

Spiritual Guardians

The Guardians:

Stoicheia = Sovereignities and Powers (Col. 2:15, 20)

Not the same as angels (Rom. 8:38)

Were created by Christ and for Him (Col. 1:16), therefore they were good

Christ is their head (Col. 2:9)

Intended to rule over us for a time (Gal. 4:1-4)

Rule over cultural practices (Col. 2:21), rituals (Col. 2:18), and ideas (Col. 2:8)

An equivalent role to "the Law" (Col. 2:14-15; Gal. 3:24-4:11; Deut 32:8-9 LXX)

The revelation of Christ was kept hidden from them (Eph. 3:9-10; 1 Cor. 2:7-8) and from the angels (1 Peter 1:12)

Had they recognized Christ they would not have crucified him (1 Cor. 2:7-8)

They crucified him (1 Cor. 2:7-8)

Christ's death has gotten rid of them (Col. 2:15); we are no longer under them (Gal 3:25) nor need to be (Gal. 4:8-9)

Christ is now our head (Col. 2:6-7; Col. 1:17) and we are His Body (Eph 1:22-23)

They are now under us (Eph. 1:21-23) and behind us (Col. 1:15) as we are in Him
Even if God chooses to use such beings again, they cannot separate us from our Head (Rom. 8:38-39; Heb. 2:5; Rev. 2:1)

They are the focus of our current battle, originating darkness, a spiritual army (Eph. 6:12)

Christ's subduing of all of these is a process (1 Cor. 15:24-25)

Gospel (Col. 2:20; Gal. 3:25; Gal. 4:8-9)

Possible references in the Old Testament: "Sons of God" (Gen. 6:1-4; Deut. 32:8 and 43 (which Paul read) LXX and the Dead Sea Scrolls (gods of the nations); Joshua 14:9; Job 1:6; Job 38:7; Ps. 29:1['sons of the mighty' or 'sons of El']; Ps. 82:1; Ps. 89:6) "princes" (Dan. 10:13; Ps. 2:2 quoted in Acts 4:25-28 matches with 1 Cor. 2:7-8). BUT: these terms are sometimes used in connection with "angels" (Dan. 10:13) or are dropped and replaced by "angels" (Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4 commentaries on Gen. 6:1-4)

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(Passed on through Tom Bloomer, UofN Provost)