

War Against the Powers

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole **armor** of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the **devil**.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **cosmic powers** over this present darkness, against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole **armor** of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the **belt** of truth, and having put on the **breastplate** of righteousness,

¹⁵ and, as **shoes** for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the **shield** of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of **the evil one**;

¹⁷ and take the **helmet** of salvation, and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

²¹ So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything.

²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

²³ Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible."

(Eph 6:10-23)

... Marching As To War

You, Christian, are in a war. Whether you like it or not, whether you believe it or not, this is the irrefutable incontrovertible fact of Holy Scripture. You can deny it and thus succumb,¹ despair of it and thus be overwhelmed, or believe it and take heart through God's Word which tells you [the nature of this war](#) and [how to fight in it](#). Sadly, too many people do not understand the nature of this war. They do not know the enemy. Therefore, they often fight all the wrong battles. Others know the enemy but turn to superstitious and even magical uses of the weaponry, which causes

¹ In an interesting comment, one scholar says, "We firstly should note that the majority of scholars have nothing at all to say about our topic. It seems not to register even as a minor factor ... Most general works on Paul make no explicit reference to spirits." This is said when they are supposed to be studying them! See [Guy Williams](#), *The Spirit World in the Letters of Paul the Apostle: A Critical Examination of the Role of Spiritual Beings in the Authentic Pauline Epistles*, *Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments* 231 (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2011), 44.

great harm to themselves and others, but does nothing to the real enemy.

I thought [Stephen Lawhead](#) could whet your appetite for grasping both the nature of this war and the weapons you must use to fight it. Pelleas, Merlin's servant, has just returned from a battle with the witch-queen Morgian. It wasn't much of a fight, however. His master has succumbed to a bewitching spell as the she-hag had deceived them both into thinking she was an innocent young maid in the middle of an empty forest. Merlin now sleeps the sleep of death. Nothing can awaken him. Exhausted, Pelleas himself succumbs to a deep sleep.

In my sleep I entered that state where a human being stands closest to the Otherworld. The veil that separates the two worlds grew thin and I could sense the seething darkness that had enveloped the Tor [the Castle]. Deep, impenetrable, black as death, it was the shadow of a great ravening beast – a ghastly thing with wings and coils like a serpent, with which it bound the Tor and palace. I could not see the unholy creature, but I could feel the bone-aching chill of its presence, and I heard the howl of its mindless hate. I quailed to think of the [power](#) that had called it into being and loosed it on the world. But as darkly powerful as the hell-thing was,

something held it at bay – something stronger still – though I could not see what it was.²

That is the nature of this war. Now the weaponry. Pelleas had been asked by the abbot, “I would hear you tell me what you know of this spell – but not here. We will go into the hall.” He listened, a frown on his face, nodding occasionally as he followed the woeful recitation. “Undoubtedly,” he said when he had heard, “It is as we suspect: a most powerful enchantment. The weapons we will need to fight it must be equally powerful ... You must understand,” he told Pelleas, “you cannot fight the enemy with the enemy’s weapons – even for good.”³

As the Apostle begins to wrap up his letter to the Ephesians, he moves quickly from the lengthy household codes, rules for members of the Christian household that ended with *servanys and masters* (something like Pelleas to Merlin) back to the theme that both began and has saturated this letter—the *supernatural world* in which the Ephesian Christians find themselves. He exhorts them, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the

² Stephen Lawhead, *Arthur: Book Three of the Pendragon Cycle* (New York: Avon, 1989), 88-89.

³ Lawhead, 86, 97.

whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil...” (Eph 6:10-11).

He proceeds to explain to them the nature of a great battle that Christians wage (12) and to arm them with the only weapons that will both protect them and defeat their enemy (13-17). “*The weapons we will need to fight it must be equally powerful.*” He concludes the letter with examples of how to use those weapons (18-20), and some personal encouragement that will reinforce all that he has said (21-24).

The way the text is written, it is possible to see a couple different center-points, depending on how you read it. Some have seen vv. 10-20 as a chiasm, with the center being vs. 12. That verse is the explanation of the nature of the war we are in.⁴

- A. The strength of his might (6:10)
- B. The whole armor of God (6:11)
- C. **The nature of the war: supernatural (6:12)**
- B¹. The whole armor of God (6:13)
- A¹. Becoming strong through the weapons (14-20)

On the other hand, you can see a chiasm within the armor of God section (6:14-22) that has the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit and the Word of God as the

⁴ “Ephesians 6:10-20,” <https://www.chiasmusxchange.com/2018/02/14/ephesians-610-20/>.

center. In this case, there are also clear connections back to the parallel in the larger book, which curiously is that great long sentence we made such a big deal about in **Eph 1:3-14**.⁵ In this way, **salvation** becomes the focal point.

