

***Being* the Kingdom
in a Groaning Creation**

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Gen. 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

Luke 6:36 Be merciful, just as your
Father is merciful.

Matt. 6:9-10 Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Gen. 1:29-31. God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Isaiah 11:6-7

**The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

**The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.**

Gen. 3:17 -18...cursed is the ground
because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of
your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for
you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Heb. 2:14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil...

2 Cor. 4:4 “the god of this age....”

Eph 2:2 “the principality and power of the air”

John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 The “ruler of the world”

I Jn 5:19 The devil “controls the entire world.”

Rom. 8:19-23 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope, that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Mark 4:39 He woke up and rebuked
(*epitimaō*) the wind, and said to the
sea, “Peace! Be still!” (*phinoo*).
Then the wind ceased, and there
was a dead calm.

Luke 13:10-11 On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.

Luke 13:15-16. The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”

Luke 13:4-5 ...those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them — do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

Athenagorus...

The “office of the angels is to exercise providence for God over the things created and ordered by Him....[God exercises a] universal and general providence of the whole” but the control of “the particular parts are provided for by the angels appointed over them.” *A Plea*, 24.

Satan was originally “the spirit which is about matter who was created by God, just as the other angels were...and entrusted with the control of matter and the forms of matter.” *A Plea, 24*

Satan chose to abuse “the government entrusted to [him]” and thus, “the prince of matter, as may be seen merely from what transpires, exercises a control and management contrary to the good that is in God.”... The earth is afflicted by “a ruling prince” and “the demons his followers.” *A Plea, 25.*

Origen

“...famine, blasting of the vine and fruit trees, pestilence among men and beasts: all these are the proper occupations of demons...” “Demons are the cause of plagues... barrenness... tempests...[and] similar calamities.” *Against Celsus*. 8.31

Tertullian

“...diseases and other grievous calamities” are the result of demons whose “great business is the ruin of mankind.”
Apology 22

1. The “Natural” World is not “Natural”: It’s a War zone

**“...every square inch of the cosmos is
claimed by Satan and counterclaimed
by God.” C.S. Lewis**

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Col. 1:18-20. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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- 3. Live in Hope, eagerly anticipating the day when “the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (**Rom 8:21**).**
- 4. In the meantime, LIVE the Kingdom NOW with Passion**

“Be the change you want to see in the world...” Ghandi