

Seeing the Unseen

Anytime Christianity is contemplated, the bedrock basis of the consideration is whether or not there is more to human existence than meets the physical eye. In short, are there beings that transcend the physical plane? Is there a God? Was Jesus "God with us," do angels exist? Is there life after death?

Obviously this is not a question for chemists and physicists, because by definition, those spiritual entities are not physical. When asked about the existence of God, Stephen Hawking, the world-renowned British theoretical physicist and cosmologist (one who studies the universe) answered that the question was not one for physical scientists, but for theologians.

However, throughout history we see credible historians, including those who penned biblical texts, experiencing the realm of the unseen spiritual world having great effects on the realm of the visible and tangible. We see an angel of God destroying an entire army that was camped outside the Judean capitol city of Jerusalem. Read the nineteenth chapter of II Kings, then focus on vv. 35, 36:

Then it happened that night that the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead. So Sennacherib king of Syria departed and returned *home*, and lived at Nineveh.

This was no mass hysteria or illness. It was an angel of the Lord taking control of a bad situation - a military attack which God would not tolerate.

One of my favorite events in the entire Old Testament happened in II Kings 6. The Arameans were plotting to capture God's prophet Elisha. In this very eventful chapter, we see an astounding reality. The city was surrounded by enemy soldiers and cavalry. Elisha's demise, and that of the city itself, seemed certain. There was simply no military answer, no human defense. When God opened the eyes of Elisha's attendant, he saw the surrounding hills filled with God's angelic warriors, complete with chariots of fire. The enemies were stricken blind, and eventually set free. Verse 23 records, "And the marauding bands of the Amameans did not come again into the land of Israel."

Yes, there is an unseen world, and through that world Jehovah reigns supreme in the universe. One day His angels will return to earth, destroy the wicked and deliver God's faithful unto heaven (II Thessalonians chapter one). Yes the unseen world is very real, but the more important question is a personal one, "Whose side are you on?"

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Further study: Numbers 22, Balaam and his angel-seeing donkey