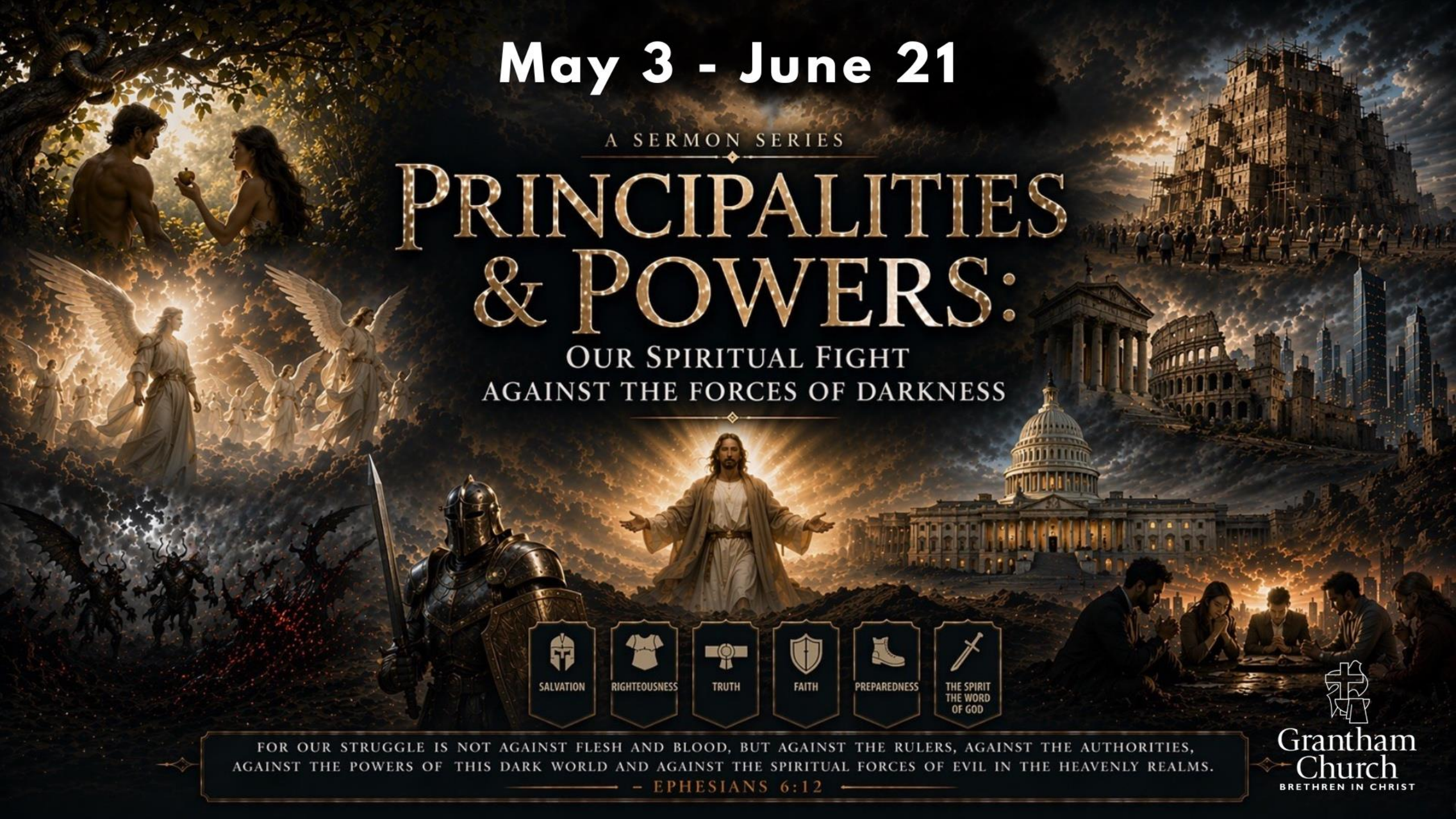


May 3 - June 21

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS



SALVATION