- A. Girding you up (6:14)
- B. The Gospel (6:15-16)
- C. **Salvation: Spirit and Word (6:17)**
- B¹. The Gospel (6:18-20)
- A¹. Girding you up (21-22)

Thus, as we move into this final section of Ephesians, my plan is to spend this sermon helping you grasp **the nature of the war**. Who is it we are fighting? Our focal point will be vs. 12, one of the best known, yet I think least understood verses in the NT. Next time, we will discuss the weapons of the war, focusing on the center of the second chiasm. It is only after you understand the identity of the enemy and the victory you already have over it that the nature of the weapons can make any sense at all. This is what the abbot told Pelleas. This is what I hope to get across to you today.

⁵ See **John Paul Heil**, *Ephesians: Empowerment to Walk in Love for the Unity of All in Christ* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2007), 281-99.

As Below, So Above

I'm going to go about this in a rather unusual way. Here is a riddle. What do the **Taurus** Mountains in Turkey, the **Atlas** Mountains in Libya, the **Straights of Gibraltar** between Spain and Morocco, the three **pyramids** of Giza, the founding myth of **Rome**, a people who worship the **Dog Star** in the African nation of Mali, our **nation's Capital**, the **Mexican flag**, and the high-elevation city of **Cuzco**, Peru all have in common? The answer is a dark mystery rooted in a truth found in **Ephesians 6:12**. The Apostle says, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

Of the nine facts I mentioned above, perhaps you can tell that a few are related to the **constellations** that surround our planet. **Taurus** is the bull in the zodiac, those 12 constellations that surround the planet. The **Dog**



Star is Sirius, the brightest star of the night sky, which makes up part of the constellation Canis Major. **Atlas** (from which we get the name of modern maps), you may recall, is the Greek Titan who was cursed by Zeus to hold the heavens on his shoulders.

These three are clearly related to astronomy and astrology. **Atlas is the key** to the whole thing. As Homer tells us, “**Atlas [is] the Magician; he knows the depths of all the seas, he and no other guards the tall pillars that keep the sky and earth apart.**” (**Homer**, *Odyssey* 1.52). Knowing the depths of the seas indicates the role that **astronomy** plays in **navigation**. Through the “magic,” Atlas is sometimes said to be the father of astronomy and **astrology**,⁶ and measuring the seasons. In fact, he is responsible for them, for at the place he



holds the pillars, he causes the stars to rotate around the earth, giving us seasons.

This place is **the Atlas Mountains** in Libya. In the

⁶ "Atlas had worked out the science of astrology to a degree surpassing others and had ingeniously discovered the spherical arrangement of the stars, and for that reason was generally believed to be bearing the entire firmament upon his shoulders" (**Diodorus Siculus**, *Library of History*, Book 4.26.2).

Greek story, Perseus has to pass through the territory of Atlas, who would not allow him passage. Thus, he was compelled to show Atlas Medusa's face. This turned the giant into stone. That giant stone became the Atlas Mountains. As Ovid tells it, "Atlas, so huge, became a mountain; beard and hair were changed to forests, shoulders were cliffs, hands ridges; where his head had lately been, the soaring summit rose; his bones were turned to stone. Then each part grew beyond all measure (so the gods ordained) and on his shoulders rested the whole vault of heaven with all the innumerable stars" (Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 4.627; see also Polyidus, *Etymologicum Magnum Frag* 837, Greek Lyric V). It is through this idea of Atlas that all nine pieces of my riddle are related to the constellations of the heavens. But this is only understood once you grasp the way ancient peoples thought of the universe beyond the earth.

That thinking is contained in the ancient idea, "As below so above, and as above so below."⁷ In a very practical way,

⁷ This is found in the esoteric book, *The Secret Works of Chiram* (or Thoth or Hermes Trismegistus). Sometimes called the *Emerald Tablet*, this is a book said to be in existence since before the Flood. Our first known copy of it is a 6th century Arabic text. It was the fascination of such men as Isaac Newton (who translated it) and Albert Magnus. The maxim is clearly old, as Jesus himself teaches us to pray along similar lines, "on earth as it is in heaven." For a brief synopsis of this book as well as the geographical connections I have mentioned as will discuss, see David Flynn, "The Mars Earth Connection Cydonia in Ancient Science and Mythology," *Youtube*, <https://youtu.be/EGUthmNKvYA?t=1617>.

this proverb is directly related to the human ability to **navigate** the earth and to **measure time**. Both navigation and time necessitate that we figure out a way to anchor the never-stationary, always-revolving heavens to a fixed point on earth. If you can do that, you can create longitude, which allows you to navigate, and with longitude you can then measure the movement of the sun accurately so that you can measure time in different parts of the earth.

