

# THE UNSEEN REALM

## **Jesus, the King of Angels**

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Colossians 2:13-22

Dr. David Bennett

## **Colossians 2:13-22**

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

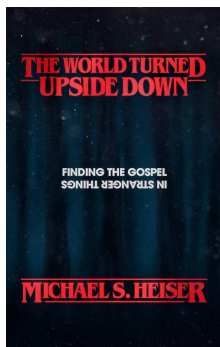
Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings.

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### **Matthew 18:18**

“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

### **Luke 10:19**

“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy, nothing will harm you.”

*Do you really believe in this hidden victory of Jesus and your authority in it? Do you make your life about the glorious liberty of living according to grace through faith or do you fall back into rules and the elemental spirits of this world, which draw you away from God and the deposit of this glorious victory of the demonic, the Spirit of God?*

“The task is about trying to think and pray through the missional vocation and kingdom witness of the Church in our contested political theaters. The Church carries a gospel which is not reducible to this worldly political activism, nor so heavenly minded as to live aloft from the trials and terrors of our times. If the gospel announces that ‘Jesus is King,’ then we must wrestle with what Jesus’ kingship means in Tiananmen Square, on the floor of the US Congress, in the lunchroom of Tesco or Walmart, or in choices we make at the ballot box.”

- N.T. Wright

“Christianity cannot be understood apart from empire. We cannot understand the Bible without knowing something about the struggles for survival of the Hebrew people under the Babylonian, Assyrian, Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires. Christianity began in the Roman Empire, in which Jesus and the early disciples lived as colonized peoples. Jesus died on the cross, which was a symbol of state terrorism and a form of torture and punishment for political rebels.”

- Kwok Pui-Lan

“There is no greater drama in human record than the sight of a few Christians, scorned or oppressed by a succession of emperors, bearing all trials with a fierce tenacity, multiplying quietly, building order while their enemies generated chaos, fighting the sword with the word, brutality with hope, and at last defeating the strongest state that history has known. Caesar and Christ had met in the arena, and Christ had won.”

- Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization: Caesar and Christ*

Our job in the Unseen and Seen worlds is to be Jesus’ gospel-carriers, heralds of this victory, proclaiming that there’s a new Lord, a better president, a greater cosmic head who reigns through the paradoxical weapons of love, faith, peace, righteousness, and holiness.

Email [hello@realitysf.com](mailto:hello@realitysf.com) if you have questions related to this series.