



All Is Not As It Seems

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Scriptures: John 8:43-45/John 14:30/Luke 4:5-6/Ephesians 6:11-12

Idea: There's an unseen world that influences all that we see.

Introduction

Up until the late 1800s, doctors believed in *spontaneous generation*: the idea that living things (disease specifically) could arise from nonliving things. As long as doctors and scientists believed that disease could arise from nonliving substances, they saw no purpose in considering how diseases were transmitted or how they could be controlled. God willed it. Fate decided it.

In the late 1600s, a Dutch cloth merchant created a microscope capable of seeing microorganisms. But it wasn't until the late 1800s that Louis Pasteur demonstrated that these invisible microorganisms were the culprits behind the very visible diseases of his day. These disease-causing agents were present in the air, but not created by the air. And thus the *germ theory of disease* was developed. Some argue that it is the single most important contribution to medical science and practice . . . ever.

But people were skeptical. A world of invisible germs carried by the air . . . all around us at all times . . . lighting on whomever they pleased and developing into full-blown disease? The invisible impacting the visible? Could that be?

Today, of course, none of us dispute the fact that invisible microscopic organisms have the power to create havoc in the world of the seen. Many of us are germaphobes. We are addicted to **Purell®**. We believe in the power of the unseen.

When we visit third world countries, we can hardly relax because of our awareness . . . and we are appalled at their lack of awareness. "Don't these people know how unhealthy this is . . . how at risk they are? With a few new rules of hygiene, they could extend their lives and their children's lives."

I. The Bible teaches that there is another unseen world.

- A. A world that, like the world of germs, has the potential to impact and influence our visible world.
 1. Just as a germ is often an aberration of a healthy cell, so this invisible world distorts and contorts what is true. It is a world that twists truth just enough to keep it compatible, but make it dangerous.
 2. Dangerous to our souls, our hearts, our relationships, and our finances.