Perhaps the idea of time was first and foremost in the mind of the **International Meridian Conference** in Washington, D.C. which in 1884 voted to adopt the Greenwich (the name is no accident) meridian as the prime meridian (0° longitude), which they call “**the center of time and space.**” You might think that this is an arbitrary idea, because unlike the Equator and tropics of latitude which are fixed by the sun, you could create your prime meridian anywhere on earth. But that is radically incorrect.

Rather, from at least the time of **Ptolemy** (100-170 AD), perhaps because it is the brightest star in the night sky, the **Dog Star** has served as the fixed prime meridian. When you superimpose this with the myth of Atlas holding the pillars at the very center of the heaven-earth connection, you can do something quite amazing. This involves one of the **twelve signs of the zodiac** called **Gemini**.



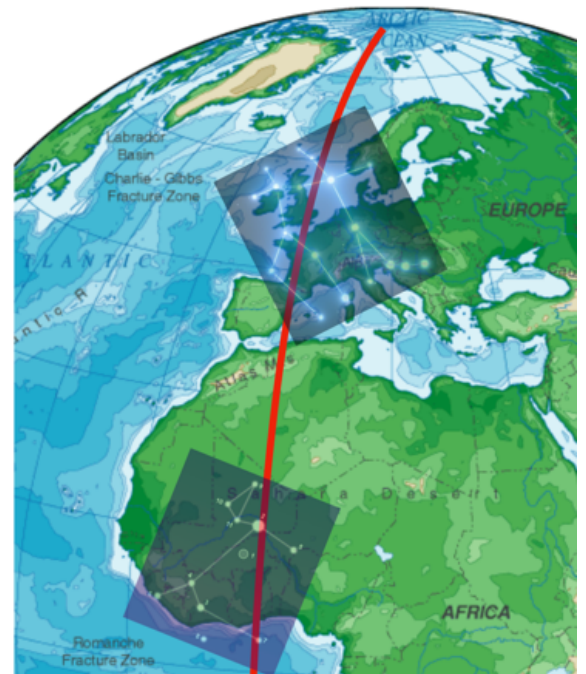
GEMINI



Ptolemy Map with Sirius as Prime Meridian

The Gemini are twins. Like Atlas holding the pillars of heaven and earth, they are depicted in glyph form, curiously enough, as **pillars**. When you put the dog star on the Greenwich meridian, and place the Gemini right over Gibraltar, you in fact line up perfectly over the Atlas Mountains, the ancient pivot point of earth. Then, something remarkable happens. All of the sudden, the Dog Star hovers over **Mali**, the very nation that

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worshiped Sirius. The feet of the twins hover over Italy, which becomes their boot if you will, and the founding myth of the **twins** Romulus and Remus begins to take shape.

As you then spread out the other constellations over the earth, you find that in places as separated by distance and



language as North and South America, Europe, and Africa, the constellation over that

area “just so happens” to be the constellation that ancient and modern peoples choose to symbolize in their architecture or name after geographical regions. **Taurus** is over the Taurus mountains, **Orion** is over Egypt,⁸ **Corvus** the bird (is right over Mexico City, **Virgo** is over Washington D.C. and the Mary-land/Virgin-a/Anna-polis intersection,⁹ **Leo** the

⁸ On the Origin-Pyramids connection see **Robert Buval**, “A Master Plan for the Three Pyramids of Giza Based on the Configuration of the Three Stars of the Belt of Orion’ in *Discussions in Egyptology* 13 (1989): 7–18 and his book with Adrian Gilbert, *The Orion Mystery: Unlocking the Secrets of the Pyramids* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1993).

