

**Articles and Sermons :: Katz, Israel and the Powers****Katz, Israel and the Powers - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/7/15 1:33**

Israel and the Powers

By Art Katz

There is an invisible realm over the nations and over every locality occupied by an order of fallen, rebellious angels. They have influenced, and continue to influence, the course of history in nations, races and men. The genocidal horrors that are taking place worldwide have their source and origin in the influence that is being exerted by these angelic Powers through men on the earth, though mankind is unaware that they are being played upon and enslaved. These angels were created and endowed by God with gifts in order to administer His creation and to preserve a certain order and structure of it in a way that would be conducive to God's eternal purpose. In their rebellion, however, they are using the role and offices that were given them to turn the attention of men away from God. When this administrative order fell, it took on the spirit of Satan who said, "I will rise above the Most High." This is the most perverse egotism. Not content to serve the purposes of God administratively, the Powers of the air use that place to win the allegiance, loyalty, devotion and worship of men unto themselves. They are fallen and defeated Powers, yet they can still influence, corrupt and adversely affect entire societies, communities and nations. They operate through culture, religion, commerce and institutions.

There is a remarkably acute statement in Scripture that shows the depth of the vehement bitterness and opposition of the Powers of darkness toward God's governmental scheme for the end of the age and the ushering in of His millennial kingdom through the restoration of the nation of Israel. It is found in Psalm 2, and it reveals just how ancient and timeless this whole mystery is:

Why are the nations in an uproar, and the peoples devising a vain thing?

The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed: Let us tear their fetters apart, and cast away their cords from us!

He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them.

Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury: But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain (vs. 1-6).

The picture given here is that the nations of the world, their kings and rulers, are vexed and foaming at the mouth in indignation. They want to tear apart the cords of the Lord and His Anointed, and do not want to be under His authority. They do not want to have this King rule over them. We need to distinguish between kings and rulers. The kings are the visible, human, earthly magistrates, but who, then, are the rulers? We are suggesting that they are the unseen, invisible spirits of this world, the gods of this world, the Principalities and Powers of the air, who manifest their wisdom through earthly rulers. They operate through the unregenerate ambitions of men, and find ample opportunity to ventilate their hatred, their bitterness, their mentality and their perverse 'wisdom' through those who are susceptible to it and who share those corrupt values. Power, force, intimidation, threat, prestige, dominance and violence are intrinsically the character of the Powers of the air.

What are they, therefore, foaming against? They are not just bemused, irritated, or somewhat piqued; they are in uproar. You do not rage unless your deepest interests are threatened. The vain thing they imagine is that somehow they can reverse the foreordained purposes of God. Even though God has a holy intention of restoring Israel to Himself, to the Land, and making it the locus of His theocratic rule, the Powers of the air still believe they can prevent its fulfillment by annihilating every last Jew.<sup>10</sup> God speaks to them in His anger because they are opposing His millennial intention:

...I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain (verse 6b).

That is His design, and He will do it.

**Re: Katz, Israel and the Powers - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/7/15 6:04**

Quote:  
-----There is an invisible realm over the nations and over every locality occupied by an order of fallen, rebellious angels. They have influenced, and continue to influence, the course of history in nations, races and men. The genocidal horrors that are taking place worldwide have their source and origin in the influence that is being exerted by these angelic Powers through men on the earth, though mankind is unaware that they are being played upon and enslaved.  
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Wow, Lars, this is strong stuff...  
Is there any biblical evidence for any of this?

**Re: Katz, Israel and the Powers - posted by Janus (), on: 2004/7/15 9:50**

Hi Lars.

I usually just read all the stuff that is on this site and enjoy everything that is written here. I usually don't have time to do this amount of typing, because I type real slow, but I feel myself forced to give my point of view on this topic, not that I say I am absolutely right, but I just saw something going on that is quite upsetting.

I absolutely agree with the fact that the rulers of this world, the principalities are fallen angels. I also believe and agree with you that these powers have influence on our lives. These powers of darkness have some mysterious power that they can even influence the answers on our prayers as we see when the angel of the Lord told Daniel that the prince of Persia withstood him some time.

But that we as people here on earth can go and bind the devil as we like and tear down these ruling spirits I don't believe is scriptural, as I never before saw it written there. We all know that this earth is for a time in the power of Satan and that in time Jesus Christ Himself will take over the Kingdom Himself and rule as King on earth. If these powers were not thrown down by Jesus when He was on earth, even when Satan told Him to bow down and worship him so He could get all the kingdoms of heaven (for He knew that was not the way in which God wanted to hand over the Kingdom to Him)

In Jude we are even warned of people who go on and speak things against these powers that even the angel Michael dared not to say against them. But Michael referred the devil to God and told him that God will deal with him in due time.

We must remember one thing, that He who is in us is bigger than he who is in the world, and therefore we need not fear. Satan can do no more to the child of God than what God permits him to do. But we also need to know God's will and the plan He has for this earth and the way in which He will deliver this world from the power of Satan. He Himself will do it and only at the end of the age with the coming of Christ, which I believe is very near.

