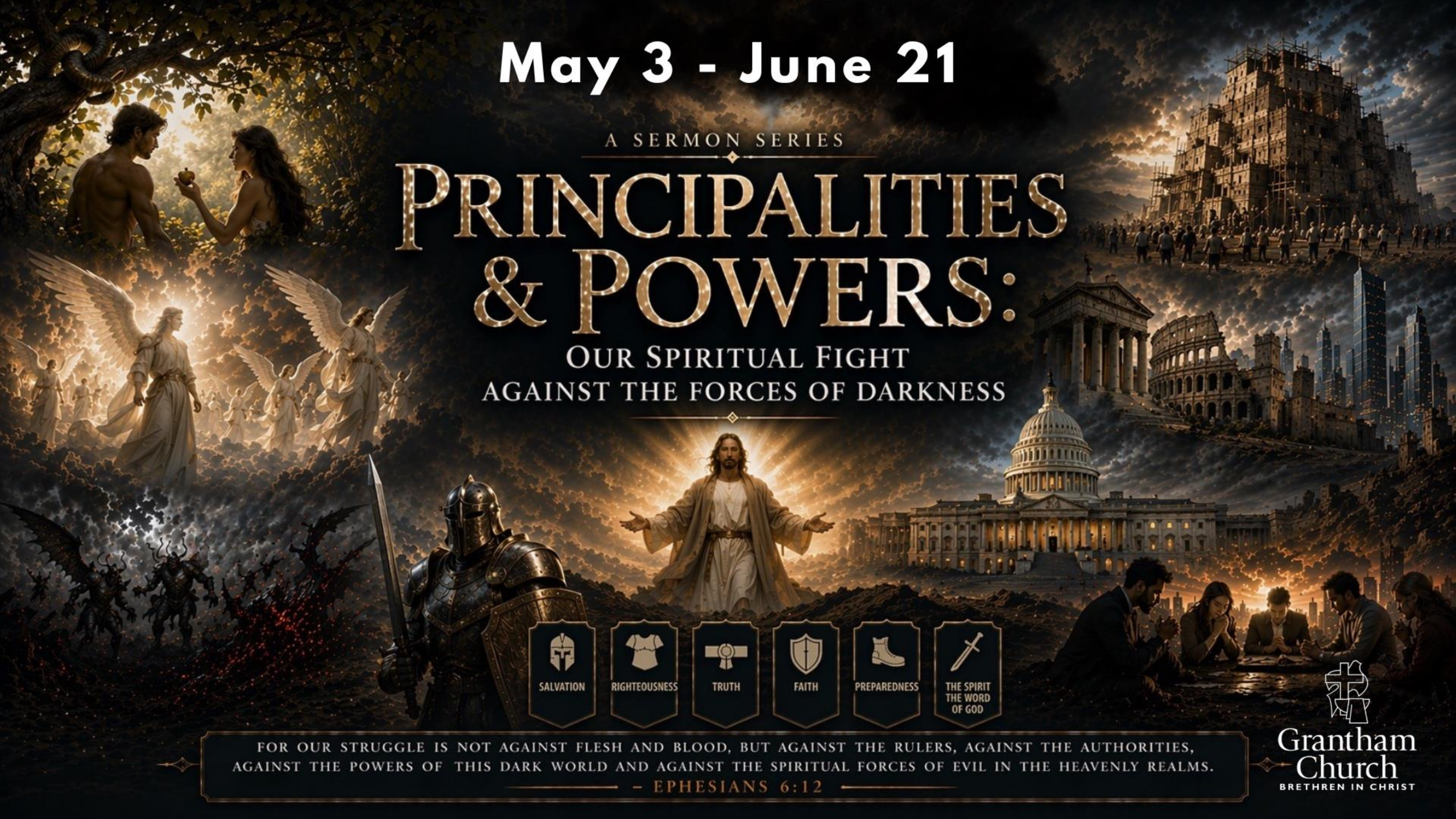


May 3 - June 21

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS



SALVATION



RIGHTEOUSNESS



TRUTH



