

Introduction to the World System

I. The term kosmos/cosmos, or world, conveys the idea of order. In Scripture it can refer to several different concepts:

1. The material universe (Eph. 1:4).
2. The earth (Jn 21:25).
3. The aggregate of mankind (Jn. 3:16).
4. Non-Jews (Rom. 3:19).
5. Non-Christians (Jn. 15:18-20; 17:9).
6. The present order of things (Mt. 4:8).

Note: To add to the complexities, there are several words translated “world” in the KJV. Among them are “age”, “inhabited world”, and “earth”, or “land”.

II. Characteristics of the world system.

1. The world system is a dynamic, an interaction of living beings on earth. These living creatures are not the system, but operate within the system.
2. The world system has Satan as its ruler (Jn. 14:30).
3. Satan rules the world system through fallen angels, or demons (Eph. 6:12 *cf.* Col. 1:16; Rev. 12:7).
4. The world system adds value for the unsaved (Lu. 4:5-6; Mt. 4:8).
5. The world system adds value for the saved (Rom. 13:1-7).

III. The origin of the world system.

1. When Cain murdered Able, Satan saw the tendency of fallen man to be driven by the lust from the flesh—sin nature (Gen. 4:8; 1 Jn. 3:12; Gal. 5:21).
2. Satan developed the world system in reaction to man’s sin nature (Lu. 11:50).

IV. The world system is constantly shifting (1 Cor. 7:31; 1 Jn. 2:17).

1. The outward form of the world system is changing, evolving from Satan point of view.
2. The changing system is an indication to Christians that it will pass away, be gone.
3. The world system was designed by Satan to control the sin nature of mankind.