⁹ On the Virgo connection to the city layout of Washington DC see **David Ovason**, *The Secret Architecture of our Nation’s Capital* (London: Century Books Limited, 1999), especially chs. 9-

Lion dominates over Cusco,¹⁰ Gemini is over the Straights of Gibraltar, and so on.¹¹ Combine this with the almost incomprehensible efforts some of these peoples went to create things like the Pyramids that emulate Orion's belt, or the great walls of Sacsayhuaman in Cusco that make up the head and teeth of the lion, or the deeply symbolized Virgo in our nation's capital, or the Mexican flag and the bird, and you begin to understand the power these people believed they were tapping into.



11. You can read a brief summary at [Marcia Masino](http://www.stariq.com/Main/Articles/P0001999.HTM), "Watchington, D. C.'s Astrological Secrets," *Star IQ*, <http://www.stariq.com/Main/Articles/P0001999.HTM>. A video presentation that deals with this is *Secrets in Plain Sight*, "04 Washington DC Part 3 – Secrets in Plain Sight," *Youtube* (Oct 27, 2010) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIo0Nx7IdOI>.

¹⁰ On the city layout of Cusco see SmithsonianNMAI, "The Great Inka Empire: In Cusco's Outline, an Andean Deity—The Puma," *Youtube* (Sept 8, 2015), https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=h5RG0LsLe9A. This includes that almost too incredible to believe megalithic walls of Sacsayhuaman, which form the head and teeth of the puma-lion.

¹¹ For all of these see [David Flynn](https://youtu.be/EGUthmNKvYA?t=1617), "The Mars Earth Connection Cydonia in Ancient Science and Mythology," *Youtube*, <https://youtu.be/EGUthmNKvYA?t=1617>. For a speculative consideration of Atlantis in this thought-world, see David's brother Mark Flynn, "The Star Sirius Points to the Location of Atlantis. David Flynn was Right," *Discover Meaning* (Nov 12, 2018), <http://www.siriustwins.com/meaning/the-revealing/as-above-so-below-david-flynn-was-right-sirius-is-atlantis/>.



This actually becomes part of the ancient origins of the modern occultic idea of a [horoscope](#). I'm sure you've been asked, "What's your sign?" But rather than the constellations influencing nations, the idea is that each sign influences every single individual, not by place of birth, but by "time" of year (remember, we measure time through the constellations). Thus, depending upon the time of year you are in, your horoscope changes and you are supposed to act in view of this knowledge.

Many Christians [dismiss the horoscope](#) as hopelessly superstitious nonsense of deceived people influenced by the drugged hippies from the 60s and the New Age movement of more recent times. Certainly, there is a lot of hocus-pocus and just stupidity going on, especially in newspaper horoscopes. But what people do not understand is that the whole

idea of constellations and stars influencing people and nations is a deeply [biblical](#) idea. The problem is that they neither know the theology behind this nor why the Scripture is so profoundly set *against* these ideas for Christians. It isn't because it is necessarily hocus-pocus (again, people can turn it into that). It is because the powers behind these things are wicked, evil, and in rebellion against God.

What do I mean by [powers](#)? Reflect upon the words of [Albertus Magnus \(Albert the Great\)](#), considered by some to be the greatest German philosopher and theologian of the Middle Ages and deemed the patron saint of science by Rome. He said, “[The powers of all things below originate in the stars and constellations of the heavens: and all these powers are poured down into all things below by the first circle of the constellations](#)” ([Albertus Magnus, Book of Minerals](#), 1280 AD). In the mind of alchemists and magicians like Magnus or Isaac Newton or many of the American Founding Fathers, the idea is that “[If heaven can be mirrored to the earth, if heaven can be connected to the earth, then the early philosophers believed that power could also be theirs. They could avail themselves of these patterns. They could avail themselves of the power. With this knowledge alone you](#)

can work miracles.”¹² You may not take that seriously, but I promise, many powerful people over the centuries have.

Powers in Ephesians

“Power” is a term that Ephesians employs several times, including our verse, to refer **not to mindless energies** like we think of electricity or a bomb exploding or a car engine churning so that we can drive, but to **supernatural entities**. Jesus has been enthroned “**far above all rule and authority and power [dunamis] and dominion**” (Eph 1:21); Satan is called the “**the prince of the power [exousia] of the air**” (Eph 2:2); Christ and his Spirit are the “**the power [dunamis] at work within us**” (Eph 3:20; cf. 16); and in our verse our struggle is against “**the powers**” [exousia; NAS] or the “**cosmic powers**” [kosmokratoras; ESV] of this present darkness (6:12).