RIGHTEOUSNESS



TRUTH



FAITH



PREPAREDNESS



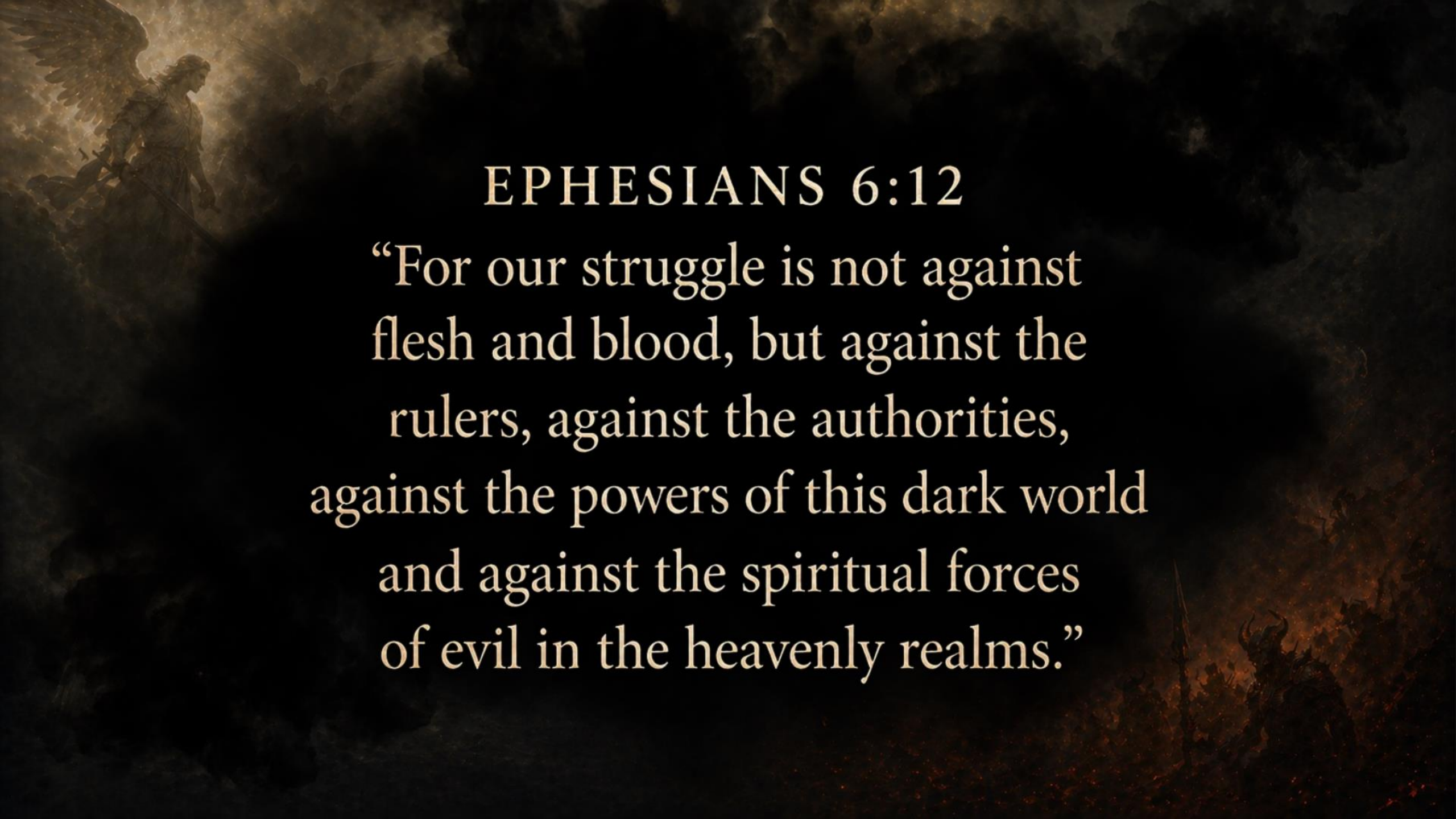
THE SPIRIT
THE WORD
OF GOD

