

# THE NON-PROPHET'S GUIDE™ TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE

TODD HAMPSON



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*Dedicated to Pastor Keith Koch and Jeff Girdler—  
my first pastor and small group leader. I was blessed to have both of you  
as spiritual mentors at a critical time in my walk with the Lord.  
Along with your wives, Linda and Barb, you have influenced my life,  
marriage, children, and ministry more than you know.  
Thank you for your steadfast examples and your  
faithful dedication to the Lord.*

## **The Non-Prophet's Guide™ to Spiritual Warfare**

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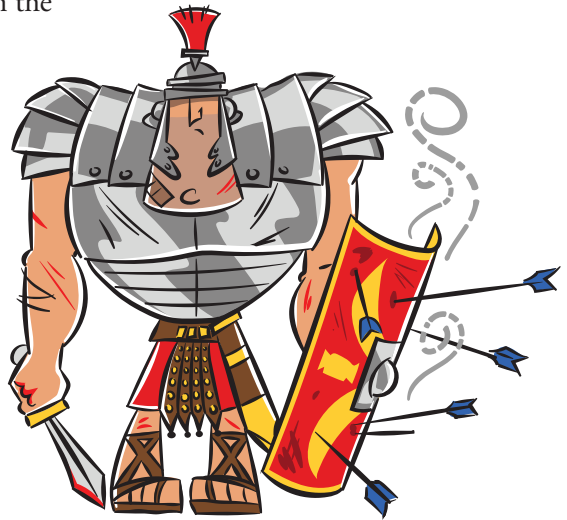
# INTRODUCTION

## Are You Prepared?

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;  
I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full.*

JOHN 10:10

The Roman soldier stood there exhausted. Four hours of organized formation battle tactics followed by some intense hand-to-hand combat in the dusty summer sun had tested his training and equipment to the limit. With a pause in the action he could assess his wounds and equipment. He knew he was wounded, but the pain from the cut on his lower leg hadn't fully set in. The bleeding had stopped, but the stinging sensation from the gash began to grow as his adrenaline subsided. It's nothing he hadn't felt during his training and in previous battles. The lone wound—a testament to the effectiveness of his armor—would heal fully within a few weeks.



With wound assessment complete, he turned his attention to his equipment. There were a few holes in his shield from the arrows. He would have to repair

those right away. Aside from that, he noticed a few fresh dents in his helmet, a scuff on his breastplate, a damaged section of his sword blade that would need sharpening, a few new marks on the protective leather straps that hung from his thick belt, and some bloodstains on his sandal straps resulting from the wound on his leg. Other than that, his equipment would just need a fresh polish before the victory parade when he returned home. Thoughts of that briefly flood his emotions. But his mental toughness kicked in as he reminded himself that there were still more battles to fight before that victorious event became a reality. Now to find a fresh water supply and some shade to rest in and repair his equipment before the next battle...

Think for a moment about your most vivid competitive or physically demanding experience. Perhaps it was a cross-country running event, football game, basketball game, band competition, academic bowl, swim meet, or snowboarding competition. These and a thousand other possibilities come to mind,

but insert your experience into the blank space. Now, think about the equipment or uniform required for that activity and how you felt as you warmed up for the event. Each piece had a purpose.

Maybe it was lacing up your cleats, sliding shin guards into your socks, strapping on a bass drum, or warming up your vocals. Whatever the competition or activity, there was a psychological process of getting into the zone—preparing yourself mentally, and might I say spiritually, to step into the fray. For me it was boxing. There's something about the process of putting on your handwraps, gloving up, sliding on your headgear, slapping some grease on your nose, and putting in your



mouthpiece that mentally prepares you for the moment when you step between the ropes.

This is analogous to the picture Paul paints for us in Ephesians chapter 6, where he provides instructions for the believer about how to put on spiritual armor. Whether you realize it or not, you are in the middle of a cosmic spiritual war at this very moment and you need spiritual protection. In Ephesians 6:12, the word Paul uses to describe our spiritual struggle is the Greek word *palē*, which refers to close hand-to-hand combat. When we fight spiritual battles, they are close, intense, dangerous—in our face.

