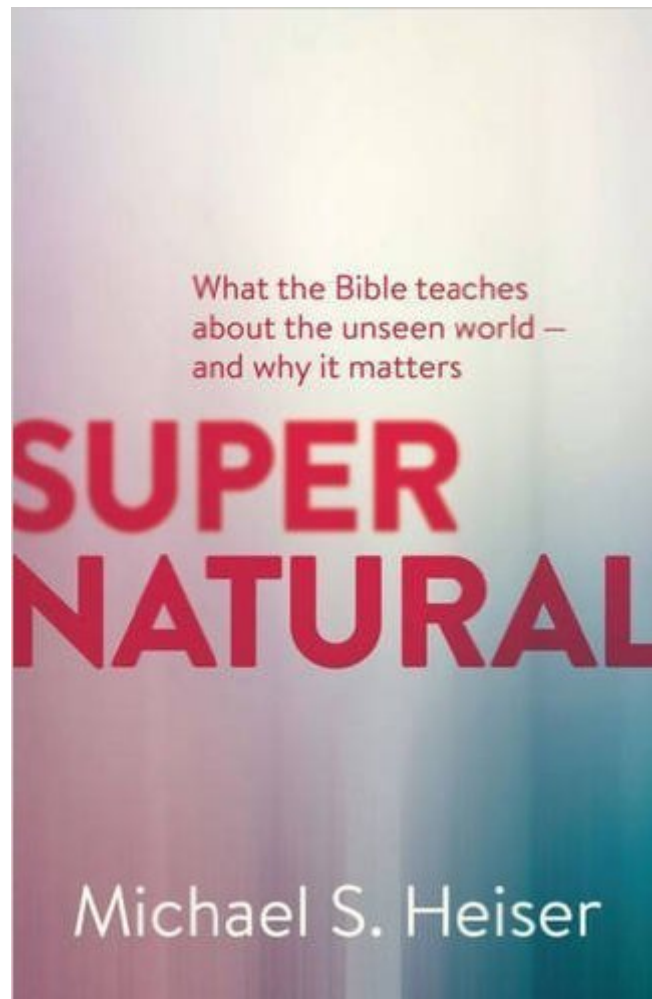


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Supernatural: What The Bible Teaches About The Unseen World - And Why It Matters



Synopsis

Dr. Michael S. Heiser, a Scholar-in-Residence at Faithlife Corporation, presents fifteen years of research on what the Bible really says about the unseen world of the supernatural—unfiltered by tradition or by theological presuppositions. “People shouldn’t be protected from the Bible,” Dr. Michael S. Heiser says, but theological systems often do just that, by “explaining away” difficult or troublesome passages of Scripture because their literal meaning doesn’t fit into our tidy systems. Who were the “sons of God”? Who were the Nephilim? Where do angels fit into the supernatural hierarchy? Why did God find it necessary to have the Israelites destroy the populations of entire cities—man, woman, and child? What relation does Jesus bear to the rest of the supernatural world? Dr. Michael S. Heiser tackles these questions and many more in his books *Supernatural* and *The Unseen Realm*. In both books, Dr. Michael S. Heiser shines a light on the supernatural world—not a new light, but rather the same light the original, ancient readers—and writers—of Scripture would have seen it in. After reading these books, you won’t be able to read the Bible in the same way again. *Supernatural, What the Bible Teaches about the Unseen World—and Why it Matters* presents this approach to reading and understanding scripture for the person in the pew. *The Unseen Realm* covers the same material but at a deeper, complex, and highly documented way, for pastors, the seminarian, or serious students of the Bible.

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Customer Reviews

It is not exaggerating to say that Dr. Heiser’s work has helped me understand the biblical narrative

far more clearly than I did before. Whether you're familiar with the Divine Council or not, Mike's thorough explanation of the cosmology hidden in plain sight on the pages of the Bible will leave you wondering why you've never heard about this in church. The Unseen Realm and Supernatural are complementary works. Supernatural is an introduction to the supernatural worldview of the authors of the Bible, while The Unseen Realm, a heavily footnoted volume, dives deeper into the theology. (And if you want a serious look under the hood, Mike helpfully provides a companion website to The Unseen Realm with scholarly discussions organized by the chapters of the book.) Mike's writing style is clear and concise, very readable and accessible even for non-scholars like me. Mike is a credentialed scholar whose conclusions are based on where the biblical text leads. This is not a weird new interpretation of scripture, although it was new to me and probably will be to most readers. Call it the "new old way" of reading the Bible--cosmology seen through the eyes of the authors of the scriptures, or as closely as we can manage from our 21st century perspective. In both books, Mike systematically lays out the worldview the prophets and apostles recorded in the 66 books of the canon. In a nutshell, humanity was created to serve as the "imagers" of Yahweh, charged with taking dominion of the Earth as members of His Divine Council--which Mike describes as a sort of "supernatural task force". The rebellion of Adam and Eve, encouraged by one of the nachash, resulted in death and banishment from the "cosmic mountain".

We know of the Bible as the story of God's plan of salvation for mankind. From the first page to the last, we see that he had the end in mind from the very beginning. However, most of the time we see just two parties to the story: the Triune God and mankind, those inhabitants of the third heaven and the first. However, there is another group that plays the role, the divine council. Part of the group referenced in Ephesians 6:12 which refers to the unseen realm ruled by principalities, two of which are named in a brief reference in Daniel 9. There are a few explicit references to these beings in the Bible along with many references that are implicit. Without understanding that yes, there is an actual unseen realm and a variety of beings who inhabit it and that some of the words spoken in the Bible are judgments against them, we can completely miss the context of what certain passages are saying. Dr. Michael Heiser has made an extensive study of the Divine Council. An expert in ancient Near East languages, he has collected over 4,800 references related to it. This 168 page book is a synthesis of those resources and gives an overview of the structure and dynamics of the conflict from Genesis to Revelation. The book reminds me of "Mere Christianity." But while Lewis began at square one beginning with a defense that there must be a God and then follows with arguments as to why the Christian God rings true in every area, this book is written for a Christian audience.

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