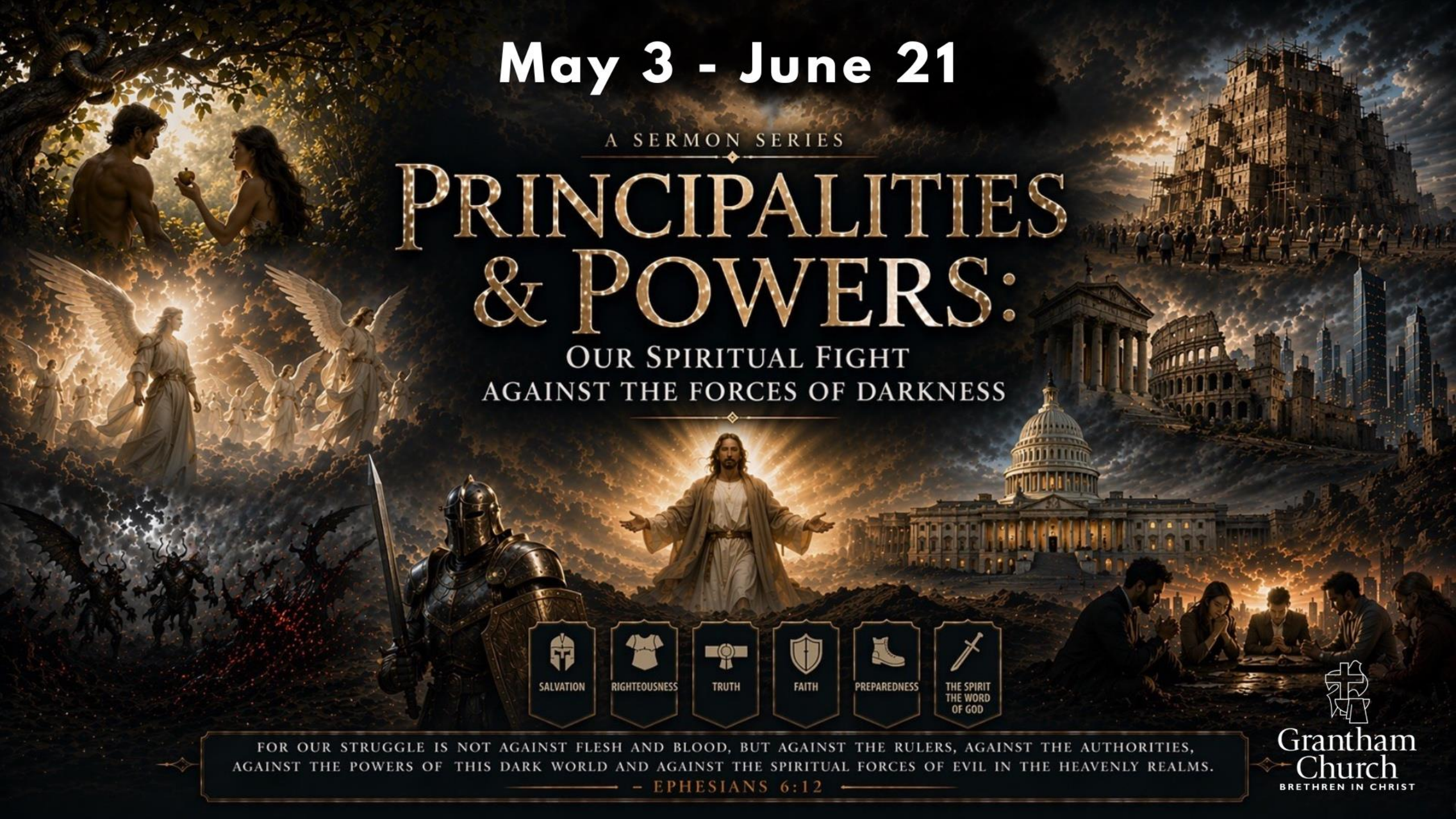


May 3 - June 21

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS



SALVATION



RIGHTEOUSNESS



TRUTH



FAITH



PREPAREDNESS



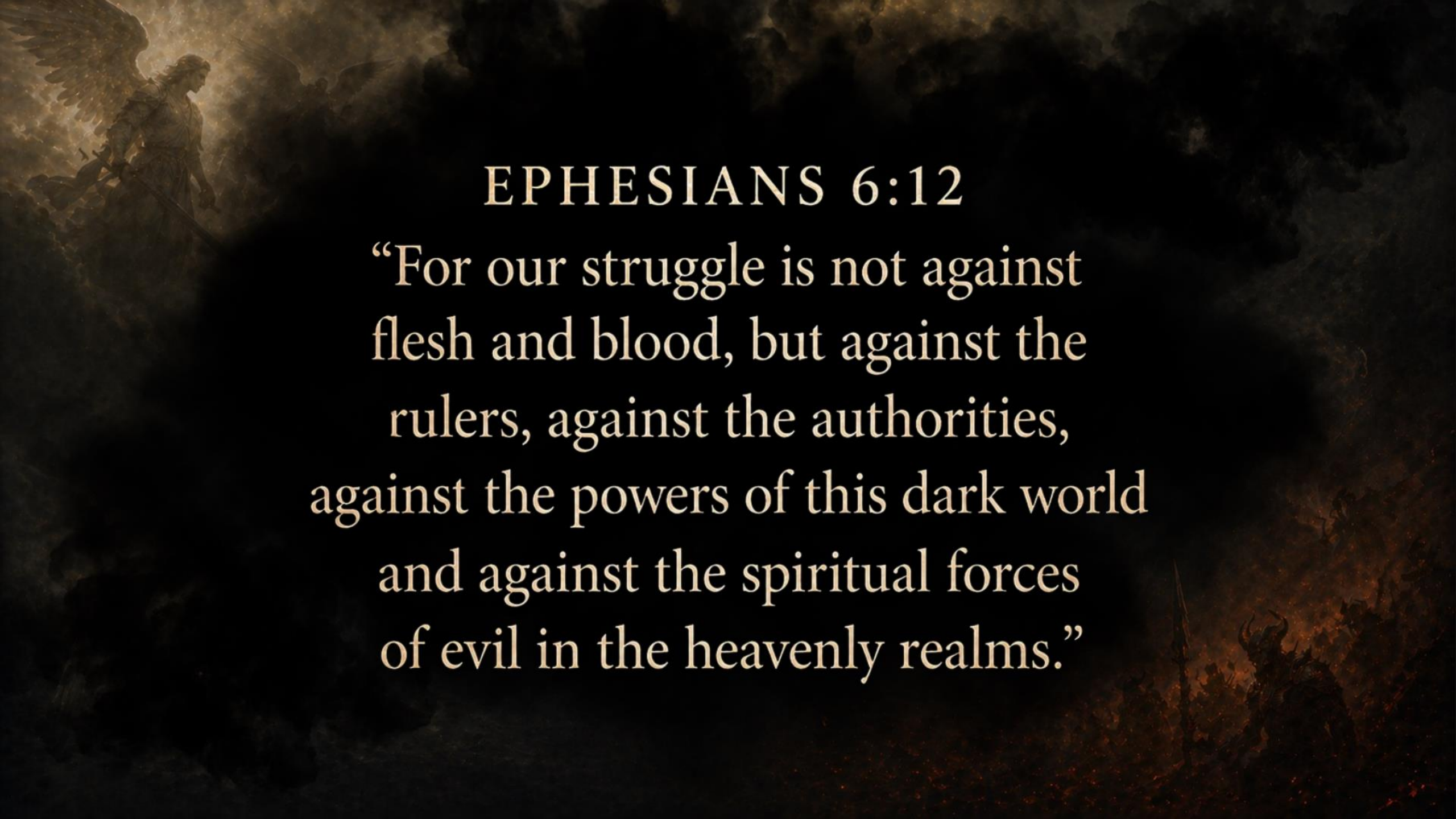
THE SPIRIT
THE WORD
OF GOD

FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES,
AGAINST THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD AND AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS.

— EPHESIANS 6:12 —



Grantham
Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST



EPHESIANS 6:12

“For our struggle is not against
flesh and blood, but against the
rulers, against the authorities,
against the powers of this dark world
and against the spiritual forces
of evil in the heavenly realms.”