There is these days a new tendency that we as human beings need to take over this world and make Jesus King and then will peace come. But that is not what the Bible says. This is as the day the people wanted to make Jesus King when He was here on earth and He fled from them, as He Himself knew God's will.

Let all of us seek God's will, that we will not work and do all these "good" things, but in the end find out it was all in vain and not in the will of God.

Janus :-)

**Re: Katz, Israel and the Powers - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/7/15 10:31**

Please, allow the article to develop its main theme. Katz has a clearly defined target. Discussion which brings us out on detours and into blind alleys disrupts and distracts. We wish to drink and eat in peace.  
L. W.

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/7/15 10:36**

Quote:

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Please, allow the article to develop its main theme. Katz has a clearly defined target.  
Discussion which brings us out on detours and into blind alleys disrupts and distracts.  
We wish to drink and eat in peace.  
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Are we not allowed to discuss on this thread?

**Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/7/15 10:40**

Please, dear Ron, allow Mr. Katz to talk for the sake of knowing in which direction the thread is intended. Obstructing themes and treads are quite common. You are not known to create unnecessary diversions, dear Ron.

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/7/15 11:06**

Dear Lars

the whole concept of a 'forum' (or market place) is discussion. If a man lays a false foundation how can I follow the direction the thread will take unless I examine the foundation. As far as the paragraphs posted indicate Art is laying a foundation for his building. Nothing is as important as this foundation. However, the foundation that is being laid has, as far as I can see, no foundation in scripture. The whole concept of territorial spirits is without scriptural justification.

If Art says, 'the Lord has shown me...' I will listen to him as possibly prophetic, but if he 'the Bible says' I will challenge that assertion if I feel it is error.

It is this false understanding of Territorial Spirits that has spawned 'Spiritual Warfare Seminars', 'Prayer Strategists', and many other novelties. I challenge them because I see no foundation for them in the scripture. My simple response to all such evangelical/charismatic trends is To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. (Isa 8:20 KJV)

I have no wish to be a spoiler but I think, as a Christian, I have a responsibility to challenge public declarations that have no basis in scripture.

**Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/7/15 11:26**

Brother Ron,

In a market place one takes a good look at the whole product drawing conclusions when the item is carefully studied.

Neither Art nor I subscribe to the modern general subject of territorial spirits.

I have spent some 20 years in the prayer movement and have studied these concepts carefully – and this is precisely why I do not want to allow this tread or any other which I am involved in to develop along those lines – they bear no fruit.

We have had too many items brought up recently ending in confusion. I do not want this one to be pushed in the same direction.

Lars

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/7/15 12:26**

Quote:

-----In a market place one takes a good look at the whole product drawing conclusions when the item is carefully studied.  
-----

Very well stated brother Lars, but Ron does have a point that things posted in the forums have the possibility of being commented on and that's what brings the extra blessing to putting articles in the forums. Maybe it would be profitable for you to post the rest of the pieces for this subject and allow us to read Mr. Katz through and then give our conjectures if any.

**Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/7/15 12:44**

Dear Friends,

I do not deny anyone the right to comment and discuss. On the contrary. . .

Too many discussions have taken a non-profitable course simply because people cannot wait patiently to hear arguments.

Rather, certain trigger words or sentences pull a mind in a direction which is not implied by the author.

Quoting Ephesians 6:12 or 3:10 does not mean subscribing to certain interpretations.

Perhaps this item by Katz holds a view which provokes the ones who are fond of shouting at principalities and powers.

One never knows.

I will post the rest of the item.

Blessings to all of you. . .

Lars

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/7/15 13:11**

Hello Greg, Lars

Quote:

-----In a market place one takes a good look at the whole product drawing conclusions when the item is carefully studied.  
-----

You misunderstand the word forum. It is the market place not the market process. It is the place of bustle and chat; it is the first century equivalent of the 'water cooler' or 'village pump'.

If this is not your concept I apologise. Every post I have made here has been in this spirit. There are other places on the site for articles and sermons, but I thought the forum was specifically for discussion. My apologies if I have mistaken the purpose of this section of the site.

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/7/15 13:26**

Quote:

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-----

Brother Ron, you have not understood the concept of these discussion forums at all. The articles section is a much needed new development on SermonIndex and Brother Lars has been sharing many articles in the forums because it was the only venue to do this. Yes we should feel free to comment on anything posted on the forums, but if you notice the way Lars posts these topics they are separated into digestible portions, which is good if there is no immediate discussion but as due to the nature of this topic I believe Lars is going to post the rest of the article by Art Katz in succession so we may read the context of the article and discuss appropriately afterwards. But for the record I have appreciated immensely the way brother Lars has showed us truth week after week even though it doesn't fit into conventional marketplace techniques.

:-)

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/7/15 13:47**

Lars do you propose we continue the discussion here or move it to the new thread you created:  
([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id2558&forum34](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id2558&forum34)) Katz; Israel and the Powers (II)

**Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/7/15 13:54**

When time has come, discussion may be taken up where the whole article is displayed.  
I just wanted to bring the article and its profound values away from the comments made in this tread.  
Lars

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/7/15 14:00**

Quote:  
-----When time has come, discussion may be taken up where the whole article is displayed.  
-----

In all due respect brother I think if another brother has any disrpute or vexation of spirit over even a jot or tittle of this article then it is worthy to post the whole thing and work through the article to find out truth. I do not think Art Katz flawless but I do admire the light of Christ in him. I think that the desire for truth demands we not just glibly accept anything out of a man's mouth including Katz who gave that statement once himself. I do not belive that the posts would be marred kept in the confides of this thread. I think it would be profitable that we start to muse over the article as is posted here:  
([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id2558&forum34](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id2558&forum34)) Katz; Israel and the Powers (II) and post our replies in this thread. But not allowing us to see the whole context of the article at once when we have a problem with its contents can leave the mind to wonder in wrong ways and give a person a bad bias for the rest of the article, thats why I adjured you to post the rest in succession.

EDIT: it has been decided due to the nature of the forums that it would be better to have the materials to be commented on in the same thread. If you wish to puruse the material alone you can view it in the articles section:  
(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid5730>) Israel and the Powers by Art Katz

**Re: Katz, Israel and the Powers - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/7/15 14:06**

Israel and the Powers  
Art Katz

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There is a remarkably acute statement in Scripture that shows the depth of the vehement bitterness and opposition of the Powers of darkness toward God's governmental scheme for the end of the age and the ushering in of His millennial kingdom through the restoration of the nation of Israel. It is found in Psalm 2, and it reveals just how ancient and timeless this whole mystery is:  
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The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed:

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The picture given here is that the nations of the world, their kings and rulers, are vexed and foaming at the mouth in indignation. They want to tear apart the cords of the Lord and His Anointed, and do not want to be under His authority. They do not want to have this King rule over them. We need to distinguish between kings and rulers. The kings are the visible, human, earthly magistrates, but who, then, are the rulers? We are suggesting that they are the unseen, invisible spirits of this world, the gods of this world, the Principalities and Powers of the air, who manifest their wisdom through earthly rulers. They operate through the unregenerate ambitions of men, and find ample opportunity to ventilate their hatred, their bitterness, their mentality and their perverse 'wisdom' through those who are susceptible to it and who share those corrupt values. Power, force, intimidation, threat, prestige, dominance and violence are intrinsically the character of the Powers of the air.

What are they, therefore, foaming against? They are not just bemused, irritated, or somewhat piqued; they are in uproar. You do not rage unless your deepest interests are threatened. The vain thing they imagine is that somehow they can reverse the foreordained purposes of God. Even though God has a holy intention of restoring Israel to Himself, to the Land, and making it the locus of His theocratic rule, the Powers of the air still believe they can prevent its fulfillment by annihilating every last Jew.<sup>10</sup> God speaks to them in His anger because they are opposing His millennial intention:

...I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain (verse 6b).

That is His design, and He will do it.

#### The Specificity of God

This is so much the issue of God in His electing whom He will elect. He is God, and if He wants to set His King upon a lowly hill, then that is the statement of who He is as God in His choosing of the weak and foolish thing. If we oppose His purpose and design for Israel, it is not so much Israel that vexes us, but God. Our opposition to Israel is our opposition to God. We are saying that we cannot abide with His sovereignty, His rule, and His choosing of what He determines and elects.

There is something about God being so specific that rubs us raw, especially when it is has to do with someone other than ourselves. If God were to set His King on the hill of Washington, DC, or Geneva, or whatever capital happens to be our own, we would love it. But when it is specifically about another land, particularly the land of a despised people, then our repressed rebellion against God is brought to the surface. Nothing so reveals this stubborn and latent rebellion in us as effectively as this. It finds its ignition over the issue of God's specificity about Israel, but it is a much larger rebellion. To be in rebellion with God over any one thing is to be in rebellion with regard to everything. To take issue with God over the smallest thing means that in that one thing you have exalted yourself above Him and are not under any obligation to agree with Him. What, then, about the other areas where you are agreeing? And on what basis is that agreement? There here is one thing that betrays the whole thing, and the issue of Israel is remarkably that one thing!

In order to see the issue of Israel in this context, we need to know that there is a cosmic struggle between two value systems: the gods of this world and the God of creation. God calls us as the Church to a battle with the Powers of darkness over the whole issue of which wisdom will prevail over His creation. We are entering the last of this struggle, and the sparks will fly fiercely right up until the last resolution. There are only two kinds of wisdom or moral systems in the earth: the wisdom of the gods of this world versus the wisdom of God. The former is predicated upon power, force, violence, threat, prestige, ambition, lust, fear and intimidation, while the other is predicated on weakness and foolishness. Wherever on earth a congregation of God's people are free from the influence of the Powers of the air, that congregation is on the way to liberating those in that locality who are bound. It is not our 'shouting down the Devil' or 'taking cities for God' that will affect our localities. But where there is a visible evidence of freedom from the influence of these same Powers in a fearless people, who cannot be intimidated or threatened, it is precisely from there that the Devil is required to flee.

#### The Eternal Purpose of the Church

Paul is now going to reveal the heart of the mystery of the Church and its purpose for being in relation to the Powers and Principalities of the air. It is the same mystery as the mystery of Israel spoken of in Romans 11, insofar as the fulfillment of the one is also the fulfillment of the other.

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities

in the heavenly places (Eph. 3:8-10).

There is nothing in the world that can fit us to understand these verses. In fact, everything in the world is calculated to keep us from the understanding of them. God is at odds with every rationalistic and conventional understanding of life, its purpose and meaning. Unless we comprehend this foundational premise, we will never grasp God's purpose for the Church. We will limit our view of the Church to some kind of Sunday addendum, some kind of institutional function that has for its essential purpose ourselves, rather than God and His purpose. This would be a lamentable, if not fatal mistake. We are not true church until God's purposes for it have the central place of consideration in our consciousness. If we are rooted in the immediate, rooted in our needs<sup>11</sup> and in the visible and temporal, we will remain fixated at another and lesser level. We need to apprehend the unseen and eternal that alone are calculated to free us from the bondage of narrow self-interest. God knows that if we are not occupied with something that is beyond this age, then we would be come so rooted in this age as to be null and void, both for this age and the age to come.

To Whom are the Mysteries Given?

Paul talks about the mysteries of the faith that were given to him to administer, having been withheld up till that point. We need to have a proper attitude toward the mysteries of God; a sense of reverence and appreciation, and a desire that they be unveiled and revealed. It is a revealing and unveiling of God Himself that changes everything. God is jealous over His own mysteries, and He is not going to allow them to be mishandled, trifled with, or rudely examined by those who do not have a right disposition of spirit for them. Paul is not interested in promulgating a mystery in order that we should have our curiosity gratified, but in order that the mystery might be administered and effectually fulfilled through the Church. The mysteries of God are given to those who will embrace them. If we fail to embrace them, we will be unfitted to be the Church in its full apostolic character that alone is able to fulfill these mysteries. Mysteries, already given, need to be recovered and propounded by holy apostles and prophets, and the understanding of them must necessarily come to us through them. We are therefore compelled to consider as extant apostles and prophets in our own generation, and to desire and anticipate them, because pseudo-aspirants are already seeking to fill that void.<sup>12</sup>

When Paul speaks of being the least of all the apostles, he is not playing on words in a kind of false humility. This is Paul as he really saw himself, and as God saw him, and because he saw himself as the least, he was given, therefore, the most. God will not give His mysteries to self-assertive and ambitious people who would use them to further their own religious career and the recognition of men. This is the Paul who saw himself as the least of all saints, not just then, but throughout his entire apostolic career. The test of the maturity of a believer is that the longer he goes on with God and the more deeply he understands God's way and is brought into the reality of His mysteries and call, the more he is aware of his own nothingness.

God has reserved something that can only be performed through the Church, a demonstration of a certain magnitude that is not even to be performed for the world or in the world. It is not, essentially, evangelizing or being a witness to the nations. This purpose is beyond and more ultimate than that. It is cosmic, and has to do with something that is beyond the earth, and occupies all the ages to come. It is something that delights God, and He has created all things in order that this should take place. It has absolutely nothing to do with our success or well being, or any of those things with which we are so occupied. It is totally irrelevant to the practicalities of our daily life, and yet our daily life will suffer in exact proportion as we are indifferent to the eternal purpose of God. Is that not precisely why we have problems in our daily life? Are we not suffocated and taken up with a myopic concentration upon ourselves? Are we not more concerned for the health and well-being of our congregations? How many of us realize just how much we are rooted in an egocentric Christendom?

Ironically, we will never be saved from sins, lusts and the distractions of the world until our souls are occupied with God's purpose for our salvation. The only thing that will liberate us is to be taken up with the eternal purposes of God in Christ Jesus. Nothing else has the power to counter the pull of the world with its seemingly mundane and legitimate things. Good, respectable and conventional things have a way of occupying us beyond normal bounds. A preoccupation with God's eternal purposes is divinely intended as a way of countering and breaking that power.

To take this eternal mandate seriously is to alert the Principalities and Powers that we have now become something for them to dread. From then on, they are required to regard us with a certain terror of apprehension and fear with which we were not regarded before (Acts 19:15). Let them see a people who are earnest for the eternal purposes of God, and there is a war on in the heavenlies that we will encounter and feel. At the same time, this very opposition is part of God's very process for maturity to prepare us for the age to come.

The Manifold Wisdom of God

These verses in Ephesians chapter 2 hint at a primeval, cosmic conflict between the God of Light and the Powers of darkness that preceded even the creation of the world. It is a struggle between two value systems. It is so enormous in God's sight that He did not think it too extravagant to create all things in order that this drama could be played out. The world was created to support an entity called the Church that would bring this conflict to its final conclusion by something that it alone can demonstrate, namely, the manifold wisdom of God. It is a demonstration important to God, but which do

es not seem to have any immediate relevance to our daily existence, not even to show off to the world what the Church is. The Church is not called to solve the world's problems, or to make people happier. This demonstration has got nothing to do with any benefit for mankind that we can observe with our senses.

In fact, this wisdom is not to be demonstrated to the world, but to the invisible spirit realm of the Powers of the air. In other words, this mystery has nothing to do with anything that we can recognize as being apparently valid or important for the Church. Rather, there is something here that pleases God: a calculated demonstration to an invisible angelic order, which must be made exclusively through the Church, and it must be a manifestation of His wisdom. It is totally other than anything that we might have understood to be the purpose for the Church's being. God does not tell us why He wants that demonstration, but it is important to Him, therefore we do not need to know anything more than that. We do not need to have an explanation, nor is God obligated to give us one, or we would be, by that insistence, on the adversary's moral ground.

The wisdom of this world is predicated on practicality, namely, "What is in it for me? What benefit do I gain by believing?" God wants another wisdom to defeat that wisdom through a people who will give their lives for something that has no immediate or practical relevance or consequence for themselves; a demonstration of another wisdom that is heavenly. It is a magnanimity that frees us from self-interest. It gives us a motive for being and for doing in things that are outside ourselves. The world's system does not believe you can do it. They want to bring you into their vortex and make you march by their beat: "You have got to take care of number one. Be practical! After all, what about your responsibility? What about your children? Why leave your profession and thrust your family into insecurity and risk because you think God is calling you? If you do not take care of yourself, then who will? Self-preservation is the law of life. Don't get absurd and radical about it. Do what is required to preserve your life, to advance it and to promote it. And in the last analysis, if you have to use a shady thing or two, or even employ a threat or an inducement, well, that is the way the world goes." It has all the trappings of sound, conventional wisdom, but however seemingly persuasive and enticing, it is yet the voice of the world!

#### To Him be Glory in the Church

We have been brainwashed and have consciously or unconsciously accepted the world's definition of Church, for which we receive their tax-deductible accommodation. They give it because they want us to agree that the Church is only a social institution serving human need. This is an absolutely perverse definition of what the Church is. Serving human need is incidental. Its whole purpose is to serve Divine need and to glorify God, and there is no other agency given in the earth whereby that glory is to be obtained than the Church:

To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen (Eph. 3:21).

A fellowship that has lost the meaning of the word "glory" has voided itself as church. If the purpose of church is that God might be glorified throughout all generations forever and ever, and if we ourselves have lost the sense of what that glory is, then what are we about? Glory is not just a fanciful word. God intended His glory to be normative, a radiance to permeate His creation. There is a whole world that does not know what glory is, but God has so calculated it that there is only one means by which His glory is to find entry into the earth and be made known, namely, through the Church. A fellowship that has already opted for programs and for things that will only serve the needs of its congregation has, by that very means, disqualified itself from being the agency through which God's purposes can be fulfilled. And if we miss the glory, we resign ourselves to becoming merely institutional. We will find ourselves accommodating to men and their human need, but we will have missed their greatest need, namely, to make the glory of God known. We shall never come to kingdom righteousness so long as our need is the predicate of our lives, the hub and pivot around which all things turn. We will never come to sanity and wholeness, nor will we ever come to the end of all our deliverance and inner-healing ministries so long as our real sickness is our self-centeredness.

To come into the eternal purpose of God will ruin us for church programs and the various other kinds of things we think we need in order to pacify those in the pew. Even to have programs is a statement that the fellowship has lost this apostolic view, and like the world, it has got to make available services and benefits to hold the attention of its congregants.

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord (Eph. 3:11).

What kind of a fellowship can there be that does not make as its first priority the taking to itself God's eternal purpose? A fellowship that does not live for the eternal purpose of God is not living. It is hardly more than a succession of services. It has lost, if indeed it ever had, this vital perspective as the reason for its being. A congregation that has been gripped or apprehended by this understanding cannot possibly have boring services. In fact, are we truly saved unless we have been fully apprehended by the purposes for our salvation? We are in an unbroken continuum with those who have embraced the purposes of God, for which reason they were hacked to death, tortured, murdered and butchered in a kind of satanic fury that seeks to nullify this ultimate intention of God through the Church. That is why there are so few who want to hear the call of God, because God calls us, not to our own purposes, but to His costly ones.

#### The Two Wisdoms

Wisdom does not mean what we would ordinarily think it to mean. It is not wise sayings, but more like a value system.