FAITH



PREPAREDNESS



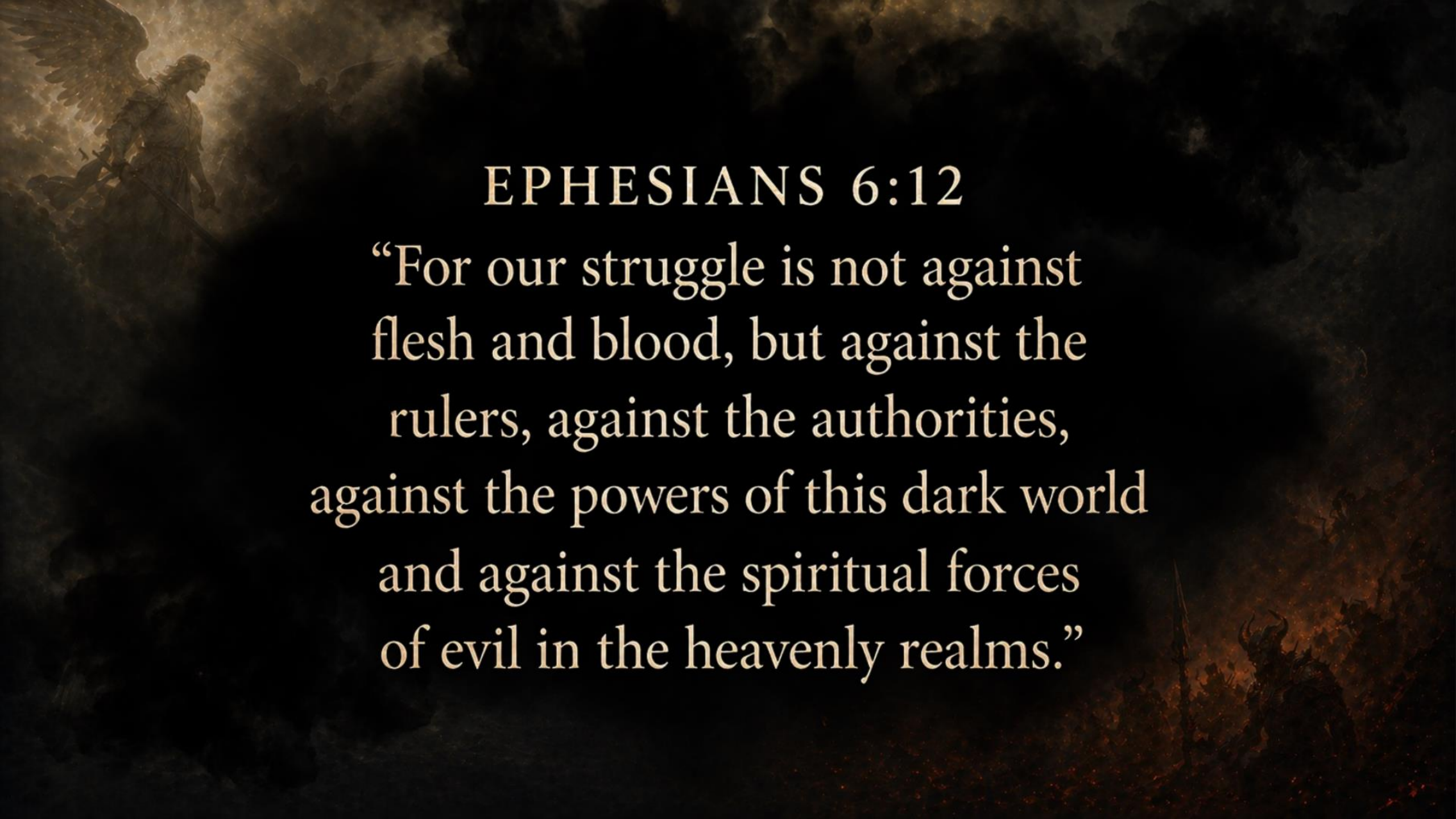
THE SPIRIT
THE WORD
OF GOD

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.”