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 —

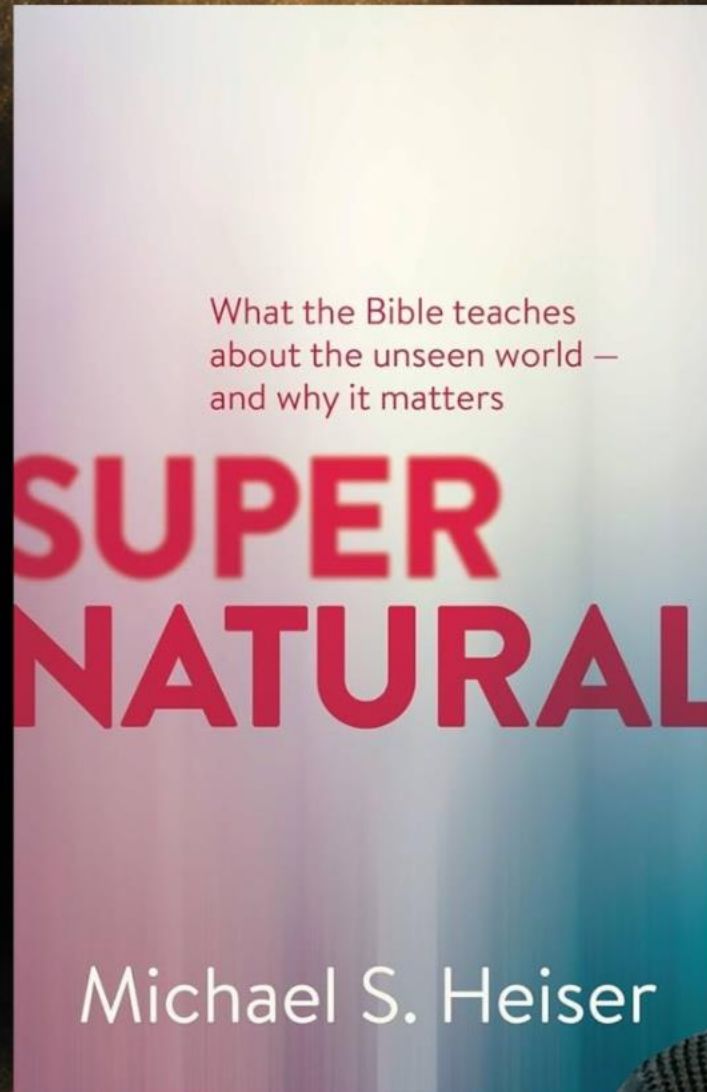
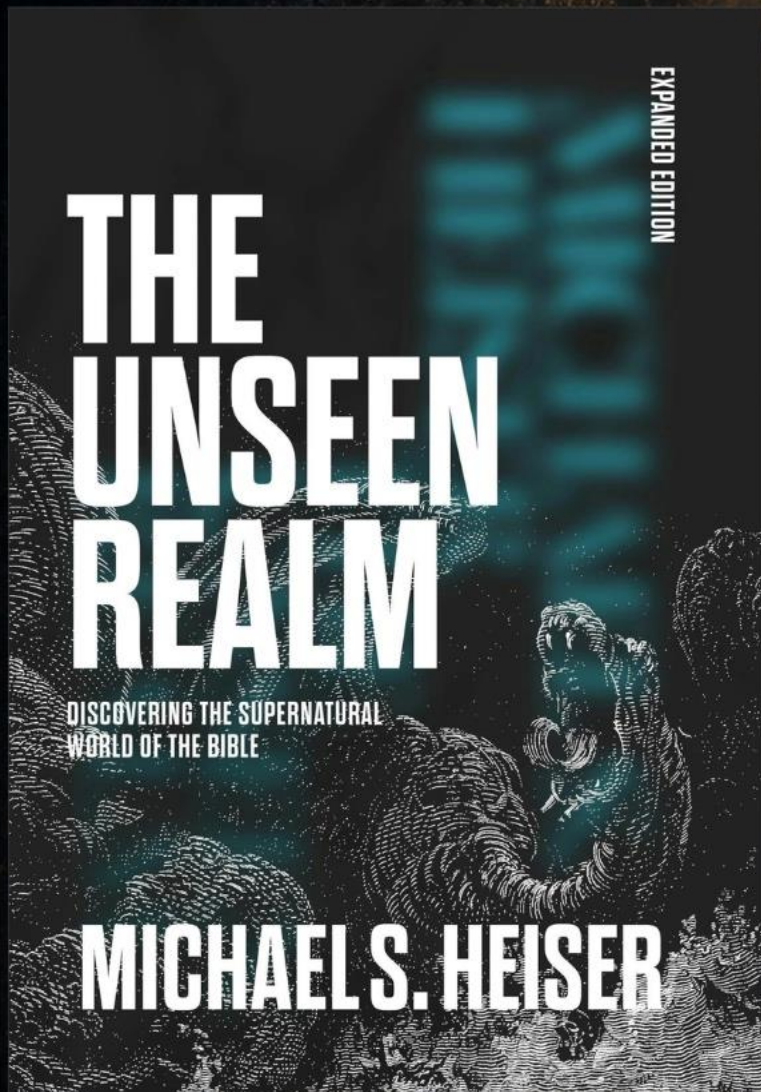


Grantham
Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST

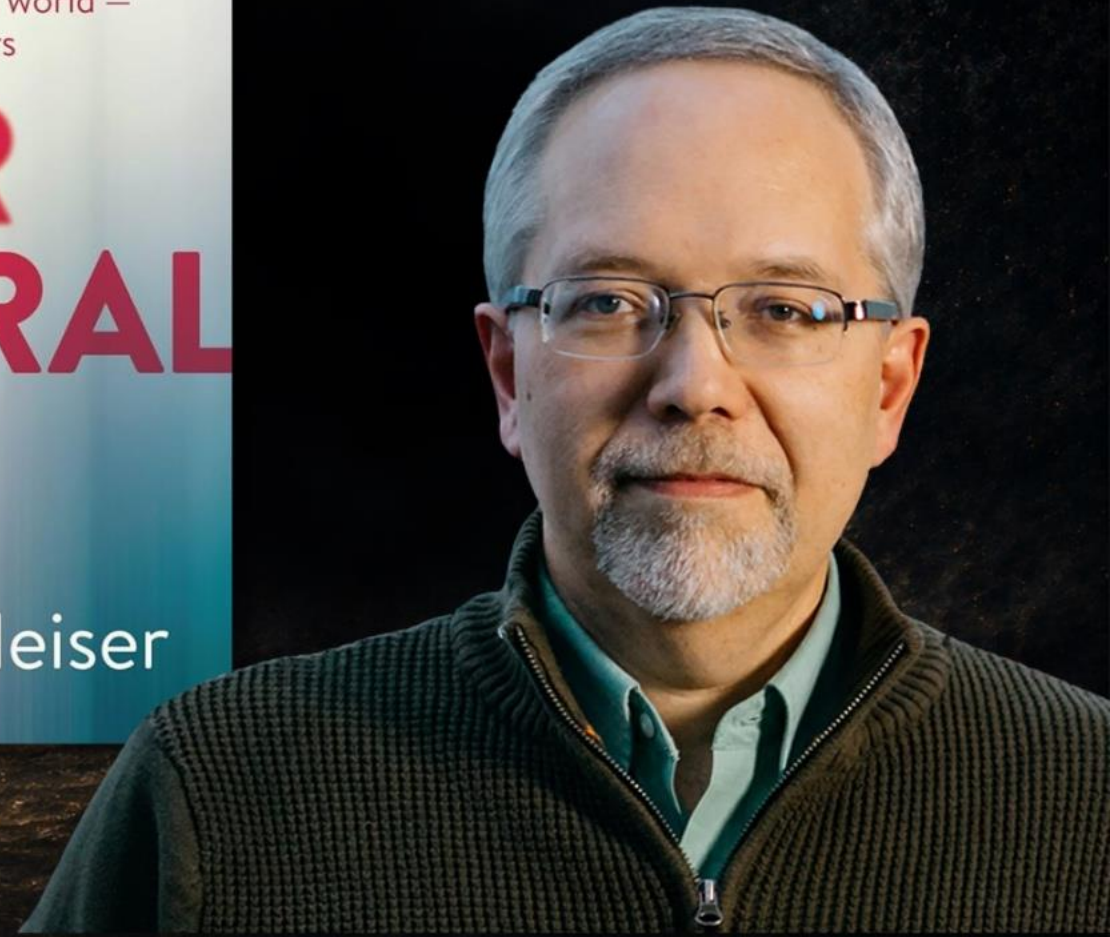


EPHESIANS 6:12

“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.”



Michael Heiser, PhD
(1963–2023)



THE THREE COSMIC REBELLIONS

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

1

THE SERPENT AND THE FALL

GENESIS 3

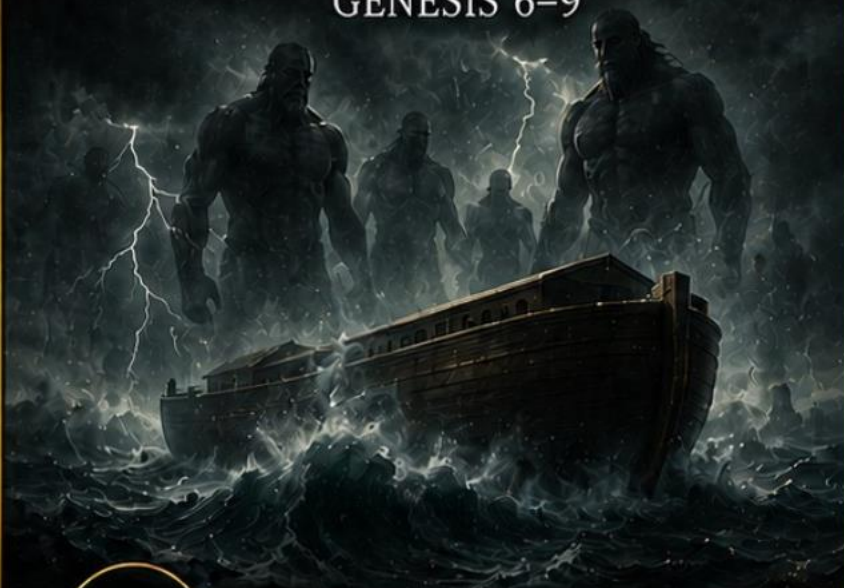


Deception led to
sin, death, and exile.

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

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

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.

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PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

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8. The Call to Fight



SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 6:10-18

The Washington Times

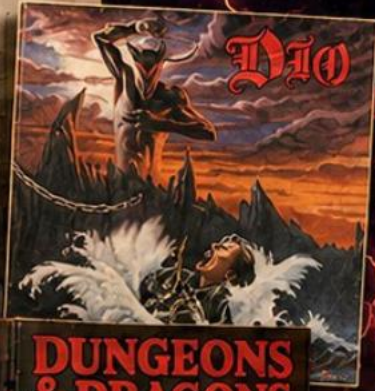
Satanists Entertain Kids

Rock concerts, D&D games
part of plot, claim

By Amy Vagan

ultimate evil—a child's possession by the Devil!
MICHELLE SMITH AND LAWRENCE PALZER, M.D.
illustrated with photographs

MICHELLE REMEMBERS



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

FANTASY ROLE-PLAYING GAME



TSR GAMES

Communion

A TRUE STORY
Whitley Strieber



Ouija

MYSTIFYING ORACLE

FOR THE

ARCDE

FRSBER

WEEK

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GOOD BYE

GOOD BYE

GOOD BYE

GOOD BYE

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GOOD BYE

GOOD BYE

GOOD BYE

GOOD BYE

BAN
D&D

ROCK
MUSIC
IS THE DEVIL

SATAN
WANTS YOUR
CHILDREN!

BACKWARD MASKING
UNMASKED

THE 1980'S & EARLY 90'S



OSZ
OSBOURNE
BLAC
SABBATH



AC/DC



FRIGHT
NIGHT

WILLIAM PETER BLATT'S
THE
EXORCIST
Directed by WILLIAM FREEDMAN

SATANIC PANIC

AWARENESS

JUNE 1986 \$2.95

SATANISM IN THE SUBURBS

The Ritual Abuse
of Children

The Occult
in Rock Music



THE DEVIL'S MUSIC

O'Connor:
Some kids
turn to devil
worship



The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Satanic cults blamed in children's deaths

'Ritualistic' killings
alleged in Texas



PARENTAL
ADVISORY
EXPLICIT LYRICS

POLTERGEIST



WARIC
Satan also has o



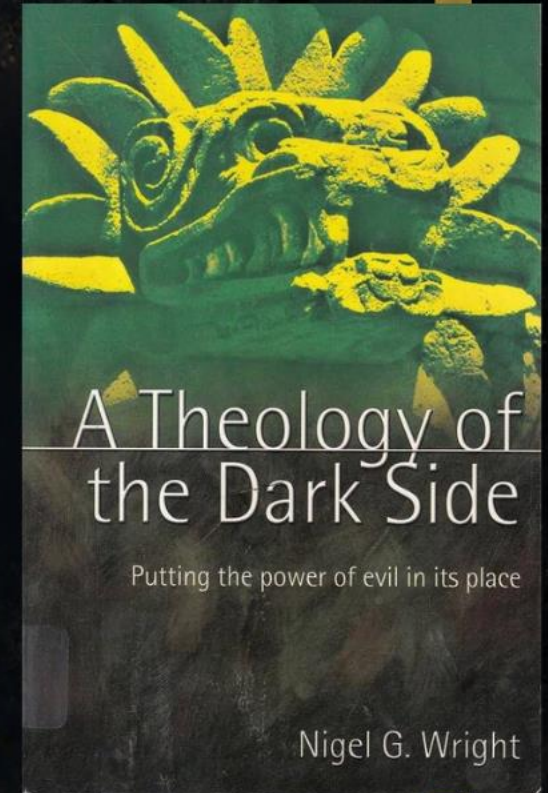
“In the face of doubts and disenchantment we need a vision of spiritual resistance and struggle that energizes our faith in the face of pain and suffering. To save our faith we must embrace spiritual warfare.”

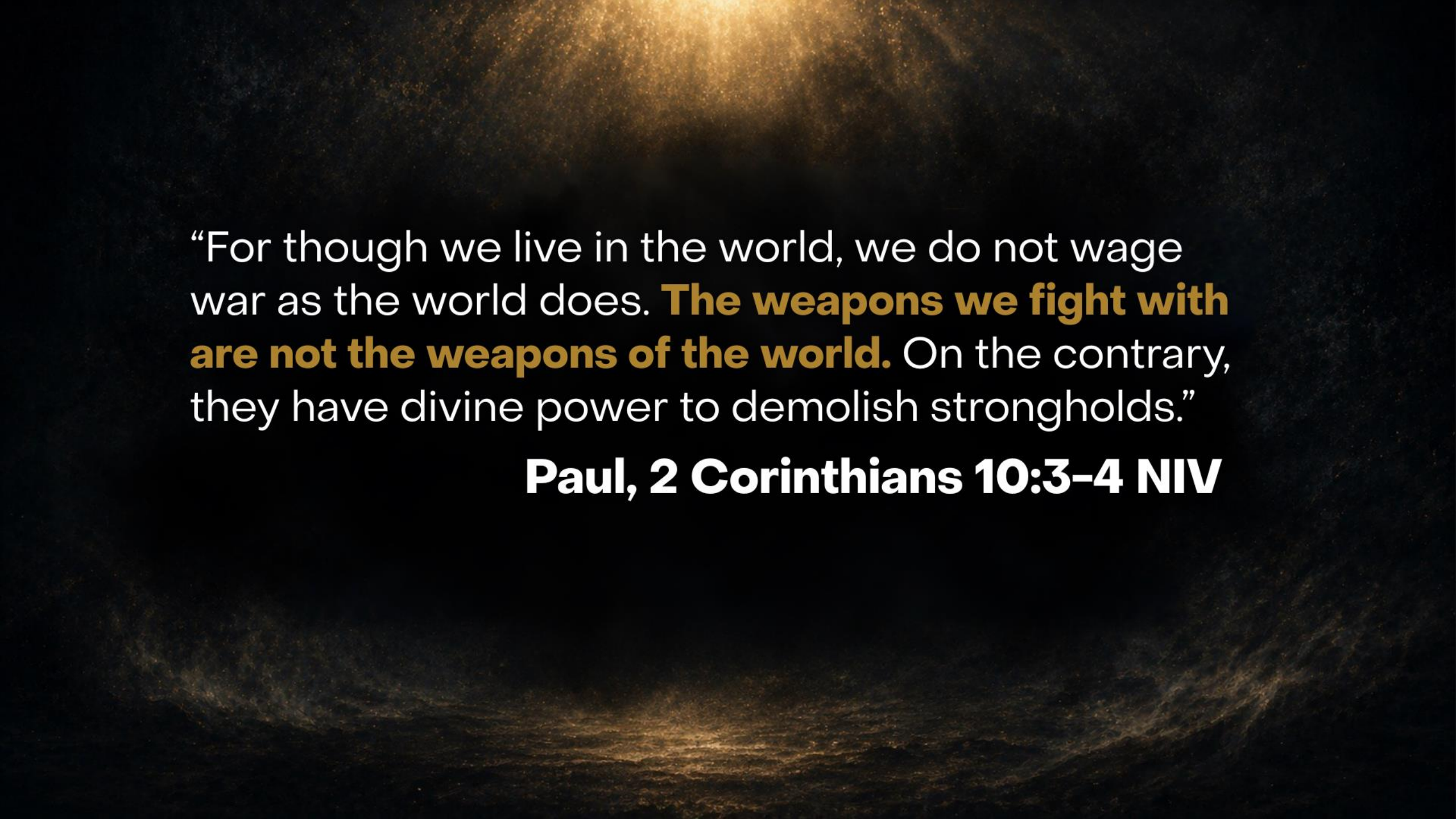
Richard Beck, *Reviving Old Scratch: Demons and the Devil for the Doubters and the Disenchanted*



“The church of Jesus Christ is the church militant. We are engaged in spiritual conflict and need to be equipped for this task. To be sure, the conflict is like no other form of battle and the weapons quite different from any other weapons. **We must re-imagine our notions of warfare.** Yet the analogy is valid. It would be a pity if embarrassment at the military language or misplaced political correctness were to deprive us of the challenge.”

Nigel Goring Wright, *A Theology of the Dark Side: Putting the Power of Evil in Its Place* (pg.180)





“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. **The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.** On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”

Paul, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 NIV

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 6:10-18

verse-by-verse

THE ARMOR OF GOD

“PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE YOUR STAND
AGAINST THE DEVIL'S SCHEMES.” EPHESIANS 6:11



1. THE BELT OF TRUTH

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth
buckled around your waist.

Ephesians 6:14



2. THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

...with the breastplate of righteousness
in place.

Ephesians 6:14



3. THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

...and with your feet fitted with the
readiness that comes from the
gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:15



4. THE SHIELD OF FAITH

In addition to all this, take up the shield
of faith, with which you can extinguish
all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:16



5. THE HELMET OF SALVATION

Take the helmet of salvation...

Ephesians 6:17



6. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Take the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:17

A SERMON SERIES

PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS:

OUR SPIRITUAL FIGHT
AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS

1. Spiritual Warfare Is a Call to Stand Firm, Not Live in Fear

In Eph. 6:10–13, Paul reminds us that the Christian life unfolds in the midst of a real spiritual conflict, but we don't have to fear.

- The principalities and powers are real, but Jesus is greater than every ruler, authority, and spiritual evil force
- Spiritual warfare begins with confidence in Christ's victory over the powers, not anxiety or panic about the enemy

Question: *What fear, anxiety, or spiritual struggle against evil do you need to place under Christ's authority and victory?*

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2. The Armor of God Is a Life Shaped by Christ

The armor of God is not a magical formula or spiritual technique—it is Christ expressed in the life of a believer.

- Truth, righteousness, faith, peace, salvation, and our knowledge of Scripture shape who we are and how we live
- The strongest defense against the lies, deception, and attacks of the enemy is becoming more like Jesus

Question: *Which piece of the armor of God do you most need to strengthen in your life right now and how can you do that?*

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3. Intercessory Prayer Is Our First Response to Evil

After describing the armor, Paul concludes with the reminder that our impulse to fight should first be expressed in prayer.

- When we pray and intercede for others... it helps us get our enemy right and see things through Kingdom lenses
- Intercessory prayer aligns our heart with God's will and purposes, and invites his power into the spiritual fight

Question: *Will you choose to live like our fight is not against people? Will you pray as a first response to evil and injustice?*

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Weekly Practice:

Intercessory Prayer—“Put on Your Armor and Fight!”

Challenge: Spend 10–15 mins daily interceding for others (e.g., leaders, family, friends, church, community, the world, etc.).

Invitation: Pray: “Lord, I’m joining the spiritual fight against evil. I intercede and pray for (he/she/them). Help them, Jesus!”

Goal: See being with Jesus, becoming like him, and doing what he says as an act of spiritual warfare; make *intercessory prayer* an integral part of your faith formation and activism.

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