

From the introduction to The Powers That Be by Walter Wink.

“The Powers That Be are not... simply people and their institutions... They also include the spirituality at the core of those institutions and structures. If we want to change those systems, we will have to address not only their outer forms, but their inner spirit as well.” p4

“There is nothing, from DNA to the United Nations, that does not have God at its core. Everything has a spiritual aspect. Everything is answerable to God.” p5

Embracing the language of Daniel, Wink refers to these spiritual aspects as angels and demons...

“...the angel of an institution is not just the sum total of all that an institution is...; it is also the bearer of that institution’s divine vocation.” “...the demonic is the spirituality produced when the angel of an institution turns its back on its divine vocation...” p5

“... social change does not depend on casting out the demon, but recalling its angel to its divine task.” p6

“Unjust systems perpetuate themselves by means of institutionalized violence. For example, racial segregation in the southeastern United States was supported by Jim Crow laws, state and local police, the court and penal systems, and extralegal acts of terrorism... it is tempting to use violence in response. But we have repeatedly seen how those who fight domination with violence become as evil as those whom they oppose.” p8

We need to recognize the Myth of Redemptive Violence which is “...the belief that violence saves. ... trusting domination and violence to bring about justice and peace.” p8

This is not the response to evil and injustice that Jesus taught.