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5. Disarming the Powers



SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:1–11

SUPERMAN





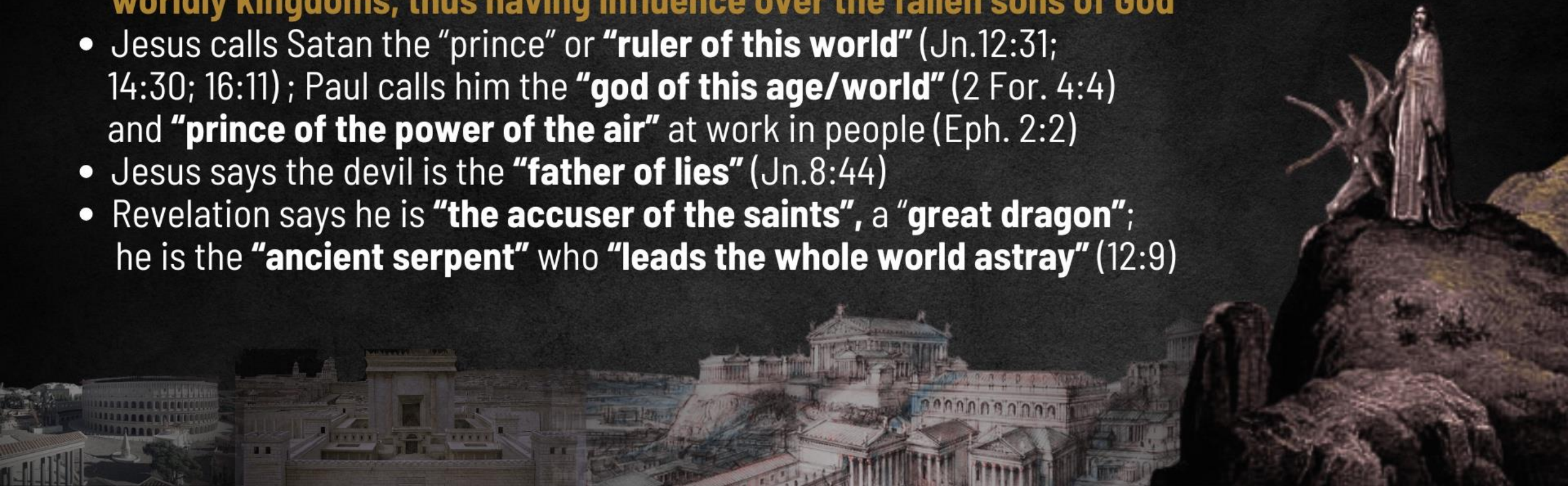
Satan's Power & Corrupting Influence in the World

Old Testament

- Genesis 3; 1 Sam. 16:23; 1 Chron. 21:1; Job 1 & 2, Zech. 3:1-2
- Daniel 10 – spiritual “princes” (fallen angels) rule over worldly kingdoms

New Testament

- Matthew 4:8-10 – **The devil claims to have power and authority over worldly kingdoms, thus having influence over the fallen sons of God**
- Jesus calls Satan the “prince” or **“ruler of this world”** (Jn.12:31; 14:30; 16:11); Paul calls him the **“god of this age/world”** (2 Cor. 4:4) and **“prince of the power of the air”** at work in people (Eph. 2:2)
- Jesus says the devil is the **“father of lies”** (Jn.8:44)
- Revelation says he is **“the accuser of the saints”**, a **“great dragon”**; he is the **“ancient serpent”** who **“leads the whole world astray”** (12:9)





“The reason the Son of God appeared
was to destroy the devil’s work.”

1 John 3:8b NIV

“The Devil is not a peripheral concept that can easily be discarded without doing violence to the essence of Christianity. He stands at the center of the New Testament teaching that the Kingdom of God is at war with, and is now at last defeating, the Kingdom of the Devil.”

Jeffrey Burton Russell, *The Devil: Perceptions of Evil From Antiquity to Primitive Christianity*

THE **DEVIL**



Perceptions
of Evil from
Antiquity
to Primitive
Christianity

JEFFREY BURTON RUSSELL



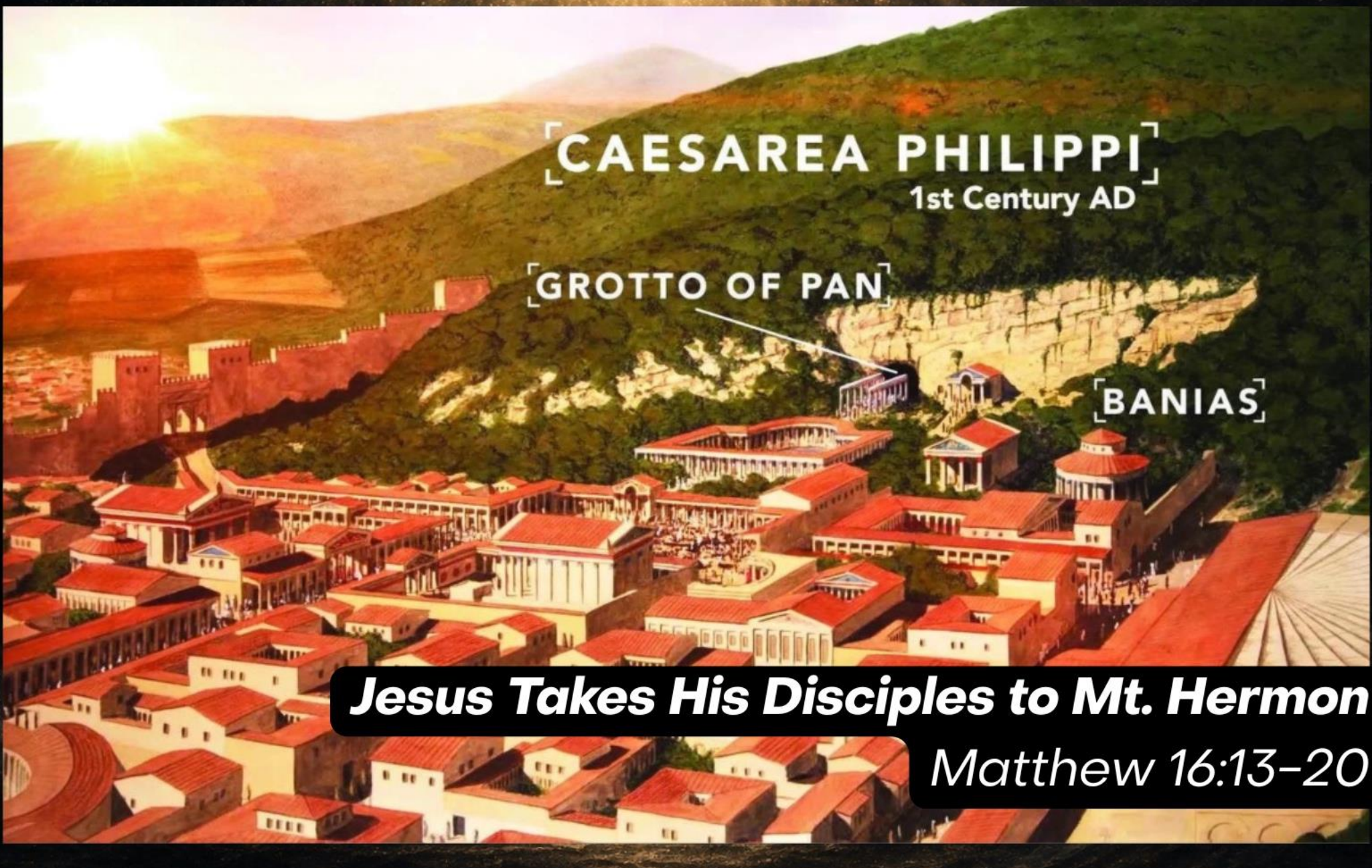
Jesus Confronts & Casts Out “Legion”

Mark 5:1-20

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils (demons). One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*



An aerial illustration of the ancient city of Caesarea Philippi, showing its extensive red-roofed buildings, a large amphitheater, and a fortified wall. The city is situated at the base of a steep, green mountain. A label 'CAESAREA PHILIPPI' with '1st Century AD' below it is positioned at the top. A label 'GROTTO OF PAN' with an arrow points to a cave entrance on the mountain. A label 'BANIAS' points to a temple complex on the right. The sun is visible on the left, casting a warm glow over the scene.

[CAESAREA PHILIPPI]
1st Century AD

[GROTTO OF PAN]

[BANIAS]

Jesus Takes His Disciples to Mt. Hermon

Matthew 16:13–20



“None of **the rulers of this age** understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” **1 Cor. 2:8**

Colossians 2:13-15 NLT

13 You were dead because of your sins and because your [flesh] was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. **14** He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. **15** In this way, **he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.**



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1. Jesus Succeeds Where Humanity Failed

Jesus confronts the serpent's temptations and remains faithful where Adam, Israel, and humanity failed.

- He responds to temptation with God's word (Scripture) and rejects autonomy, worldly power, and shortcuts to glory
- He is "the last Adam", the true human, the faithful Israelite, the uncreated "Son of God" and King of the cosmos

Question: *How do you need to stop seeking control, comfort, or power apart from trusting God, and follow Jesus' example?*

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2. Jesus Has Authority Over Every Power

According to Mark 5:1–20, the demons recognize what many humans do not: Jesus reigns above every spiritual power.

- The unseen forces of evil have power, but only what we give them through our sin, selfishness, addictions, isolation, etc.
- Jesus has stripped the fallen sons of God and demons of their authority—**He is reversing the three cosmic rebellions!**

Question: *What fear, stronghold (deep-rooted sin), or source of anxiety do you need to stop and surrender to Christ's authority?*

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3. The Cross Was a Cosmic Victory

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities and triumphed over them.

- The powers used humans to kill Jesus and stop God's redemptive mission, but their evil actions brought it about!
- The cross means that evil doesn't get the final word—Satan, demons, and the powers have an expiration date.

Question: *How would your attitude, words, and actions change if you truly believed that Christ has already won the war?*

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Weekly Practice:

Celebrating Victory – “Live Like the War is Won!”

Challenge: To remember that Jesus has disarmed the powers, ensured their defeat, and secured God’s good future.

Invitation: Declare: *“Jesus, you have already disarmed the principalities and powers. I choose to live like the war is won.”*

Goal: Don’t let the darkness fool you—Think, talk, and act like the gates of hell will not prevail against Christ and his Kingdom!

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