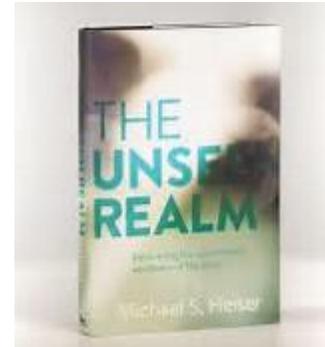

The Foothills Flyer

Considering the “Unseen Realm” by Joe Eastman

Value: Ancient Future Worship

Last month in our Men’s Mosaic Theological Discussion group we looked at something called, “The Unseen Realm.” The main information for the discussion was based on a book written by a Christian Old Testament scholar by the name of Michael Heiser. The book and discussion center on some of the more spiritual things in the Old Testament. To me, it was very interesting and I wanted to take some time to share with you some interesting points of discussion.



First of all, there seems to be an entire system or class of spiritual beings who are behind the scenes in the Bible. Mentioned are angels, watchers, and demons. There is also some sort of being (if you take the story of the Nephilim in Genesis chapter 6 literally) which is human and angelic. The writers of the Bible seemed to have no qualms about the existence of this unseen world and they weave it into the text in ways which seem almost natural to them.

Secondly, there seems to be an entire hierarchy of good angels and bad spiritual forces. As far as angels are concerned we don’t get a lot of info about them other than a few mentions. We see Michael the Arch-Angel mentioned in Daniel and Gabriel mentioned in Samuel and in the Gospels. There is an unnamed angel at the tomb of Jesus after the resurrection. In addition, there are all the strange looking beings mentioned in the book of Revelation.

If you read all of the Biblical material on angels it seems that there are several roles which God has given them. The first role would be as messengers. Which in reality, the words in Hebrew and Greek behind the English word “angel” merely mean messenger. Angels are dispatched by God to deliver messages to His people. We see this exemplified with Daniel when he receives a message that his prayers were answered. We also see this when the angel, Gabriel, gives the message to Zechariah about the future birth of John. Gabriel is also the one who informed Mary about her virgin birth and who her son would be.

The second role seems to be warriors. In Daniel 12:1 we see that Michael is charged with the spiritual protection of the people of God. This leads to a further role where it seems that each nation or people group have their own angelic leader (Deuteronomy

32:8 in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint). The third role of angels seems to be to offer continual worship in God's throne room. We see this in Revelation 4:8. There appears to be angels whose sole job is to offer worship and praise to God.

On the other side, it seems that there are at least three classes of evil beings. There is the Devil, or Satan, who appears to be the main leader of the opposition force against the kingdom of God. Interestingly, the name Satan means accuser or adversary. It could be used of anyone who is adversarial. The Devil seems to be a proper name of a Demon or fallen angel who is unique. In the book, it is explained that the fall of the Devil is chronicled in Ezekiel 28. If that section does explain the "fall of Satan" then we learn quite a bit about his background. We learn that he was a cherub of the Lord—a guardian of God's throne. He was charged with protection of some sort and decided he wanted to take God's place as king. It also seems to mention that Satan was in the garden with Eve. Which according to our author would explain why Eve doesn't seem to be startled by a talking snake, because she recognized the snake somehow as actually being one of God's trusted angels and therefore had no reason to not trust what he was saying.

If this is true then we can see that the rebellion of the Devil in the garden was much worse than we might have previously thought. It also reminds us of the sinister character which he has. Other spiritual forces mentioned in Scripture are unclean spirits, demons, and even masses of demons. These forces seem to operate against the influence of God but are entirely subservient to the person of Jesus.

If this is a correct interpretation of the Biblical evidence, what does that mean for us? It might mean that there is a lot more going on spiritually than we often think. It might remind us of the power of prayer and the power of the enemy who wages against us. It might remind us of the responsibility we must war in prayer on behalf of the church and the Kingdom. While the war is won the battle is not, and the battle rages on for the hearts and minds of our world.

The Ministry of Motherhood by Mike Potter

Value: Intentional Families

Sally Clarkson, author of [The Ministry of Motherhood](#), talked to Pastor Mike about how moms can focus their energy on developing children who love and serve Christ – in addition to helping them grow to be strong, well-adjusted adults. Sally, with her husband Clay, founded *Whole Heart Ministries* in 1994. She is an inspirational speaker, Bible teacher, and author. Sally and Clay have four adult children and live in Monument, CO. Here's an excerpt from their conversation:



Most moms would agree that motherhood is a job, but fewer might think of it as a ministry. What do you mean by the phrase “the ministry of motherhood”?

