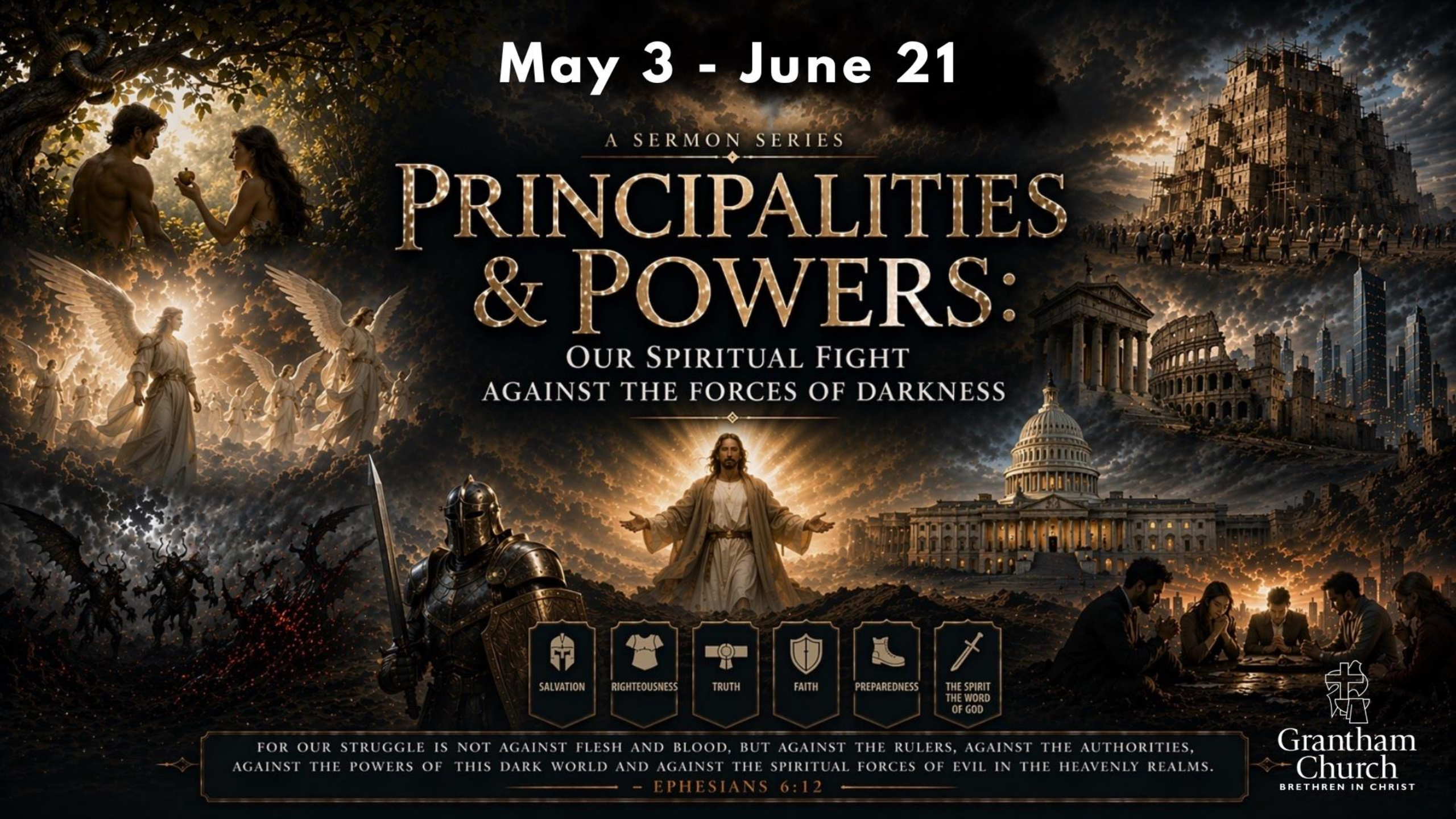


May 3 - June 21

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 —



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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.”

BIBLICAL TIMELINE

THE DRAMA OF REBELLION AND REDEMPTION
FROM CREATION TO ETERNITY

CREATION

THE DIVINE
COUNCIL

THE FALL

THE NEPHILIM

THE FLOOD

BABEL

CORRUPT
NATIONS

GOD'S
CHOSEN NATION

JESUS'
MINISTRY



God Creates
The Universe
Genesis 1:1

Divine Beings
Share Rule
Genesis 1:26
Psalm 82:1

Satan Rebelled -
Angels &
Humans Fell
Genesis 3
Isaiah 14:12-15

The Sons of God
Produce
the Giants
Genesis 6:1-4

Judgment on the
Earth
Genesis 6:5-9

Nations Divided
& Assigned to
Divine Beings
Genesis 11:1-9
Deuteronomy 32:8-9

Spiritual Rulers
Become Unjust
Psalm 82
Daniel 10

God Establishes
His Covenant
People
Genesis 12:1-4
Deuteronomy 7:6

Satan's
Authority
&
Collapses
Luke 10:18
Matthew 16:18

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AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

4. The Third Rebellion at Babel

DUNE



SCRIPTURE READING

—◆—
Genesis 11:1–9
verse-by-verse



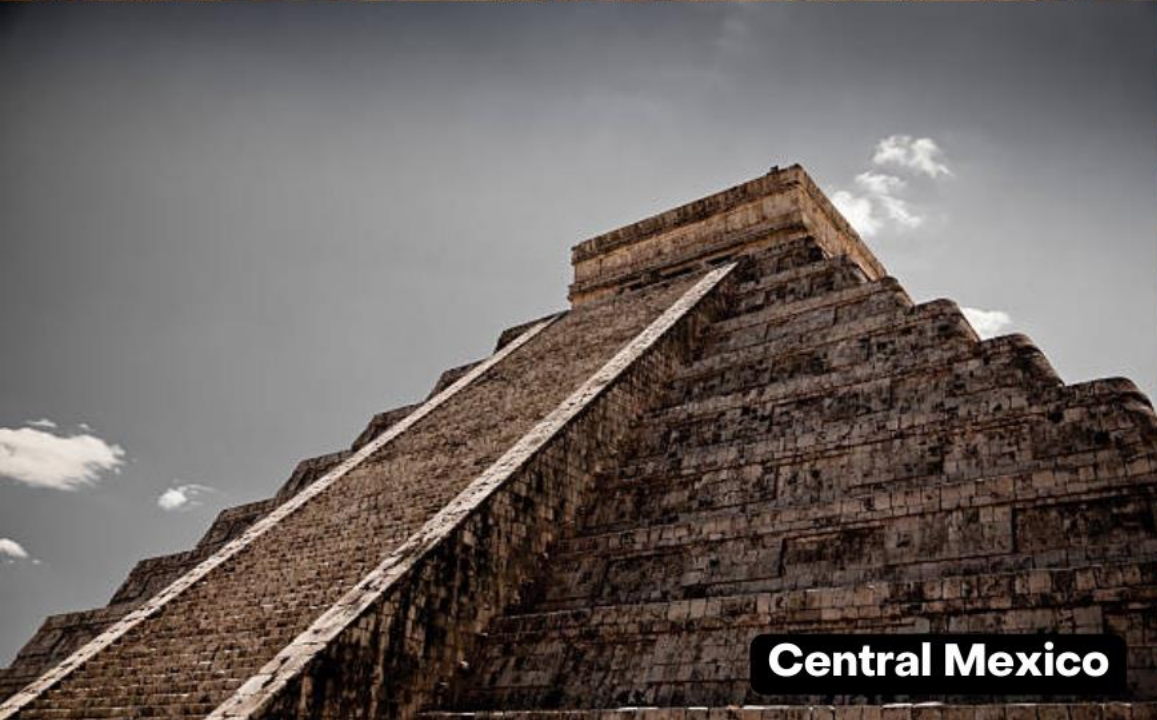
Ruins of Ur in Babylon - Modern Iraq



Southern Iran



Southwest Iran



Central Mexico



Guatemala



Egyptian Pyramids of Giza

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 11:1-9
verse-by-verse

THE TOWER OF BABEL

GENESIS 11:1-9

THE REBELLION THAT RESHAPED THE NATIONS

The builders of Babel sought to exalt themselves and secure their own name, defying the Most High.

“ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words... Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves...”

– GENESIS 11:1-4



ONE LANGUAGE



ONE PEOPLE



ONE CITY



ONE PURPOSE:
TO REACH HEAVEN
AND MAKE A NAME
FOR THEMSELVES

THE MEANING OF BABEL



HUMANITY'S REBEL ALLIANCE

Humanity united in defiance of the Most High, rejecting His rule and seeking autonomy.



A COUNTERFEIT KINGDOM

They built a kingdom “with its top in the heavens” to usurp divine authority and ascend by their own power.



THE DIVINE RESPONSE

The Most High came down to see the city and tower. He confused their language and scattered them across the earth.



THE DISPERSION OF THE NATIONS

From Babel, the peoples were scattered and the borders of the nations were established. (Deuteronomy 32:8)



THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE NATIONS

According to the number of the sons of God, the nations were given over to lesser divine beings who became their rulers. (Deuteronomy 32:8-9; Psalm 82)



RULED BY LESSER POWERS

These spiritual rulers led the nations into idolatry, injustice, and corruption, exploiting humanity instead of reflecting true divine justice. (Psalm 82:1-4)



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Deuteronomy 32:7-9 ESV

7 Remember the days of old;

consider the years of many generations;
ask your father, and he will show you,
your elders, and they will tell you.

8 When **the Most High** gave to the nations their inheritance,
when he divided mankind,
he fixed the borders of the peoples
according to the number of **the sons of God**.

9 But the Lord's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted heritage.

Psalm 82:1-8 ESV

- 1 God has taken his place in **the divine council**;
in the midst of **the gods** he holds judgment:
- 2 **“How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah**
- 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
- 4 Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Psalm 82:1-8 ESV

5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
they walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 I said, “**You are gods,**
sons of the Most High, all of you;

7 nevertheless, **like men you shall die,**
and fall like any prince.”

8 Arise, O God, judge the earth;
for you shall inherit all the nations!

ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY FROM UR TO CANAAN

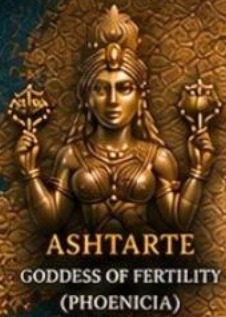
GODS OF THE NATIONS

Deuteronomy 32:8-9 reveals that the Most High divided the nations according to the number of the sons of God. Each nation had its god, but the LORD chose Israel as His inheritance.

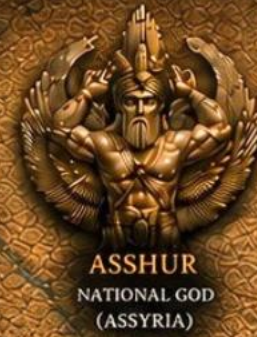


GOD OF ISRAEL

THE MOST HIGH GOD
Creator of heaven and earth
Sovereign over all nations
Chose Israel as His own people



ASHTARTE
GODDESS OF FERTILITY
(PHOENICIA)



ASSHUR
NATIONAL GOD
(ASSYRIA)



MARDUK
CHIEF GOD
(BABYLON)



EL
HEAD OF THE CANAANITE
PANTHEON



DAGON
COASTAL GOD
(PHILISTINES)



NABU
GOD OF WISDOM
(BABYLON)

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

SYRIA

MESOPOTAMIA

THE PROMISED LAND
The land which the LORD
swore to give to Abraham
and his descendants.
Genesis 12:7

CANAAN

ARABIAN
DESERT



UR
(BABYLON)

ABRAHAM'S ORIGIN
Ur of the Chaldeans
(Babylonian Empire)
Genesis 11:31

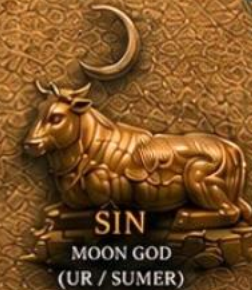
EGYPT



MOLECH
GOD OF SACRIFICE
(AMMONITES)



BAAL
STORM & RAIN GOD
(CANAAN)



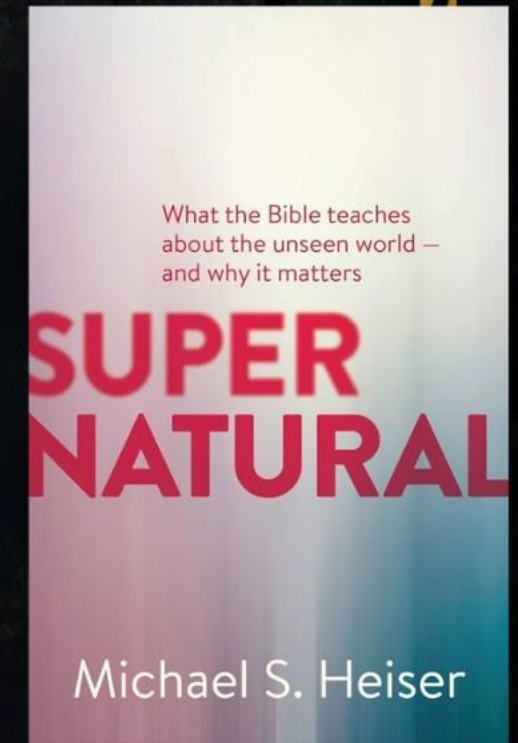
SIN
MOON GOD
(UR / SUMER)

BABYLONIA

c. 2000 BC

“The cosmic geography that is the result of God’s judgment of the nations at Babel is the backdrop for Israel’s struggle. It also sets the stage for the gospel... As the disciples go out into the world, the domain of Satan is transformed into God’s territory. The kingdom of God advances, regaining control of the nations.”

Michael Heiser, *Supernatural: What the Bible Teaches About the Unseen World and Why It Matters*





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PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

1. Humanity Constantly Tries to Build Life Apart From God

Babel reveals humanity's desire to exalt itself, define reality on its own terms, and build a kingdom apart from God.

- Genesis 11:1–9 shows that people sought power, security, identity, and significance apart from the Creator.
- Babel is ultimately about pride, autonomy, and self-glory — *“Let’s build a name for ourselves!”*

Question: *Where am I tempted to seek control, identity, security, or significance apart from God and his Kingdom?*

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2. The Nations Are Influenced by Spiritual Powers

The Bible reveals spiritual evil that influences cultures, nations, and systems in ways that oppose God's good purposes.

- The “gods of the nations” are territorial, therefore, they fuel tribalism, nationalism, militarism (violence), and imperialism.
- Spiritual powers tempt and influence humans toward idolatry, violence, racism, slavery, sexual immorality, etc.

Question: *What values or passions in American society and culture seem most opposed to God's truth and Kingdom?*

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3. God Responds to Rebellion With Redemption

After Babel, God calls Abraham out and begins his redemptive plan to reclaim the nations; ultimately leading to Jesus Christ.

- The Most High God establishes his own nation among the gods of the nations; this was only the beginning of his plan.
- God will covenant with the nation of Israel until they prove they can't keep it; but this too is part of his rescue mission!

Question: *How might God want to use me to bring hope and healing to others who are held captive to sin and rival gods?*

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Weekly Practice:

Praying for the Nations – “Expand Your Prayer Horizon”

Challenge: Don't just see human leaders and nations, be aware of the corrupt spiritual powers at work in the unseen realm.

Invitation: When nations come to mind... pray: *“God, reclaim this nation. Break spiritual strongholds with the gospel of Jesus.”*

Goal: Accept that spiritual forces of darkness have corrupted *all* nations and adopt a larger vision of God's global mission.

4



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