

PULLING  
DOWN  
STRONGHOLDS



DEREK  
PRINCE

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DOWN  
STRONGHOLDS



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

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# CONTENTS

Introduction.....	7
Part I: An Invisible Spiritual War	
1. Open Warfare.....	11
2. A Highly Organized Satanic Kingdom.....	15
3. War in the Heavens.....	24
4. Seven Weapons of Warfare .....	35
Part II: Defeating the “Strong Man”	
5. Binding the Strong Man .....	41
6. Strong Men over Nations .....	47
7. Powerful Weapons .....	52
Part III: Tearing Down the “High Places”	
8. The Offense of High Places .....	61

9. The Place of True Worship .....	64
10. A Source of Continual Conflict .....	69
11. A Tragic Pattern.....	74
12. What About Us? .....	83
13. Three Modern High Places .....	89
14. The Primacy of the Holy Spirit .....	96
15. Finding Our True Roots .....	101
Making Your Declaration .....	112
About the Author.....	115

# INTRODUCTION

**A**re you aware that there is an invisible war going on all around you? And are you aware that you are destined to fight in this war?

## **Two Spiritual Kingdoms in Conflict**

The ministry of Jesus Christ on earth demonstrated the basic fact that there are two invisible spiritual kingdoms that are at war with one another: one is the kingdom of God, and the other is the kingdom of Satan.

Even a casual reading of the New Testament reveals, undeniably, that Jesus regularly and effectively engaged in what could be termed “spiritual warfare.” It is the purpose of this book to examine the concept of spiritual warfare as a definite, clearly identifiable aspect of Christian living. In the process, we will establish some guidelines to help us wage spiritual war effectively as followers of Jesus Christ.

As a Christian, you would most likely not hesitate to affirm the concept that God has a kingdom. What may be more problematic for you (and what you may not even

have been aware of) is the reality that Satan also has a kingdom. Indeed, he does, and it is crucial for you, as a believing Christian, to understand the nature of his kingdom and how it operates.

## **Drafted into Warfare**

If you are a citizen of the kingdom of God through faith in Christ, you are automatically at war with the kingdom of Satan. Many people don't recognize this fact, so let me illustrate the point. Suppose I were a citizen of Australia, and my country went to war, God forbid, with New Zealand. (We trust this sort of conflict would never actually happen!) But if it were so, then as a citizen of Australia, I would automatically be at war with New Zealand, because I would belong to a nation that was at war with another nation.

And so it is for us as citizens of God's kingdom. Since the kingdom of God is at war with the kingdom of Satan, and we are citizens of God's kingdom, then we have no other option—we are inevitably involved in the war with the kingdom of Satan.

Since we are already in this war, let us discover the answer to these basic questions and more: (1) Why is there spiritual warfare? (2) Who is fighting whom? (3) With which side are we aligned? (4) How can we wage spiritual warfare with discernment and effectiveness?

PART I

AN INVISIBLE SPIRITUAL WAR



## CHAPTER ONE

# OPEN WARFARE

To begin our study on the nature of spiritual warfare, we will examine a passage from Matthew 12. The background to this account is that Jesus had just healed a man by casting out the evil spirit that had caused him to be blind and mute.

### **The Reality of Evil Spirits**

Before we go further, let me point out that even in today's modern world, evil spirits cause people to be blind, deaf, and mute. My wife Ruth and I discovered this reality when we were in Pakistan a number of years ago. Although Pakistan is 98 percent Muslim, God opened a wonderful door of ministry to us and gave us the freedom to hold public meetings. Up to 16,000 people gathered at our meetings. That huge attendance was for one reason alone: they had heard that we would be

praying for the sick. That was the sole reason that most of the people came.

In the course of ministering to people at one meeting, Ruth and I plunged into a crowd of men who were standing before us, waiting to receive prayer. One man touched his ears and then touched his tongue. We could not speak his language, but I understood what he was doing: he was showing us that he was deaf and mute. I knew, theoretically, the scriptural thing to do, and so I thought, *I'll do it and see what happens*. I said, "You deaf and dumb spirit that is in this man, I am speaking to you and not to this man. In the name of the Lord Jesus, I command you to come out of him!" Then, I instructed the man, "Now, say something." And immediately, he heard. He didn't understand English, but he could hear my voice, and he began to make sounds. They marched him up to the platform and told the people that he had been delivered from the deaf and mute spirit. And I said to myself, *This approach works!*

For the next ten minutes, Ruth and I went around looking for deaf and mute people—in Pakistan, they are not hard to find. That day, we saw at least ten people delivered from the condition of being deaf and mute when that particular evil spirit was driven out of them. I share this story because deliverance from demon possession is

not a theory, nor is it some old-fashioned tradition. It is a living, present reality.

## **The Kingdom of God Versus the Kingdom of Satan**

Returning now to Matthew 12, let us read what happened when Jesus set the pattern for the activity of deliverance, such as Ruth and I ministered in Pakistan:

*Now when the Pharisees heard it [that Jesus had delivered a man possessed by a blind and mute spirit] they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."* (Matthew 12:24)

The Pharisees made a terrible accusation! They said, in effect, "He can cast out demons because He is in league with the ruler of the demons." Jesus answered them,

*Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?* (Matthew 12:25–26)

In this passage, Jesus stated very clearly that Satan has a kingdom, and that it is not divided. Then He went on to speak about the kingdom of God:

*And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.* (Matthew 12:27–28)

Through the ministry of delivering people from evil spirits, the clash between the two kingdoms is brought right out into the open. In the above passage, the invisible kingdom of Satan is represented by the demons; the invisible kingdom of God is represented by Jesus—and we are called to continue His ministry in His name. (See, for example, John 14:12.)

I believe that Satan particularly fears the ministry of deliverance for two reasons: First, because, again, it brings his invisible kingdom out into the open. He would much rather keep it secret. Second, because it shows the supremacy and victory of God's kingdom over Satan's kingdom. I deliberately began our examination of the topic of spiritual warfare with this passage in Matthew 12 to emphasize and establish for you what the New Testament clearly reveals: Two invisible spiritual kingdoms are at war with one another—the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan.