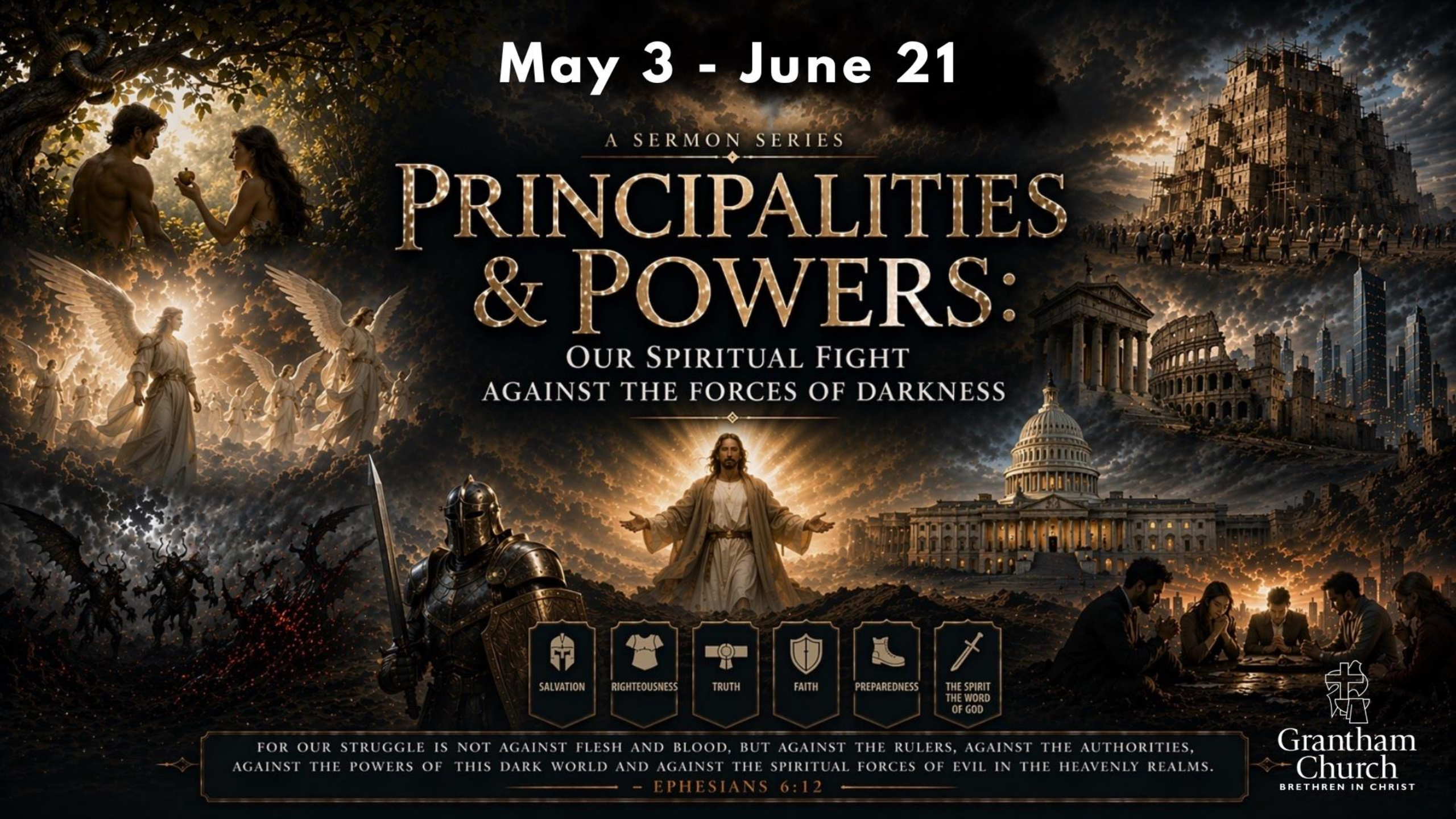


May 3 - June 21

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.”

“In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1



Psalm 82:1 NRSV

“**God** (*elohim*) has taken his place in **the divine council**;
in the midst of **the gods** (*elohim*) he holds judgment”

אֱלֹהִים - “Elohim” is not a name—it’s a category.
It refers to any being in the spiritual realm.