Why all this talk about **power** in our verse and throughout Ephesians? The answer begins to unfold the meaning and purpose of what I am trying to help you understand in **Eph 6:12**. Here is where the ground-work that we have laid

¹² David Flynn, “AOD 2003, Mars/Earth Connection: Cydonia, Genesis 3, Part 1,” uploaded by LostArtsMedia, *Youtube*, https://youtu.be/ophC-_WZq8k?t=1462.

throughout our study and now in this strange thinking about the zodiac can be so helpful.

Recall that we have said much about [the importance of magic to the people of Ephesus](#). As Metzger has said, “[Of all ancient Graeco-Roman cities, Ephesus, the third largest city in the Empire, was by far the most hospitable to magicians, sorcerers, and charlatans of all sorts.](#)”¹³ In Acts 19, Luke implies that there were a great many magicians in Ephesus, many who converted to Christianity. They burned so many magical books that it amounted to 50,000 days wages. We have discovered the so-called “Ephesian Letters” which are magical spells mentioned as early as the fourth century B.C. The point of these was to [summon power](#) to ward off evil demons.¹⁴

And of course, we must not forget the worship of [Artemis-Diana](#) in her glorious temple, one of the seven wonders of the world. In this regard, it is important to note that Artemis seems to have represented [the center of the universe](#), as she wore a [necklace that is the Zodiac](#) and is surrounded by animal figures that represent cherubim and constellations

¹³ [Bruce M. Metzger](#), “St. Paul and the Magicians,” *Princeton Seminary Bulletin* 38 (1944): 27 [27-30].

¹⁴ [Clinton Arnold](#), *Power and Magic: The Concept of Power in Ephesians* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 1989), 15.

and other supernatural entities. All things revolve around her, quite literally, for the Ephesian people.¹⁵ Therefore, she was of great importance of helping to ward off any rogue power that attempted to cause harm to a citizen.



And yet, Artemis is herself one of the created powers of heaven, a usurper who pretends to sit on Yahweh's throne. In fact, there are many powers of heaven, and they are not all the same things. This is what Paul is talking about when he names not just “powers” but also “**rulers**” and “**authorities**” and “**spiritual forces of evil**” in this verse. In fact, he lists a total of six evil powers between vv. 11-16. These are:

¹⁵ See the discussion in [Arnold](#), *Power and Magic*, 66-67; 192 n. 84; 193 n. 87.

1. *diabolos* (the devil); vs. 11; see 4:27
2. *archas* (“rulers” or sometimes “principalities”); vs. 12
3. *exousia* (“authorities” or sometimes “powers”); vs. 12
4. *kosmokratoras* (“cosmic powers” or sometimes “world forces”); vs. 12
5. *pneumatika tes ponerias* (“spiritual forces of evil” or “spirits of wickedness”); vs. 12
6. *tou ponerou* (“The Evil One”); vs. 16; cf. Matt 6:12.

We know that he is speaking about *supernatural* evil creatures (as opposed to human evil) from the context of the verse. First, he compares the “devil” (who is Satan), a clearly supernatural creature in vs. 11 with the evil creatures of vs. 12. You want to “stand against the schemes of the devil for we do not wrestle against...” What we wrestle against is clearly not human, for it is “not flesh and blood.” Rather, we are fighting against things “in the heavenly places.”

Just here, I must make a point that you absolutely must hear, come to understand, and believe. It is a point that far too many Christians in some circles take much too far (seeing the devil behind literally everyone rock), and others hardly take seriously at all (sadly, I have found this quite true in the Reformed world). He says, we do not wrestle against flesh and blood. Too many Christians act like this is all there

is to fight against. Look at the way we talk about our **politicians** or our **movie stars** or our **news reporters**. Too few focus on their “**lofty opinions raised against the knowledge of God**” (**2Co 10:5**), and instead take out their vitriol on the men and women who spew forth these wicked ideas. Biblically speaking, you couldn’t get it more wrong. Men are our fellow image bearers; Christ died so that people like these could be saved. This is his love for mankind. Our fight is not against them. For **they are slaves** to the powers of the heavens; they must do their bidding. By definition. That’s what **Ephesians 2:1-3** taught so clearly.

When Paul speaks of arguments and lofty opinions, he is **moving beyond flesh and blood** to the realm of knowledge and ideas and thoughts which he says have their origin in the world beyond this one. In fact, this passage is parallel to the one we are in as he says, “**Though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds**” (**2Co 10:3-4**). He is speaking of ideas that have supernatural origins. Recall that in some places he speaks about the “**teachings of demons**” (**1Ti 4:1**). This is actually a similar idea to Gnosticism, except that the **Gnostics** view the receiving of this information as *a thing to be pursued*

with all one's energies. Paul thinks it is knowledge that must be **taken captive** (notice the slavery imagery) to the obedience of Christ by casting it down and seeing it for what it is.