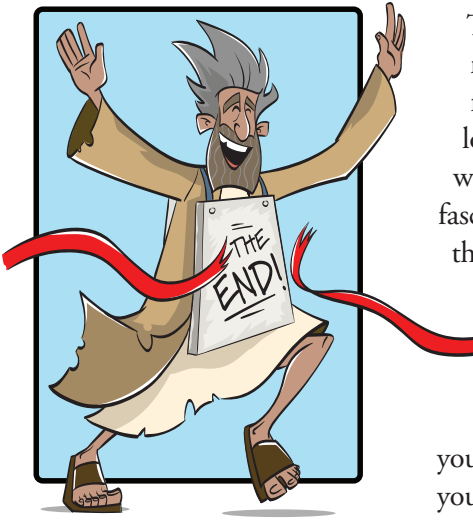
We have a very real enemy who comes at us with all the trickery of the fallen world, fallen humanity, and evil forces in the unseen realm. If that weren't enough, our own fallenness is leveraged against us. Our sin nature is real. It is in our DNA from conception. It's the enemy within. Without God's help we are toast. But Paul gives us some clear marching orders and practical insights about successfully contending “against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms,” as the rest of verse 12 informs us.

For us as believers, the enemy has no ultimate power against us, yet he still does his level best to “steal and kill and destroy,” as John 10:10 reveals. So when did this fight start? Why did it start? Who are the players? And why are we caught in the middle?

There exists much misinformation about spiritual warfare. Pop culture paints angels as fat harp-playing babies or winged blond-haired men and women. On the flip side, fallen angels are portrayed in media a thousand different ways—as long as each film or show can scare the audience worse than the previous one.

Because of these and other reasons, the topic of spiritual warfare is confusing, elusive, and scary to many people. Where can we find truth? The good news is that a careful study of Scripture reveals much more information about these matters than one might realize.





The Bible also gives us clear and practical marching orders as believers. I'm excited for you to join me on this adventure as we look at the history and roots of spiritual warfare, its progression through the ages, fascinating details the Bible reveals about the topic, and how spiritual warfare directly affects you and me every day.

You may feel weary, worn out, fearful, or confused as you view the world around us and as you fight your personal battles each day. Read on and you'll discover the secrets to fighting successfully and finishing strong. God equips us to stand firm until the final bell has rung. And

when the battle is over, it will all be worth it as we hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:23).

But between that moment and where you stand right now lie many battles to be fought. If you and I apply what God's Word shares, we can emerge as over-coming victors with the help of the Lord. Let the training begin!







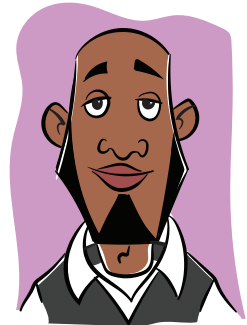
THE NON-PROPHET

## The Non-Prophet

He's a Renaissance man. The ultimate throwback. The Non-Prophet is a 501(c)(3) that seems to have been born in 501 BC. He prefers the clothing, speech, food, facial grooming (or lack thereof), and customs of an archetypical Old Testament prophet living in twenty-first century America. He misunderstands Bible prophecy and gives well-meaning but poor advice. The Non-Prophet is also not very wise with money, so he's a Non-Prophet on two levels. He's the epitome of the idiom "a day late and a dollar short."

## Stuart Dent (Student)

Stuart Dent, aka "Stu" (to his family) or "Dent" to most of his friends. Stu Dent is a veteran and is now enrolled in seminary. A mentor led him to the Lord during his time of service and now God has called him to prepare for full-time ministry. Stu just registered for classes on angelology and spiritual warfare so he's doing a bit of early study. He assumes by the Non-Prophet's garb that his prophetic-looking friend is a wise sage who can help him get up to speed on the topics at hand. Fortunately for Stu, his own discernment and intelligence help him learn about the topic accurately despite the Non-Prophet's faulty teaching.



STUART "STU" DENT



DEE SIPEL

## Dee Sipel (Disciple)

Dee is a friend of Dent's from the Bible college. They met the previous semester and realized they both have a passion for theology and ministry. Dee notices small details and loves wrestling with concepts until she can see how it all fits together. This aspect of her personality and gifting makes sense because Dee works as a crime-scene investigator. She attends Bible college part time and plans to get a degree in Christian apologetics.

**SECTION 1:**

**UNDERSTANDING  
THE BATTLE**

# CHAPTER

# 1

## Pre-Genesis History

*Your throne was established long ago;  
you are from all eternity.*

PSALM 93:2



Lawrence Peter Berra was born in St. Louis, Missouri on May 12, 1925. He died on September 22, 2015 after playing 19 seasons (all but the last four with the New York Yankees) of Major League Baseball and spending many more years as a manager and coach.

“Yogi” Berra, as he was nicknamed, was famous for many things related to baseball, not the least of which were his world-famous statements that came to be

known as *Yogi-Berraisms*. His comical and perfectly timed paradoxical quips frequently appeared as sports news headlines.

Here are five of my personal favorites:

“It ain’t over till it’s over.”

“It’s like déjà vu all over again.”

“A nickel ain’t worth a dime anymore.”

“We made too many wrong mistakes.”

“The future ain’t what it used to be.”<sup>1</sup>

At this point you may be wondering what Yogi Berra quotes have to do with spiritual warfare. Well, I bring these up because it seems a good place to start this study of spiritual warfare sounds a bit like a Yogi-Berraism. In order to properly understand the very real environment of spiritual warfare in which you and I live today, a great place for us to begin is... before the beginning.



YOGI BERRA

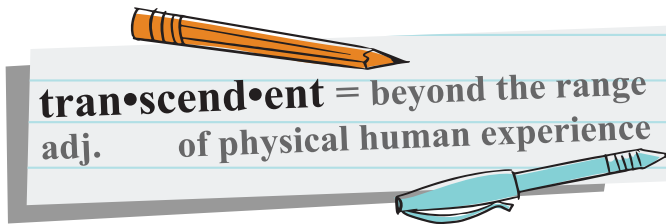
## Before the Beginning—Eternity Past

Before the creation of time, space, and matter, God was. God has always existed. He is the great “I AM” (Exodus 3:14). We can’t fully wrap our minds around this fact, but that is a good thing because we are not God. Even from a logical and philosophical standpoint, humans intuitively understand God’s eternal nature and power must exist. Logically, there has to have been a first cause of everything that exists in our space-time continuum. This is known as the *cosmological argument*.

Romans 1:20—Since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

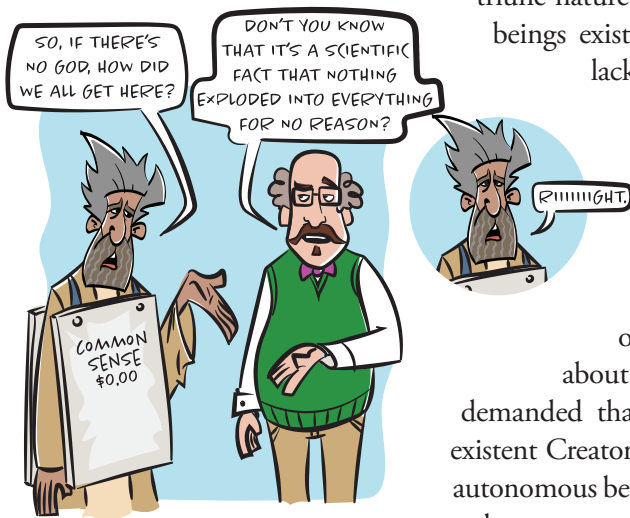
In my book *The Non-Prophet's Guide™ to the End Times*, I wrote at length about the nature of God and demonstrated how he is outside of time. In chapter 2 of that book I wrote, “We’re ‘stuck’ in time, which we experience linearly, but God by his very nature is outside of time. He created it; therefore, he transcends it. To God, time is more like an object than a chronological experience.”<sup>2</sup>

To God, space, matter, and time (and everything within them) are things he beholds at one glance—similar to how a person can view all the activity in a handheld ant farm with clear plastic panels. God sees everything simultaneously. Nothing is hidden from his view and nothing happens outside of his sovereign design. Not a single atom, planck length (smallest unit of space), or planck time (smallest unit of time) is out of his control. He is completely transcendent and sovereign.



With that understanding it is also important to note here that the Trinity—the three persons that comprise God as revealed in Scripture via the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—existed in perfect fellowship from eternity past. The idea of a three-in-one monotheistic and self-existent God is a great mystery to us—as is the nature of a timeless eternity past. Yet logic demands that something or someone has existed from eternity past. If anything exists, then something or someone has always had to exist. Something can’t come from nothing.

Once again, that may sound a bit like a Yogi Berra quote. But, even atheists—who believe the big bang exploded a subatomic “singularity” into 100 billion galaxies stretching 93 billion light-years in diameter—can’t answer the philosophical question regarding where that “singularity” came from or what initially triggered it. Their cosmology—when pushed—does not answer the fundamental questions about the existence of space, time, and matter, or the fixed rules that govern them.



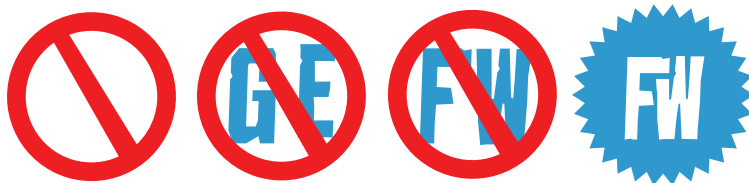
One thing we learn from the self-existent triune nature of God is that before any beings existed, he was not lonely or lacking relationship. He is eternally complete in himself.

In eternity past, he was perfectly content, living in perfect unity and fellowship with himself—in need of nothing. Yet something about his nature and perfection demanded that at some point the self-existent Creator would create other moral autonomous beings—first the angels, then we humans.

## Why Did God Allow Evil to Exist?

Sticking with our Yogi Berra theme, I'd like to pose the question this way: Why did God make any bad good stuff? In other words, why would he even allow for the possibility of evil? God could have done one of four things. He had the choice to:

1. create nothing;
2. create a universe with no possibility of good or evil;
3. create beings with no free will (eliminating the ability to choose good or evil), or;
4. create beings with the capacity of free will.



The final option is the only choice that allows for love because love requires having the freedom to choose. As 1 John 4:8 tells us, God is love. Love can only be expressed if there is a real choice to exhibit it. Love can only be expressed through real sacrifice—logically necessary for putting the needs of others above our own. The essence of God’s nature is love. This, I believe, is the central reason why God created the universe, and it is why he created moral agents with freewill—first the angels, then humans.

That gives us the answer to the question that can be answered by the four possibilities listed above: If God never created other beings, love could not be expressed. If God created the universe with no possibility of good and evil, love could not be expressed. If God created cookie-cutter robots that were preprogrammed to obey, love could not be expressed. But if God created moral beings with the freedom to choose, God’s nature could be demonstrated through their free-choice actions and ultimately through the sacrificial love *he* would personally have to demonstrate.

John 3:16—God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

## When Were Angels Created?

Now that we’ve answered the *why* question, let’s ask the *when* question. To find the answer, we must look to God’s revealed Word. We understand from Job 38:7 (where angels shouted for joy as they observed creation) that God produced the angels before he created the world. Whether this was hours before or millennia before, we do not know. We have some evidence that this may have occurred relatively close to the creation of mankind. Hebrews 1:14 asks the rhetorical question, “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” If this is their main function, perhaps it makes sense that they would have been created close to the time frame when mankind was created, although we can’t be dogmatic about this. Supporting this idea further is the fact that, in Scripture, *angel* means “messenger.” Who would they be messengers or ministering spirits to if not humans?