Yahweh is unique because he is:

- uncreated (Ps. 90:2)
- supreme (Ps. 97:9)
- creator of all (Isa. 45:6–7)

So... there are many spiritual beings (*elohim*)
but only one true God; no other *elohim* is like him!





The Garden of Eden

Genesis 2-3

BIBLICAL TIMELINE

THE DRAMA OF REBELLION AND REDEMPTION
FROM CREATION TO ETERNITY

CREATION



God Creates
The Universe
Genesis 1:1

THE DIVINE
COUNCIL



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

THE FALL



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

THE NEPHILIM



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

THE FLOOD



Judgment on the
Earth
Genesis 6:5-9

BABEL



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

CORRUPT
NATIONS



Spiritual Rulers
Become Unjust
Psalm 82
Daniel 10

GOD'S
CHOSEN NATION



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

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PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

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3. The Second Rebellion & the Giants





SCRIPTURE READING

—◆—
Genesis 6:1-8



Noah & the Flood

Genesis 6-9

The Book of Enoch and Second Temple Judaism: The Background & Context of Genesis 6:1-4

What was the Book of Enoch (1 Enoch)?

- Jewish text from the intertestamental period (300–100 BC)
- not in the biblical canon; considered *pseudopigrapha*
- contains unique material on why some angels fell, the origins of the giants (Nephilim) and demons

The Book of Enoch tells us...

- The “Watchers” descend to earth in rebellion
- They take human wives; producing giants
- They teach forbidden knowledge: ***weapons, sorcery, occult practices, astrology, art of seduction, drugs, etc.***
- The flood comes as a result of spiritual & human evil
- The giants (hybrid beings) die and become demons
- Rebellious angels are imprisoned and await judgment



2 Peter 2:4-10 NIV

4 For if God did not spare **angels when they sinned**, but sent them to **hell** [Tartarus], putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment... **9** then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desires of the flesh and despise authority.