As I look back over my own life, I didn't have a clue of what I was supposed to do when I started mothering my children. I did have the benefit of having become a Christian when I was in college through the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

By the time I came to motherhood, I had a lot of ideals in my heart about what God's purpose was for training people and building leadership in the lives of others. All of a sudden, I was holding my little baby in my arms, and I realized that all of the things I spent many years doing – which was leading people to Christ and giving them a passion for God and His purpose – was going to be one of the most important things I could ever do with my children. They were my in-home disciples in the making. That's when I began to realize that motherhood might be the most profound ministry I would ever do.

I feel that we are in a culture that has kind of given our children up to other people. We don't have confidence in knowing how to influence them and draw them into our own values and visions for life. I actually have to say that I have been very rewarded by the process. I love seeing my children grow into healthy children who have great minds and strong convictions. They are growing into the kind of people that I have always hoped they would; not to say that there weren't bumps along the way. I look back now and feel so fortunate to have been able to walk through this whole process in a disciple-making relationship with them.

You talk about the importance of mothers giving their children the gift of grace. This is an easier gift to give when children are little. However, when they hit adolescence, it becomes harder because often teens can become a bit frustrating. Talk to moms about how they can be gracious when their children are in the tumultuous adolescent years.

As I look back on my time with my children, I think that grace was the foundation. Jesus didn't say to Peter, “Oh, I can't believe you're going to fall away from me!” He said, “When you fall, I pray that you will be strong, because I still believe in you.” I see that this is what my teenagers need most from me.

I think that I have reached my children much more through making them a hot fudge brownie and bringing them a glass of milk and asking what's going on with them. I have reached them much more that way than by continuing to harp on all the rules that they've already heard their whole lives and know anyway.

I remember one time my son came into the kitchen and yelled, “How come nobody can put the keys back in their place? We can never find any keys in this house!” He was angrily opening cupboards and rummaging around looking for the keys. When he finally found them, I told him to come into my office.

I offered him some chocolate chip cookies and said, "You know what? You are such a pleasure to me. I have so appreciated you, and I just want you to know that I understand how you're feeling because I get really frustrated, too."

He sagged in the chair and told me that he really intends to be nice in the mornings and even prays about it. He admitted that even when he prays about it, he still finds himself yelling at people. He thanked me for not condemning him, and I realized that just as I want someone to forgive me, so to do my kids. I've learned that reaching their heart means understanding this growth period that they are involved in and being patient with them.

Another facet of the ministry of motherhood is preparing children for trials and tribulation. How do moms pull this off?

I am one of those idealistic Cinderella-syndrome type of people who wanted everything in my children's lives to be happy. I thought if I was a good mom, I would make everything wonderful for them, but our lives have been filled with stress, difficulty, and problems. It dawned on me one day that my children wouldn't be prepared for life if they didn't have the chance of watching us go through stress and problems and learn how to turn to the Lord in the midst of them.

One time my daughter was very lonely, and I kept going to the Lord asking Him to give her friends. It was as though the Lord said to me, "You prayed that she would be deep. Do you want her to be deep and understand me, people, and issues or do you want her just to be happy?" My daughter and I talked a lot about this, and I told her that He was cultivating a wonderful character in her. I realized that even at young ages, God wanted to train my children to share in His holiness, and I needed to walk through the problems with them, not pretend that they weren't there.

To listen to this interview in its entirety and for much more parenting help, log on to www.parentinghelpnow.org.

UPCOMING DATES:

- **May 13—Men's Hike.** Meet at the church at 8 am. A day hike up the La Luz Trail.
- **May 17—Men's Theological Discussion Group** at 7 pm. Topic: What is faith? A Look at faith as allegiance.
- **May 20- Workday at the Lasche's house.** Meet at church at 8am.
- **May 21—Bridges to Islam Class.** Sunday mornings at 9am in the Community Room. This six week class is taught by Pastor Joe.

OUR MISSION: Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshiping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

OUR CORE VALUES: 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship