



**Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group (5-week Series)**  
Perspectives of God | Educating our Minds | Warnings for Life  
**Lesson #2: Satanic activity and his impact on directing the nations**  
Series taught by Chris Alexander | February 15, 2024

**Series Overview**

Life today is changing at a breakneck pace. Never before have we seen so many different technologies and the impact they're having on how we think, act, and make decisions. In our hands and pockets, we have devices that literally allow us to track family members, see and talk to anyone in the world at any time, and obtain information in seconds on every subject imaginable. Even though we have access to practically unlimited information and knowledge, never has Biblical illiteracy been so high. The average American can't recount Bible stories like Creation, The Fall, Noah, and the Tower of Babel that were practically known to every school child in the 1950s. We all realize this is part of Satan's overall plan to move the hearts of men away from the mind of God. Satan has distracted Believers, especially men, to stop being the leaders God we've been called to be at home, in our neighborhoods, the office, and church.

The 5-week **Life in the Pew** series is sure to change your perspectives on the world around us and challenge us to study with greater intensity Biblical prophecy and truths, using the lens of Scripture to view current events and technologies in a new way. The goal of this series is to help us better understand God's plan for our lives and the urgency for sharing the Gospel of Jesus with a nation and world that desperately needs Him.

**Series Schedule**

Provided below is the schedule for the 5-week **Life in the Pew** series.

- Lesson #1 on February 8: Biblical overview and understanding the Prophetical Timeline
- **Lesson #2 on February 15: Satanic activity and his impact on directing the nations**
- Lesson #3 on February 22: Exploring world history considering the Biblical ancient empires
- Lesson #4 on February 29: Technology advancement in preparation for the rise of the Antichrist
- Lesson #5 on March 7: Living with new perspectives built on the power of God

**Lesson #2 Overview**

Last week we discussed God's timeline and His-story as presented in the Bible. One of the challenges we have as mankind is understanding events that happened prior to Creation, although one could argue we struggle even making sense of things that have happened since we have been on the planet! One of the most interesting facets of our lives is the spiritual realm in which we live. At the very center of the spiritual realm is our great adversary, Satan.

Like our discussion last week involving God's timeline, it's interesting that we don't spend a lot of time in most churches today talking about Satan. That's fascinating because if we remove Satan from history our world becomes a very different place. In tonight's lesson we'll talk about Satan, where he came from, and his role in world history. Fortunately for us, the Bible has ample text to help us create a narrative around the story of Satan. Provided below is a framework for tonight's lesson. The sections in bold have additional details provided on the following page.

- **The Biblical basis for Angels.**
- **The creation and timing of the angels.**
- **The rebellion of Lucifer and the fall of the angels.**
- Satan in his role as adversary of man.
- **The demonic realm and influence over the nations.**

### **The Biblical Basis for Angels**

- The Old Testament references angels over 100 times and the New Testament mentions them over 165 times.
- Listed below are some Old Testament references:
  - Abraham ate and conversed with angels (Genesis 18).
  - An angel executed judgment on the nation of Israel after David's unauthorized census (2 Samuel 24).
  - Daniel's mention of Gabriel (Daniel 9:20-27) and Michael (10:13 and 12:1).
- Listed below are some New Testament references:
  - Jesus' birth, life, resurrection, and ascension (Matthew 2:19, Mark 1:13, John 20:12, and Acts 1:10-11).
  - Opening prison doors for the Apostles (Acts 5:19 and 12:5-11).
  - Encouraged Paul during the storm on his voyage to Rome (Acts 27:23-44).

### **The Creation and Timing of the Angels**

- Angels are created beings (Psalm 148:5).
- Jesus created all things and beings, including angels (Colossians 1:16).
- The Bible does not specifically state when angels were created, but they were present at Creation (Job 38:6-7).
- Originally angels were created holy. The elect angels did not rebel (1 Timothy 5:21) in contrast to the evil angels who rebelled against God (Matthew 25:41).

### **The Rebellion of Lucifer and the Fall of the Angels**

- Satan (Lucifer) fell because of pride. Sin originated with Satan and led to his rebellion.
- Satan's fall from heaven is symbolically described in Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-18.
- Satan wanted to be God and that desire is what Satan tempted Adam and Eve with, in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-5).

### **The Demonic Realm and Influence over the Nations**

- Spiritual battles between demonic and angelic hosts affect earth and occur all the time (Job 1-2).
- Satan is the ruler of this present earth (Luke: 4:5-7) and he blinds unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).
- Satan works through fallen angels and organized groups (Romans 8:38, Ephesians 3:10, Colossians 1:16, Colossians 2:15, and Ephesians 6:10-12).
- Examples of demonic influence over nations:
  - Daniel 10 records that Gabriel was sent to answer Daniel's questions about when the Seventy-Years - Babylonian-Captivity would end (see specifically verse 13).
  - Adolf Hitler, aided by the Prince of Germany dabbled with his closest officers in witchcraft and mind-numbing drugs: fifty million people died.
  - Joseph Stalin worked with the Prince of Russia to murder thirty million people during and after WWII.
  - Demonic inspired leaders led by the Princes of Sudan, Uganda, the Congo, and Cambodia committed genocide murdered millions of men, women, and children.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Read Genesis 3 about The Fall and answer the following questions.
  - a. In what ways was the serpent deceptive in his engagement with Adam and Eve?
  - b. What were the consequences for all mankind because of sin?
2. Read Job 1:6-12. When Satan came with the angels to present themselves, what was he doing? What do you believe he might be doing today in a similar manner?
3. Have you had a time in your life when you felt spiritual opposition?
4. Read Ephesians 6:10-20 on the Full Armor of God. Some of you might have these verses memorized from a previous series! In what ways can the Full Armor of God be used to battle against Satan?