THE THREE COSMIC REBELLIONS

Three Stories that Shaped the Worldview of Israel & God's Redemptive Plan

1

THE SERPENT AND THE FALL

GENESIS 3

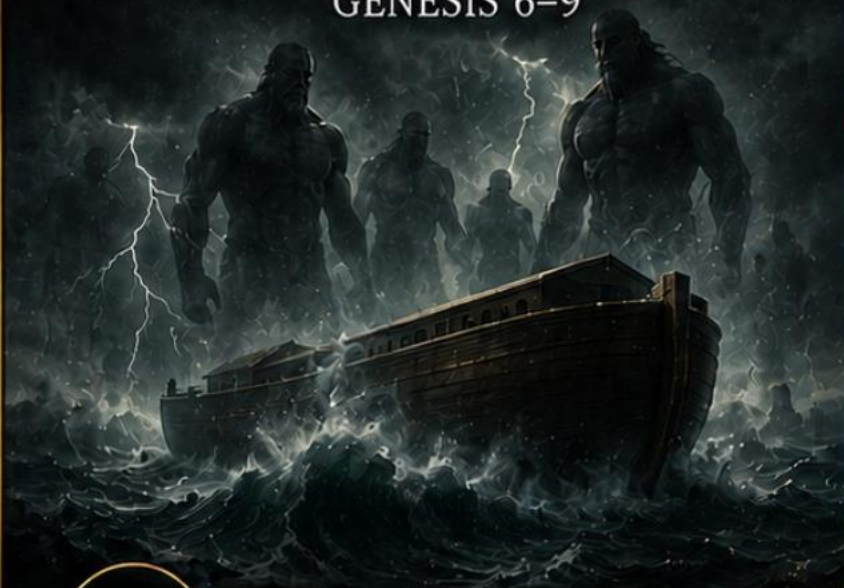


Deception led to
sin, death, and exile.

2

THE SONS OF GOD, THE GIANTS, AND THE FLOOD

GENESIS 6–9



Corruption filled the earth;
God sent the Flood.

3

THE TOWER OF BABEL AND THE NATIONS

GENESIS 11:1–9



Pride sought to reach heaven;
God scattered the nations.



GOD'S PURPOSE REMAINS: To defeat evil, restore His image-bearers, and bring all things under Christ.





The Gospels present:
THE COSMIC CHRIST
JESUS DISARMS THE POWERS

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." 1 JOHN 3:8

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7. Reclaiming the Nations



SCRIPTURE READING

—◆—
Acts 2:1–13



Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given **all authority in heaven and on earth**. **19** Therefore, **go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you**. And be sure of this: **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.”

THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED TO THE DISINHERITED NATIONS