As noted, the wisdom of the gods of this world is a system predicated on force, violence, threat, fear, ambition, lust, intimidation and the terror of men to preserve themselves and to make their own survival the first law of life. It is the unchallenged premise by which the world lives its life, namely, the avoidance of pain and the pursuit of pleasure. The world makes that the foremost principle of being. The ability to lay down one's life and not to consider one's life as dear to oneself is the wisdom of God and is predicated on contemptible weakness and foolishness. The one wisdom lives for itself, its own preservation and its own advantages, while God's wisdom lives for another; it is selfless. It is the wisdom of the Son of God who never initiated anything in Himself, or for Himself, but lived entirely for the gratification of His Father. This is contrary to human nature and how we think we have to live. Anything that is resolved through violence is the wisdom of this world. That is the way the world has lived its life throughout history. God's wisdom is to relinquish, to give up, to yield and to believe that there is something greater than death and, by that, not to fear death. It is a wisdom that is centered in the Cross of Christ Jesus, namely, to serve and glorify Him. We will know that we have aligned ourselves with God when we constitute a threat to the realm of spirit Powers that brood over us. The overcomers of the end of the age are not those who avoid pain and pursue pleasure, but who overcome, ...because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death (Rev. 12:11b).

The world cannot bear this kind of wisdom. The only one who can live like that truly is one who does not think that this life is the whole story, and who realizes that there is a life beyond this life for which this life is preparation. There is an eternity, and it is the true appreciation of that reality that enables us to be fearless in this life. If we suffer the loss of our life, we are fully persuaded that it is not mere happenstance or accident, but ordained of God, and that there will be eternal reward for that sacrifice and suffering.

#### Defeating the Powers

If we ourselves are insecure, fearful, jealously guarding our lives, afraid to take the risks of faith, playing it safe, then the Powers of the air are not required to acknowledge us at all. They are only impressed with the same thing they saw in both Jesus and Paul, namely, apostolic authenticity. They have only one incumbent requirement, and that is to recognize that which is authentic, namely, of God and like God, as authentic as He Himself is. God is wanting authenticity (a synonym for apostolic) in His people: heavenliness, truth, unfeigned love and all the gritty things that are so painful to obtain. We all are the products of a devious civilization that majors in appearances and outward things, but where the Powers see the truth of God in the life of His people, they will retreat. They know whom to fear and whom to acknowledge. We cannot defeat them by turning up the amplifiers in our worship, or by shouting them down. It is not noise that impresses them, but character. It is the truth of life where we really live, not the brave show that we put on when we think we 'have it all together.' They have got to see in our conduct and character the visible evidence of our freedom from the influence of the Powers.

The wisdom of God was superbly demonstrated at the Cross when the supreme Son of God relinquished the right to His own life and gave it up by the Eternal Spirit, the Spirit of sacrifice, without spot and without blemish unto God, without complaint and without answering His mockers back. He was as a lamb who went silently to the slaughter. He was goaded by His own people to come down from the Cross before they would believe Him. He suffered that anguish for others while at the same time hearing their taunts and mocks, when anything that is left in a person that has to do with self-justification and self-vindication would rise up and say, "You fools! I am doing this for you! Don't you understand?" But, instead, He says, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Another wisdom was expressed, contrary to the logic that the agonizing moment would have justified.

It was at the Cross that two systems of wisdom collided. God's wisdom does not seek for itself, but does the Father's bidding, even unto death. Jesus would not speak His own words, or do His own thing, though He was supremely capable in Himself of doing anything He pleased. He fully absorbed the fury of the Powers of darkness, who wanted to utterly destroy Him, and thought that by doing so, they would obliterate the threat that He represented to their kingdom. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Col. 2:15).

At the Cross, Jesus disarmed and brought a foundational and devastating setback to the Powers of the air by demonstrating the self-sacrificing wisdom of God. The Powers of the air exhibited their wisdom: threat, intimidation, and the use of force and violence, in order to get Jesus to react in kind, and to rail against those who were railing against Him, but Jesus demonstrated something consistently unto death by voluntarily bearing the worst that they could inflict. Wisdom is not something that is only vocally expressed; it has got to be demonstrated in life. Ultimate malignity met ultimate magnanimity, the ultimate graciousness of God, the forbearance of God, the humility of God and the forgiveness of God. Meekness triumphed over viciousness. It is the same demonstration that will again make God eternally vindicated, but this time through the Church, for which reason He has created all things.

The Powers thought they had won because they had brought Jesus into death, but Jesus bore that death in a way that revealed the wisdom of God, and that defeated them. If force cannot compel a man to react in kind, what else can they use? If they cannot manipulate us to be like them and to protect our carnal and bodily lives, and cry out and compromise

and do anything to stay alive, then they have no more power over us. We have defeated them, because the worst that they can do has come upon us, and we have stood and remained faithful to God, and exhibited the character of God in that very suffering.

If the Powers of this world had only known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:8). They did not realize that by imposing their full wisdom, which is predicated upon force and destruction, they were releasing a resurrection and a Life that would billow out over mankind throughout all generations, and would bring the final triumph of God and the raising of the dead. It set in motion the very things that would establish His throne, in the very city where He was put to death. Through His death, and out of His rent side, would be birthed a Church. The Holy Spirit would be poured out from the Throne of God that would give an enablement to the Church to fulfill its mandate and commission of ushering in His millennial glory and Kingdom upon the throne of David. The Powers suffered a severe setback with the crucifixion of Jesus when He made an open spoil of them and took the keys of death and of Hell. He disarmed them, but He did not inflict the final defeat. Their final defeat remains to be fulfilled by the Church in the mystery of God.

