

## Matthew – Part 5

### The Seen and Unseen War

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an exciting series of studies on The Gospel of Matthew. Our topic today: The Seen and Unseen War

Scripture Theme Song: Praise Him the Heights (Ps. 148:1-4)

- 1) The Great Controversy between good and evil
  - a) Matthew 11:11-12
  - b) The Great Controversy didn't begin during the life of John the Baptist but how was it apparent during in his life and ministry?
    - i) Matthew 4:12 (see also Mark 6:17-29)
    - ii) Matthew 11:1-3
  - c) Jesus also encountered the battle between good and evil. What stories during His life illustrate this great controversy?
    - i) Matthew 2:16
    - ii) Matthew 4:1-11
    - iii) Matthew 8:23-27
    - iv) Others?
    - v) See also Revelation 12:7-12
  - d) Some struggle with belief in unseen realities. What evidence is there that this great controversy between good and evil is still very real today?
    - e) How can you help a person who is caught in this great battle but doesn't understand the controversy between good and evil?
- 2) The advancing of the kingdom of heaven
  - a) In the teachings of Jesus, the kingdom of heaven is both a present reality (Matthew 4:17) and a future reality (Matthew 26:29). What promises in God's Word assure us that the kingdom of heaven will move forward in the midst of this great controversy between good and evil?
    - i) Jesus - Matthew 12:25-28; Matthew 13:31-32
    - ii) The apostle Peter - 1 Peter 5:8-11
    - iii) The apostle Paul - Romans 16:20; Eph. 6:10-13
  - b) How have you seen the kingdom of heaven making progress in your life in spite of the great battle between good and evil?
  - c) How should an awareness of this unseen war affect your life from day to day?
- 3) The final victory in the Great Controversy
  - a) What testimony did Jesus give to Caiaphas the High Priest when it seemed that darkness was winning? Matthew 26:59-64
  - b) A prophecy of Jesus - Matthew 24:30-31
  - c) The testimony of the apostle Peter - 2 Peter 3:9-13
  - d) The testimony of Jesus - Revelation 20:11-21:1-5
  - e) How can we participate in God's victory and be assured a place in His eternal kingdom?