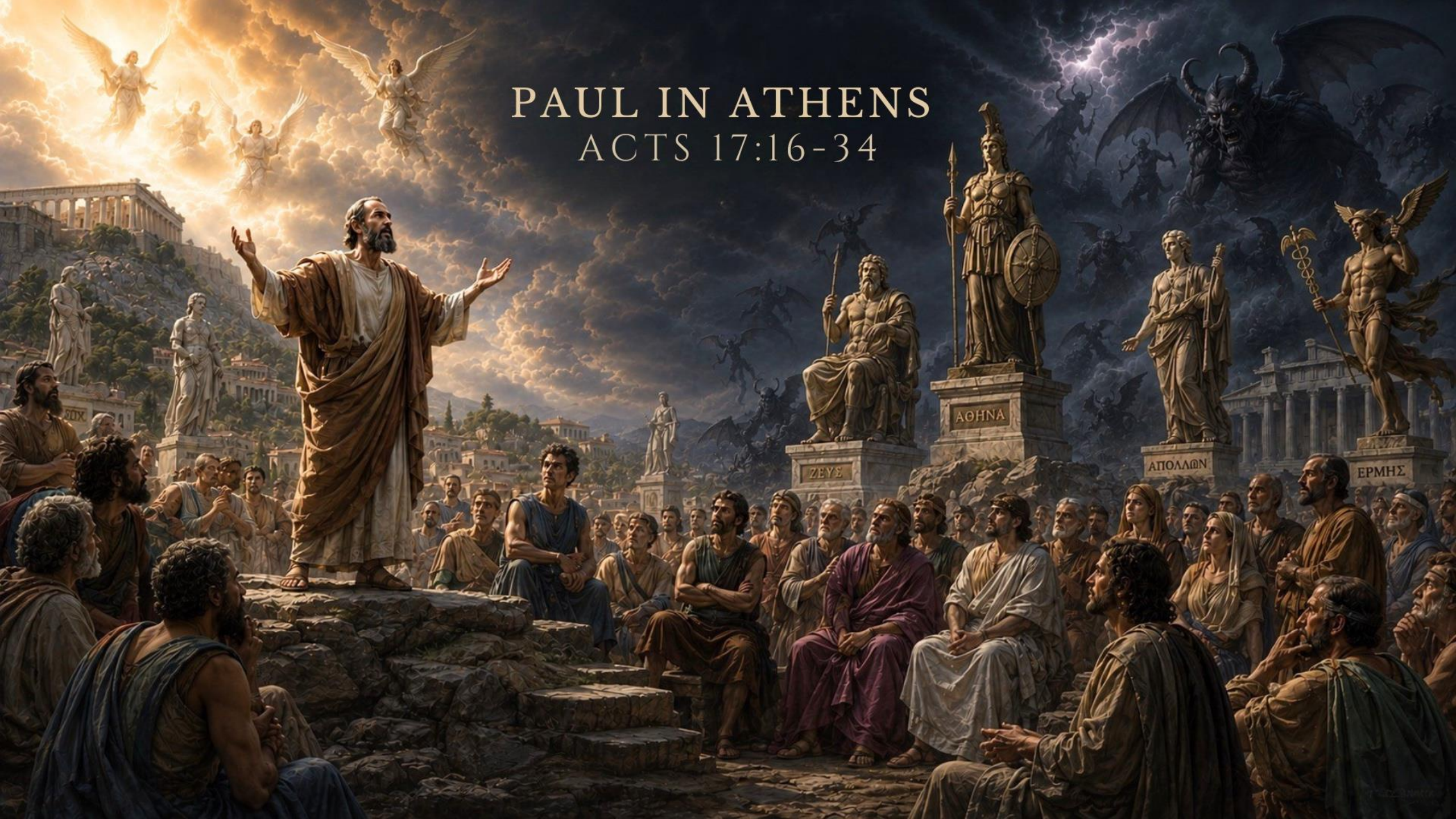
ACTS 2:9-11



Babel & the Nations – *Gen. 10-11*
Nations Disinherited – *Deut. 32:8-9*
Nations Reclaimed – *Matt. 24:14, 28:18-20;*
Acts 1:8, 2:1-13; Eph. 2:11-22, 3:10-11; Rev. 7:9-10

PAUL IN ATHENS

ACTS 17:16-34



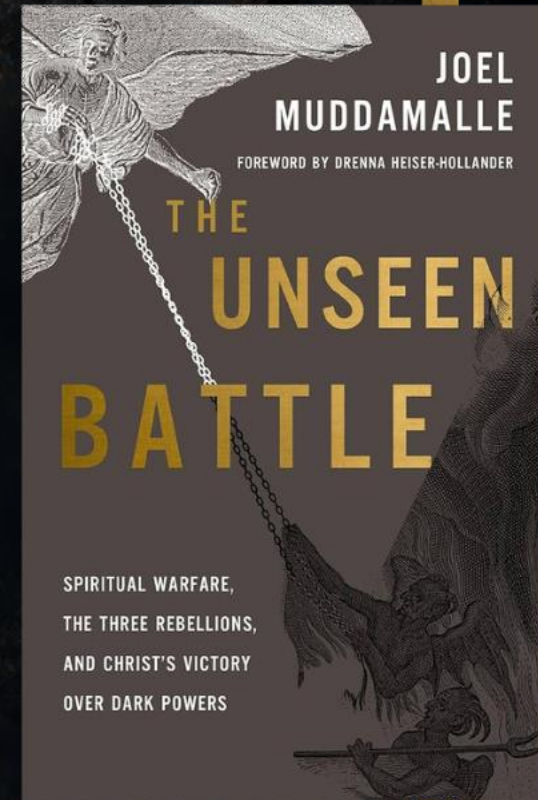


SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 2:1-22

“This revelation—of a new multiethnic family of God—is an active assault against the powers of darkness and their attempts to divide the cosmos through racial injustice or ethnic prejudices. The visible sign of the already final and coming victory of Christ is put on full display with the formation of God’s multiethnic Church, a Church that anticipates the future vision of Yahweh to have one restored and reconstituted household.”

Joel Muddamalle, *The Unseen Battle* (pgs. 170–171)



Ephesians 3:10-11 NLT

10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety **to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.** **11** This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 7:9-10 NIV

9 After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, **from every nation and tribe and people and language**, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.

10 And they were shouting with a great roar,
*“Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne
and from the Lamb!”*

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1. Jesus is Reclaiming the Nations

Embodying the gospel and sharing our faith is part of God's plan to redeem people and reclaim the nations for his Kingdom.

- Jesus has authority over every nation, yet he waits on us to proclaim the good news and tell of his coming Kingdom
- The mission of the church is to lead people to the God who looks like Jesus and tell the nations of his cosmic victory

Question: *How might this message of cosmic “reclamation” change the way you think about evangelism and discipleship?*

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2. Jesus Unites People Despite Differences and Diversity

At Babel humanity was scattered; at Pentecost God began gathering people and nations back together through Christ.

- God does not erase differences; He unites diverse people from all nations of the world into one family and Kingdom
- Therefore, competing ideologies like nationalism, racism, tribalism, sexism, and xenophobia are anti-Christ/Kingdom

Question: *Are there beliefs, passions, or attitudes I have that don't reflect God's eternal purpose through the church?*

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3. The Church is God's Witness to the Powers

According to Eph. 3:10–11, God's wisdom and victory are being displayed to the rulers and authorities through the Church.

- Evidence of Christ's victory over evil is to be seen through the faithful presence and gospel witness of the Church
- Every disciple made, every life transformed, and every act of love in Jesus' name is a rebuke of the forces of darkness

Question: *How is the Spirit inviting me to make Christ known in my family, neighborhood, school, workplace, or community?*

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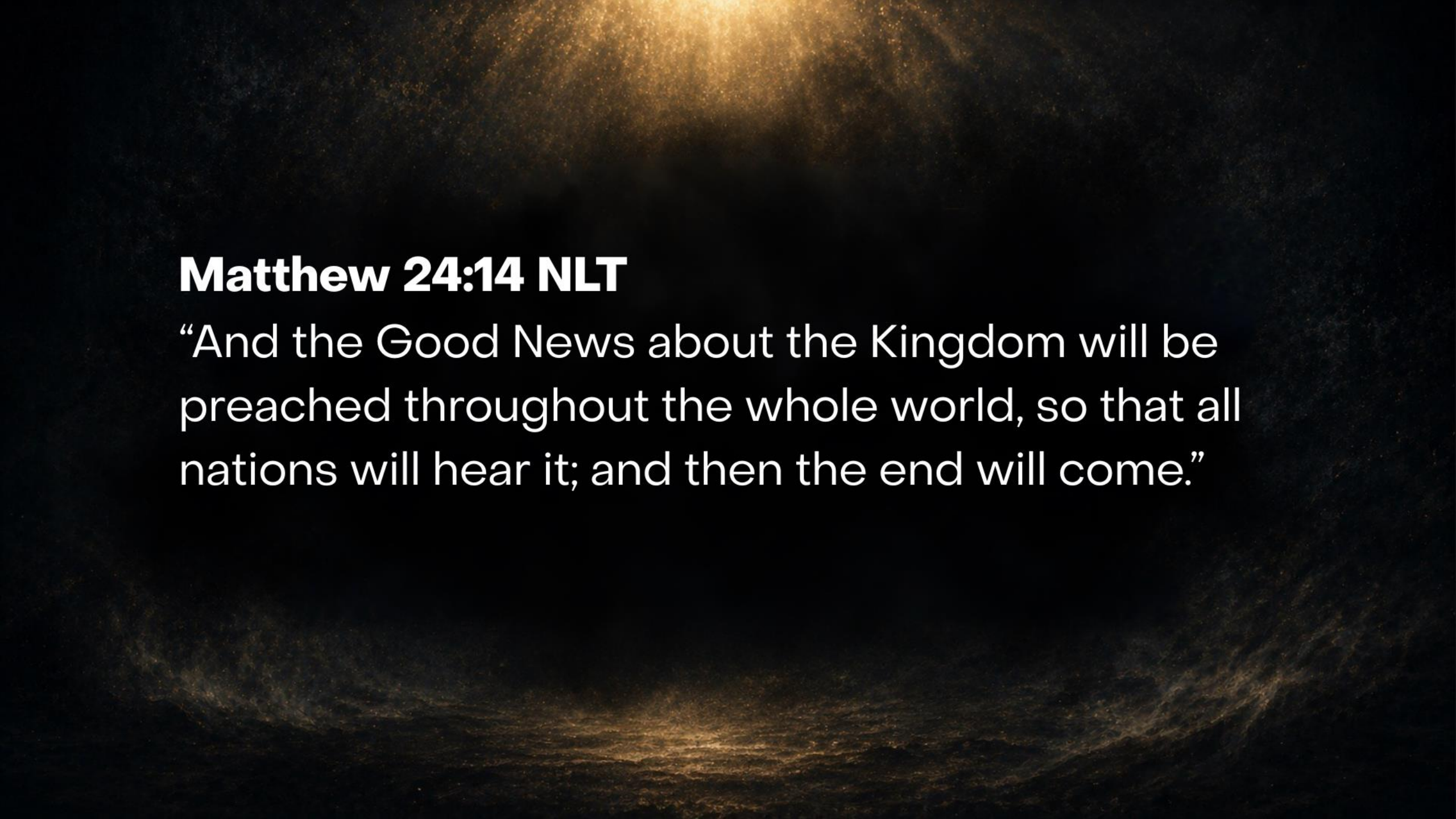
Weekly Practice:

Missional Prayer—"See People as Contested Ground"

Challenge: Pray daily for 2-3 people within your sphere of influence who don't know Jesus and find ways to engage them.

Invitation: Pray something like this: *"God, draw them to yourself. Use me as part of your mission. Help me share my faith."*

Goal: See embodying the gospel, making disciples, and sharing your faith (evangelism) as a form of spiritual warfare.



Matthew 24:14 NLT

“And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.”

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