#### A Corporate Demonstration

We are coming to the end of the age, and the magnitude of this eternal purpose and demonstration is of such a kind that it cannot be made by mere individuals alone. It is for the Church in its entirety, because the Church is the Church only in its corporate make up and in all of the diversity of what constitutes it. We are in something together, both the minister and the housewife, and we need to be consciously aware of that, and to prepare ourselves for the final conclusion of this mystery. It requires a people freed from the influence of the Powers of the air; a people who are not insecure, fearful, and living for themselves, who are gloriously freed from mammon, who are indifferent to shopping malls, who can have their car crunched in an accident and walk away smiling, who can suffer affliction and inexplicable things without becoming undone. They are those who can receive the stripping of their earthly goods with joy, knowing that they have in heaven a more enduring substance (Heb. 10:34).

In fact, the only people who can fulfill this mystery are those who would be strangers, pilgrims and sojourners in the earth. They have risen above and beyond their national culture. They are not fearful, but gloriously free from intimidation and threat. They know that their security is not from the Government or from their employer, but from God. And if that should dry up, the Lord has alternative sources, and if it pleases Him not to provide for them, then they will prefer to die in faith rather than that they should subsist and prolong their bodily life by initiating some course of action out of themselves. When Elijah was at the brook Cherith, being fed by ravens in a drought that had been occasioned by his own word of judgment, you have a man submitted to the wisdom of God. It says that he watched the brook dry up, but he did not allow the visibly decreasing water supply, which is life, to affect or determine his next move. He was not moved by things external or seen, but by the word of God only. Imagine an entire fellowship like that! Jews will be coming to us in their most ungainly condition, frothing at the mouth, having been suddenly uprooted from their places of security and affluence, and find themselves in threat of death, pushed, prodded and driven through places they never would have chosen. It will be an ultimate test for the Church. There must be a people on the earth in the Last Days that are not moved by circumstances, or by dwindling streams of supply, but only by the word of God, for that is the greater wisdom. It is a people who are free from fear, who, like Job, will yet trust God, though He may allow them to be slain (Job 13:15).

Let the Church become an apostolic entity and a forerunner to a kingdom that will displace the Powers of this world, and you will see the world take off its mask and come at it with gnashing teeth. Unless we get this into our spirits and understand the cosmic proportion of the Last Days' struggle between kingdoms and wisdoms, we will not understand how Israel has a place in this and why the Powers of darkness are intent upon Israel's destruction. So long as Israel exists on the face of the earth, they are a statement of God's intention to establish His rule over His own creation, which rule has come under the influence of the Powers since Adam's fall.

If there shall ever be a kingdom of God upon this earth, then it must of necessity be the kingdom promised to Israel upon the throne of David. God is a God who keeps His promises. The Powers of darkness know better than the Church what God's scheme is. They see the restoration of Jews to their God and to their Land as a threat. They will seek, therefore, to eliminate that threat through the instrument of death, their wisdom. That is why we are going to see a relentless pursuit of the Jew in the Last Days: hatred, prejudice, escalating anti-Semitic fury, skinheads and neo-Nazis. As in the Nazi era, this phenomenon will become increasingly prominent. Having its origin amongst the gutter elements of Germany, it was not long before it took possession of the whole nation, and if it could happen in Germany, how then shall any nation be able to withstand it when that demonic power shall be released and allowed by God, with a fury poured out (Ezek. 20:33-34)?

This is the final showdown. The Powers of darkness are not going to give up and let go of the vested interests they have enjoyed undisputed since time immemorial. They intimidated and manipulated the German people in a space of less than a decade. Who will be able to stand in opposition to a system of government when it becomes totally captive to the demonic, and makes anti-Semitism a principle of its rule? It will be the Beast system prevailing over the world. How else can we understand that all nations shall come against Jerusalem to destroy it? The only reason that any of Israel will survive that Last Days' bitter fury is because of the mercy shown to them by Gentiles, who have received their covenant

t mercies, or those same Jews would have perished.

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/7/15 14:16**

Thank you Lars for posting this I have gotten it up in the Articles section for reference so that people can see it alone and also print it out: (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?viewarticle&aid5730>) Israel and the Powers by Art Katz.

**Re: a rebutal of Art Katz' Israel and the Powers - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/7/15 15:29**

Quote:

-----There is an invisible realm over the nations and over every locality occupied by an order of fallen, rebellious angels.  
-----

This statement has no basis in scripture and is fundamental to the development of Art's reasoning here. This is either speculation or extra-biblical revelation and if it is either the rest of the article is a without biblical foundation.

