  
 Satan – fallen Archangel

<p><b>Angels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Real – Luke 1:26</li> <li>→ Powerful – Daniel 10:2-13</li> <li>→ Having authority (given by God)</li> <li>→ Intelligence – Daniel 10:14</li> <li>→ Desire – Genesis 22:12</li> <li>→ Voice – 1 Corinthians 13:1</li> </ul>	<p><b>Demons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Real – Luke 4:41</li> <li>→ Powerful – Revelation 16:14</li> <li>→ Having authority (given by man)</li> <li>→ Intelligence – Mark 1:24</li> <li>→ Desire – Mark 5:10 □ Voice – Mark 5:7</li> </ul>
<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Protect – Luke 4:10</li> <li>→ Guide – Acts 12:8</li> <li>→ Prepare the way – Exodus 23:20, Daniel 10</li> <li>→ Fight the demonic realm</li> <li>→ Minister to believers – Hebrews 1:14</li> <li>→ Powerful – Daniel 10:2-13</li> <li>→ Having authority (given by God)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ To steal</li> <li>→ To kill                      John 10:10</li> <li>→ To destroy</li> <li>→ Deceive – John 8:44</li> </ul>

- b. God is in Charge
- He's the creator.
  - Jesus has authority; *Jesus came to them and said 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me ... .Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...'* Matt 28.18- 19
  - Jesus defeated the enemy, through the Cross and Resurrection;

Col 2.15 '*...and having disarmed the powers and authorities he made a public spectacle of them triumphing over them by the cross'*

1 Corin 15.24-28 [&57] *.....then the end will come when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power...*

Kingdom of God is ...now...and not yet!

God and His angels are more powerful than Satan and his foot soldiers  
 [Revelation 12, Job 1]

## What are your reactions to the word 'demon' and this worldview?

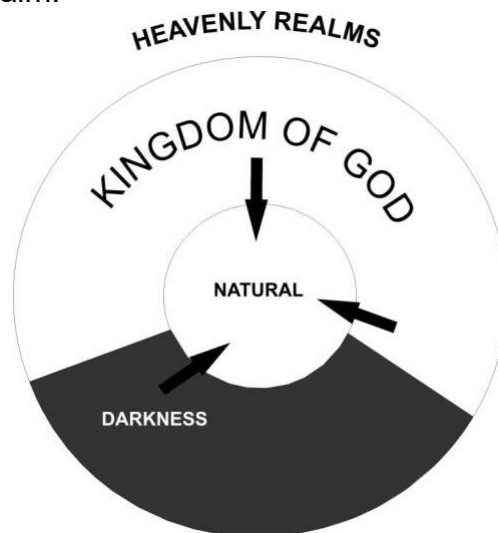
*"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall into about devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight." - CSLewis*

But as Paul teaches

*'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' Eph 6: 12*

## REALITY = WE LIVE IN TWO REALMS AT THE SAME TIME

The Natural realm includes all that can be perceived by our natural senses in the physical world. The Heavenly realm includes all that is spiritual, invisible and not seen in the natural realm.



### Example 1 - Elisha & his servant (2 Kings 6)

The king of Aram was angry because all his plans were being discerned prophetically by Elisha. So he sent an army to capture Elisha, who was living in Dothan.

*Then the King of Aram sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

**We can learn to ask the Lord to reveal what is going on in any given situation:**

**Example 2 - Luke 22:4&5 Judas betrays Jesus**

*And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money.*

Luke 22:3 The source of the betrayal

*Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.*

Events in the heavenlies bear a direct impact on events in the natural realm. Alternatively what is happening in the natural 'echos' what is happening in the spiritual. When we live aware of the 2 realms – we learn to see the world differently and ask different questions.

*“Is this just happening”*

- Is my bad mood “just happening?”
- Is my strained marriage “just happening?”
- Is the disintegrating relationship between parent and child “just happening?”
- Is the tension and division in a church “just happening?”
- Is a heavy atmosphere in worship on Sunday merely due to weather?
- Is a persistent lack of joy and zeal due merely to personality?
- Is the disintegration of a society “just happening?”
- Are communities in disrepair and oppressed by crime, drugs, murder, suicide, and hopelessness merely because of socio-economic issues?
- Are civil tensions (Ireland) and wars (Middle East) “just happening?”

**This requires a significant change in world-view.** To recognise that events in the spirit realm impact earth, that there isn't merely a natural realm cause for **every** circumstance.

For many of us, the challenge here is as much personal as theological.

**We struggle to believe we can hear God's voice.**

Jesus' whole ministry is understood as a supernatural battle in which he proactively and aggressively confronts the destructive power of the enemy

*Mark 1:32-34 “That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.”*

*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.*

### **Thinking this way isn't 'normal' in the world we live in.**

- We have made our experience the starting point for understanding the world.
- The reality of suffering and the pain it causes us, leads to a desperate search for answers, without looking to God for revelation.
- The deception that God is in control over everything that happens in the world today – evil things as well as good; belief in the lie that God is responsible for the bad things which happen in our lives as well as the blessings. Jesus (John 12:31) speaks about the '*prince of this world*' and Paul (Eph 6:12) is very clear about the spiritual battle.
- Failure to understand that we have a very real enemy, as well as wholly GOOD and victorious God – that we are called into a supernatural existence, and are part of a heavenly battle.
- Our reliance on the 5 senses
- Dismissal of demons as "primitive" – we are wise and enlightened
- The Church and its leaders (especially mainline denominations) are hugely influenced by the academic and rational / man centred worldview and mindset.

The Sadducees believed in God but denied the Spirit realm of angels and Demons.

*'The Sadducees rejected the doctrine of the resurrection, rewards and retribution, angels and demons'* (New Bible Dictionary)

Jesus declared to the Sadducees: *'You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God'* Matthew 22:29

### **CONCLUSION**

- Our prayers speak into, and change (TRANSFORMATION) , the heavenly realms (supernatural realm) which in turn effects the natural.
- With a 2 realm perspective we can engage in prayer more intentionally (heat seeking missile rather than carpet bombing!)
- By listening to God / hearing his voice we can learn to 'perceive' what is happen in a particular situation and prayer in a more focused way.

### **KEY TRUTHS**

- We live in two realms; natural and heavenly.
- There is a war going on in the heavenly realms, in which the church has a vital role to play – as the hymn goes 'Onward Christian Soldiers...'.