

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.

Ephesians 6:12

A knight in full plate armor stands in the center of the image. The armor is highly detailed with gold accents and a chainmail skirt. The knight is holding a shield in their left hand. Behind the knight is a large, dark red bat-like symbol with wings spread, set against a textured red background. The knight's reflection is visible on the dark surface below.

**POWER OF THE SPIRIT**

# The Invisible War

## 1 Peter 3:18-22

In every war, strategy plays a role. Each side plans and makes movements in accordance to what it learns about the other side's tactics. If information is leaked, a counteroffensive can be launched.

# The Invisible War

1 Peter 3:18-22

This can be seen in the grand and most profound war of the universe: *The Invisible War*. In this battle, Satan and his minions wage war against God, His angels, and His people.

# The Invisible War

## 1 Peter 3:18-22

We'll consider it by looking again at one of the most enigmatic texts in the New Testament as we unravel it.

# Four Facts about the Invisible War

## 1. There Is a Coexisting Invisible World (v. 19)

In verse 18, Peter speaks of two realms

Flesh: the realm of what you see; the real world

Spirit: the realm of what you don't see; the *really* real  
world

# Four Facts about the Invisible War

34 out of 66 books of the Bible speak about angelic beings

17 in the Old Testament; *angel* appears 103 times

17 books in the New Testament; *angel* appears 165 times

The Greek word *angelos* means a messenger, typically speaking of a spirit being

# Four Facts about the Invisible War

Satan began as an angel

Study Ezekiel 28 (and Isaiah 14)—Satan is called "the anointed cherub who covers" (see v. 14) or guards

God did not create Satan as a wicked being—He created something very good with a will of its own, and Satan acted on that will, desiring to usurp God's authority

# Four Facts about the Invisible War

Luke 10:18

Revelation 12:4

“And I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven”

As many as a third of the angelic host fell in the rebellion with Satan



2.

There Is a Conflict in the Invisible World

(vv. 19, 22)

There is a group of spirits incarcerated in some prison  
somewhere

Daniel 10 (study vv. 13 and 20)

Implies that demons are assigned by Satan to  
geographical regions

In God's book, He reveals what His plans are for the  
future—Genesis 3:15

There Are Convicts in the Invisible World  
(v. 20)

"Spirits in prison" (v. 19)

Revelation 9:1-2 calls this prison "the bottomless pit,"  
the abyss

Greek *abussos*

It's the realm of fallen spirits

5.

# There Are Convicts in the Invisible World (v. 20)

Revelation 20:1-3

What did the spirits do to get put here?

Jude 6-7

2 Peter 2:4

Incarcerated at the time of Noah

There Are Convicts in the Invisible World  
(v. 20)

Genesis 6:1-8

*Sons of God* is the Hebrew term *bene haelohim*, the Old Testament term for angelic beings

These are powerful demons, so much so they need to be incarcerated—but that's the point: God, being all powerful, incarcerated them

4.

There Was Conquest in the Invisible World (v.  
22)

Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison (see v.  
19)

Greek *kerusso*, meaning to make a proclamation—  
though not in terms of evangelism

Evangelistic preaching is the Greek *euaggelizo*

4.

There Was Conquest in the Invisible World  
(v. 22)

These spirits in prison, thinking Jesus was finally gone, were soon to be disappointed when the resurrected Christ came and proclaimed victory over them

5.

## Closing Thoughts

These demons, incarcerated in the abyss, will one day  
be released

They will be re-incarcerated again with the devil and  
all his angels after this time

Study Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10

# Closing Thoughts

One-third of the angels fell; they are demons and hate  
you

However, two-thirds did not fall

Satan and his demons are way outnumbered



5.

## Closing Thoughts

1 John 4:4

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

5.

## Closing Thoughts

Walk away encouraged that you are on the winning team and have stepped out of darkness into light

As you walk in the real world, keep in mind whose side you're on