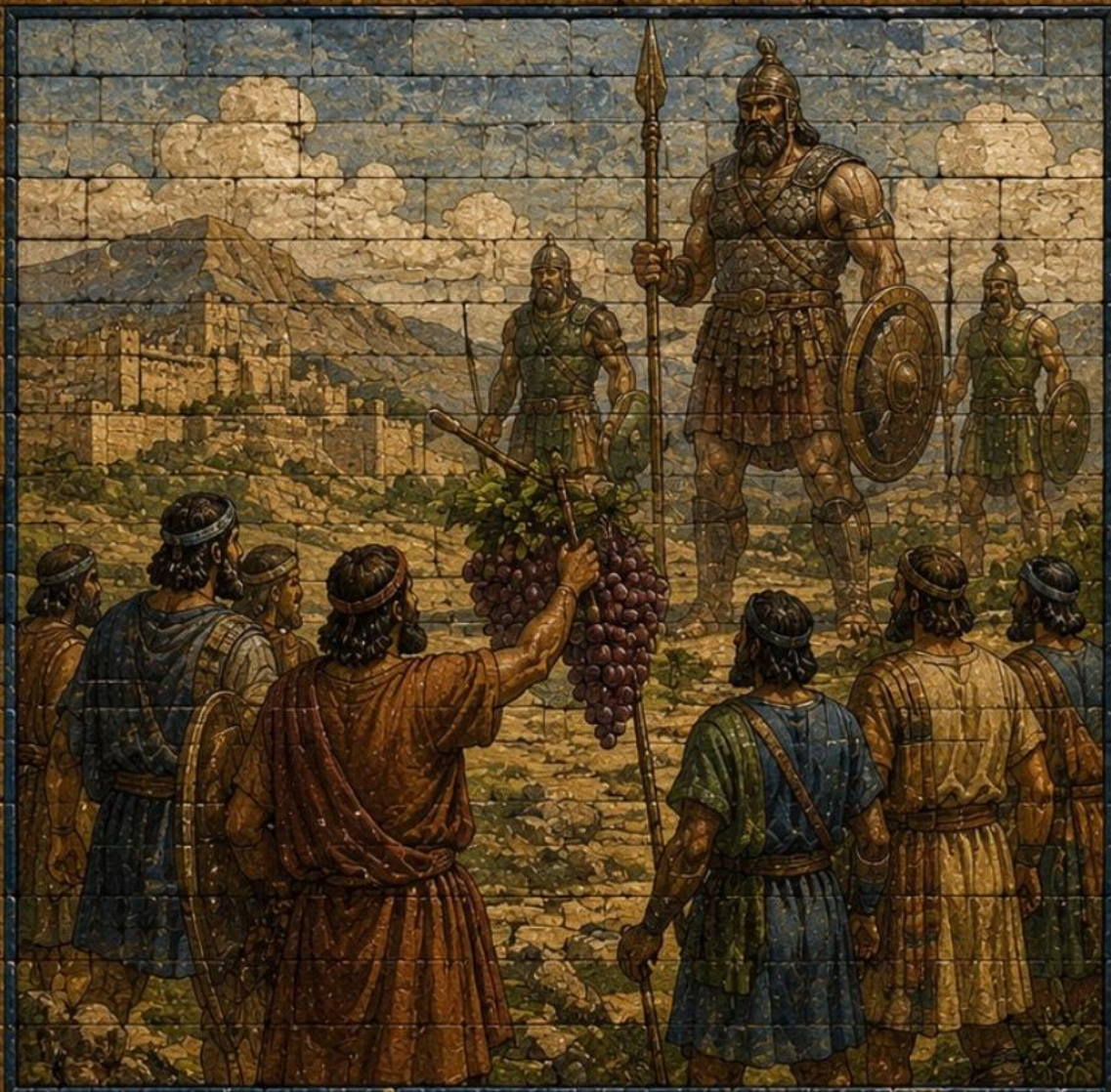
Jude 5-7 NIV

5 Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. **7** In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

1 Peter 3:19–20 NIV

19 After being made alive, he [Jesus] went and made proclamation to the **imprisoned spirits**— **20** to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water...



“As strange as these stories are, they teach us an important lesson: God had divine competition when it came to human destiny. He still does. Opposition to God’s will for earth and humanity is alive and well, in both the spiritual realm and within humankind. But God has his own plans for how heaven and earth will be reunited. Hostile interference will not go unpunished. Humanity is too valuable. God’s own plan for his human family won’t be altered or overturned.”

Michael Heiser, *Supernatural: What the Bible Teaches About the Unseen World and Why It Matters*, pg. 42

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1. Spiritual Beings Influence Human Beings to Sin

The Bible presents evil as both human and spiritual, revealing a deeper cosmic rebellion influencing the world.

- Genesis 6 shows that the increase in human wickedness and violence was first initiated by spiritual beings.
- Spiritual warfare often looks like fallen angels and demons using humans to resist God's good plans for creation.

Question: *What influences, loves, lies, habits, or patterns are pulling me away from God's good design for my life?*

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2. Rebellion Against God Distorts & Brings Disorder

The goal of spiritual evil is to distort God's image in humanity, bring chaos on the earth, and delay their own judgment.

- Evil distorts identity, desire, and relationships; also, spiritual and human rebellion affects cultures, societies & systems.
- Genesis 6 reminds us that spiritual rebellion and human sin are connected—leading to disorder, destruction & death.

Question: *Where do I see rebellious forces of corruption, violence, or dehumanization shaping me and our world today?*

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3. God Preserves Hope Even in the Midst of Darkness

Even when the world was filled with spiritual and human corruption and violence, God did not abandon humanity.

- The flood was divine judgment and necessary to stop hybrid beings, cleanse the earth of wickedness, and reset creation.
- Noah becomes a picture of God's grace, preservation, and hope for humanity—God is committed to his salvific plan!

Question: *Where do I need to trust that God is still working redemption in the middle of sin, suffering, darkness & death?*

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Weekly Practice:

Renouncing Fear – “You Don’t Have to Be Afraid”

Challenge: Identify one fear controlling you and declare:
“In Jesus’ name, I reject fear. Fear is a liar. I belong to Christ.”

Invitation: When fear arises, declare: *“God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”*

Goal: Move from fear of the spiritual forces of darkness and the unknown to confidence in Christ’s power and authority.



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