*Job 38:4-7—Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?*

## Creation: Foundations Attacked

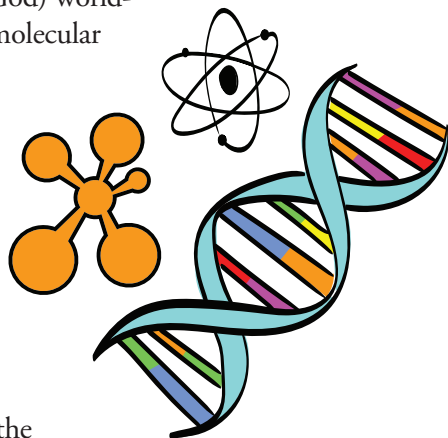
Although this chapter concerns pre-Genesis history, for us to understand evil and spiritual warfare, it's necessary for us to look at the Bible's account of origins to show (in the next chapter) how and why Satan rebelled—and how Adam and Eve's fall into sin had cosmic repercussions that reverberated through all of creation and history. In addition, I also want to highlight the Genesis record of origins because no other aspect of Scripture has been more attacked and maligned the past 150 years than the biblical creation account.

The theory of evolution is so thoroughly engrained in educational systems, governments, entertainment, and even some religions that few slow down long enough to consider its claims in the light of plain logic and continually emerging scientific facts. It is a worldview that shifts worship away from the Creator to the things that were created—which is what Romans chapter 1 told us would happen. For various reasons we'll discuss in this book, this is—without question in my mind—a carefully planned minefield laid by the enemy to weaken the foundations of the gospel and the trust people have in God's Word. Satan has done all this for some very specific end-time purposes.

*Romans 1:21-23—Although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.*



The idea of a literal six-day creation week, or even the idea that everything we observe must have had an intelligent designer, is ridiculed by people who hold to a secular (without God) worldview. Over the past 20 years, the study of molecular biology and new discoveries about DNA have greatly weakened the theory of evolution—to the point where many evolutionists openly admit the theory has problems. Alternative ideas have been proposed, such as the idea that humans were “seeded” here from an alien race. But this type of deceptive speculation still does not answer the question of origins.



I find it very interesting that the belief in the Genesis account of creation, a global flood during the time of Noah, and the future return of the Lord are all topics that have become the focus of spiritual warfare. In 2 Peter 3, we learn that as the church age draws to a close, we should expect to see a widespread mocking of three things in particular: the creation account, the global flood, and the return of the Lord. We should also observe a growing belief in uniformitarianism—the idea that conditions have not changed much at all through the ages but have continued onward a uniform fashion. Read 2 Peter 3:3-6 carefully and see if you can spot these prophetic indicators.

Above all, you must understand that in the last days *scoffers will come*, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “*Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning* [uniformitarianism] of creation.” But they *deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed* [creation] out of water and by water. *By these waters also the world of that time was deluged* [Noah’s flood] and destroyed (emphasis added).

If the enemy can ruin these foundational truths—at least in the minds of the people whom he wants to deceive—then everything else crumbles. It is no wonder that the biblical account of creation has been so attacked and vilified as the end of the church age plays out.

## Peeking Behind the Curtain

Though God has lived in perfect peace and unity from eternity, his very nature required him to create everything *ex nihilo* (out of nothing), including moral beings with the ability to choose to follow God or rebel against him. Though we may struggle now with the reality of evil and pain, one day all will be made right and all will make perfect sense. We intuitively understand there is much we still don't understand; it is still hidden behind the curtain, so to speak. In the next few chapters we'll peek behind the curtain to see exactly how evil began, how things function in the unseen realm, and how we got caught up in the great cosmic war in which we find ourselves embroiled (whether we realize it or not).

Now that we have taken a Yogi Berra-inspired trip from before the beginning up to the time of creation, we need to wrestle with the details related to the origins of spiritual warfare. As we move from the mind-bending concepts of the nature of God and eternity past to the nature of angels and the original cosmic coup attempt (which are presented in the next chapter), we will be dealing with some complex concepts about events that took place in the unseen realm. Buckle up, then, for an exciting ride as we take a look at the beginning of an age-old cosmic war.