

The World System

The subtle enemy

- The Christian has three spiritual enemies that are opposed to living the Christian life.
- The flesh or sin nature is the enemy from within.
- Satan is the enemy from without.
- The world system is the most subtle of the enemies.
- The world system is an organization with designs to misdirect Christians' good works (1 Jn. 2:15).
- The world system is an organization with designs to have Christians act hostile to God (Jam. 4:4).
- Kosmos/Cosmos has various meanings: universe, earth as a planet, the inhabitants of the earth—humanity, the sum total of things; however the root meaning has to do with order.
- Many mistranslations have led to confusion.

The World System's Organizational Structure

- A.** Satan the organizer (Mt. 4:8-9; Lu. 4:5-6).
 - a. Mt. 4:8-9—all kingdoms belonging to the world system, all things, organizational glory.
 - b. Lu. 4:5-6—all kingdoms consisting of the inhabited earth, all authority over humans.

- B.** Satan the ruler of the world system (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

- C.** Satan rules through demons (Mt. 12:22-26).

- D.** Demons have great power: gods, lords (1 Cor. 8:4-6; 10:19-20).

- E.** Demons are fallen angels.
 - a. Both called evil spirits (Lu. 8:2; Eph. 6:12).
 - b. Both are under Satan's authority (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7, 9).
 - c. Both are spirit beings (Mt. 17:18 *cf.* Mk. 9:17-29, Heb. 1:14).

- F.** Satan used demons to manipulate men to crucify Jesus (1 Cor. 2: 8 *cf.* Eph. 6:12).

- G.** The world system is related to the present evil age (Eph. 2:2).