Quote:

----- They have influenced, and continue to influence, the course of history in nations, races and men. The genocidal horrors that are taking place worldwide have their source and origin in the influence that is being exerted by these angelic Powers through men on the earth, though mankind is unaware that they are being played upon and enslaved.  
-----

If man is unaware that he is being played upon and enslaved is he culpable? If Hitler was the unwilling dupe of wicked spirits, is he to be blamed for his atrocities? This is more extra-biblical revelation. A reader may agree with Art in this, but that reader should understand that this belief has no biblical basis; it is either speculation or extra-biblical revelation. The almost indescribable wickedness of men has its source in Original Sin and our own choices to follow those desires which result in sins. God has provided a remedy for both Sins and sin and their effect upon men and women. The great cry is 'repent' not 'be delivered'.

Quote:

-----These angels were created and endowed by God with gifts in order to administer His creation and to preserve a certain order and structure of it in a way that would be conducive to God's eternal purpose. In their rebellion, however, they are using the role and offices that were given them to turn the attention of men away from God.  
-----

This is simply building a second course of the false foundation. It supposes that the first paragraph is true. If it isn't this has nowhere to stand.

Quote:

----- The kings are the visible, human, earthly magistrates, but who, then, are the rulers? We are suggesting that they are the unseen, invisible spirits of this world, the gods of this world, the Principalities and Powers of the air, who manifest their wisdom through earthly rulers.  
-----

I am happier with 'suggestions' than with the categoric dogmatics of the first paragraph but this is almost certainly simply Hebrew parallelism.

Quote:

----- There is something about God being so specific that rubs us raw, especially when it has to do with someone other than ourselves. If God were to set His King on the hill of Washington, DC, or Geneva, or whatever capital happens to be our own, we would love it. But when it is specifically about another land, particularly the land of a despised people, then our repressed rebellion against God is brought to the surface. Nothing so reveals this stubborn and latent rebellion in us as effectively as this. It finds its ignition over the issue of God's specificity about Israel  
-----

This is the outworking of Art's eschatological convictions that God has unfinished business with the nation state of Israel. The New Testament has no interest in nation-states whether they are Israeli, Palestinian, American or British. Art has strong convictions about the way that 'gentile' Christians should behave towards Jews. To say that the idea of a King in Jerusalem inflamed the kings and rulers of world is speculation arising from Art's preconceptions of the future.

Quote:

----- God calls us as the Church to a battle with the Powers of darkness over the whole issue of which wisdom will prevail over His creation. We are entering the last of this struggle, and the sparks will fly fiercely right up until the last resolution.

-----  
No He doesn't. He reveals the fact that the church is already wrestling with the powers of darkness. In Ephesians we are told that the battle is already in progress and that we are to be fully equipped with the armour of God's provision for that battle; so that we may stand (not battle).

Quote:  
----- Wherever on earth a congregation of God's people are free from the influence of the Powers of the air, that congregation is on the way to liberating those in that locality who are bound. It is not our 'shouting down the Devil' or 'taking cities for God' that will affect our localities. But where there is a visible evidence of freedom from the influence of these same Powers in a fearless people, who cannot be intimidated or threatened, it is precisely from there that the Devil is required to flee.

-----  
This is more of the same. The original concept of territorial spirits is now extended to create a local church with territorial boundaries. This is speculation or extra-biblical revelation.

I will not try our readers patience more than this, but I believe this whole thesis is mistaken. It begins wrongly and develops wrong conclusions based on its wrong foundations. My first meeting with Art Katz was in my own home almost 25 years ago, and my last meeting was in my local church here in Reading about 5 years ago. He is a man of absolute honesty and integrity. He is completely abandoned to Christ and His kingdom. In all his character I love and commend him; in his theology I cannot.

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/7/15 15:50**

Quote:  
-----My first meeting with Art Katz was in my own home almost 25 years ago, and my last meeting was in my local church here in Reading about 5 years ago. He is a man of absolute honesty and integrity. He is completely abandoned to Christ and His kingdom. In all his character I love and commend him; in his theology I cannot.

-----  
Just to clarify you would mean his theology on this specific point of 'territorial spirits?'. I am in agreement with many things that Art Katz says in most of his audio sermons and other books and articles. Personally I do not have personal convictions on this topic simply because it has really not aroused in my mind and spiritual thinking as a topic worthy of delving into in front of others. Firstly I don't see the Apostle Paul praying against spirits controlling Jerusalem etc.. Also in the New Testament there is not a huge emphasis if any on this sort of topic. I will take my time reading the article and looking at the points you disagreed brother Ron, this should prove an interesting study.. possibly we can find more scripture that pertains to this topic.

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/7/15 16:10**

Quote:  
-----Just to clarify you would mean his theology on this specific point of 'territorial spirits?'.  
-----

I have several points of difference with Art's theology; this thesis has to do with Israel and the Powers and I am likely to have more disagreements with him here than with most other areas.

Quote:  
-----possibly we can find more scripture that pertains to this topic.  
-----

Good luck! ;-)

**Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/7/15 16:14**

Quote:  
-----Good luck!  
-----

hehe there is no thing as luck at least not in my theology.. perhaps that's another subject 8-)

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/7/15 16:20  
nor mine, I was only teasing.