So, you simply must learn to see the world with different eyes—not the eyes of sight, especially what you see paraded before you on TV news and social media, but with **the eyes of faith**. If this entire discussion has been making you uncomfortable, then you have not yet begun to grasp the reality that the entire ancient world believed in so strongly that they erected these impossible monuments. You have to start seeing the world as a battlefield of a supernatural origin. There are powers in this world that you know nothing of, that you consider far too lightly, that you haven't begun to imagine, whose ideas are meant to tear apart the very fabric of civilization. These are powers that shape the destinies of nations and of men. They are malevolent, hostile, dark, and in great rebellion against the Most High God.

But what are they? In trying to parse all of these creatures, it has been popular to try to create hierarchies. From the nearly endless lists of hierarchies of angels and demons created by later **Rabbis** and **Church Fathers** to the popular books by **Frank Peretti** which take their title from Ephesians 6:12, *This Present Darkness*, we must be careful. As much as

some people have tried to use Peretti's book as a kind of systematic theology manual on the demonic realm, it is at the end of the day just a novel. We are on much safer ground to go to the scholars to see how these terms are used. In them, we can discern some kind of hierarchy, but also a lot of just general terminology that tries to capture the totality of the fallen supernatural world.

Kosmokratoras and the *Elemental/Elementary Spirits* (*Stoicheia*)

As we think about these, I want to focus in on [the third in our list](#) first. This is the *hapax legomena* (appearing only one time) *kosmokratoras* (“cosmic powers” or “world forces”). The word literally means “[world](#)” (*kosmos*) “[ruler/power](#)” (*kratos*). While only being used one time in the Bible, it is found outside the Bible, especially in magic spells that the Ephesians were familiar with, and especially as it surrounds astrology—the [zodiac](#)!¹⁶ In fact, the term is deeply [astrological](#).¹⁷

¹⁶ *Arnold, Powers*, 65-67.

¹⁷ Arnold cites F. Cumont and L. Canet, “Mithra ou Sarapis KOSMOKRATOR?” *CRAI* (1919): 313-28.

It is used of the planets, the stars, and the sun “chiefly because according to astrology they exercise a fateful influence over man.”¹⁸ There are many *kosmokratoras*. In the fascinating Testament of Solomon 8:2, the word describes the “wandering stars” (see Jude 13) named “like gods.” We call them planets (the Planets are all named after gods: Mercury/Hermes; Venus/Aphrodite; Earth/Gaia; Mars/Ares; Jupiter/Jupiter; Saturn/Cronus; Uranus/Caelus/Heaven; Neptune/Poseidon. The Testament calls them Deception, Strife, Fate, Distress, Error, Power, and The Worst;). In the Testament, these *kosmokratoras* are parallel with a word not found in Ephesians but found in the parallel book Colossians.¹⁹ This is the word *stoicheia* (Col 2:8; 2:20).²⁰

¹⁸ R. Feldmeier, “World Rulers,” ed. Karel van der Toorn, Bob Becking, and Pieter W. van der Horst, *Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible* (Leiden; Boston; Köln; Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge: Brill; Eerdmans, 1999), 908 [908-09]

¹⁹ Something I have not made a huge deal about in our study of Ephesians is its very close relationship to Colossians. In fact, both letters were written by Paul from his prison in Rome. 25% of Ephesians is paralleled in Colossians, while 34% of Colossians is found in Ephesians. There are nearly identical lists and the two share words that are found in no other books. Two good references are John B. Polhill, “The Relationship between Ephesians and Colossians,” *Review and Expositor* 70/4 (Fall 1973): 439-450; Philip Schaff and David Schley Schaff, “§ 96. Colossians and Ephesians Compared and Vindicated,” *History of the Christian Church*, vol. 1 (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1910), 782-88.

²⁰ “When I, Solomon, saw them, I was amazed and asked them, “Who are you?” They replied, “We are heavenly bodies (*esmen stoicheia*), rulers of this world of darkness (*kosmokratoras tou skotous*)” (TSol 8:1-2). The language *kosmokratoras* of this world of darkness is similar to Ephesians’ “cosmic powers over this present darkness” (*kosmokratoras tou skotous toutou*). Arnold writes, “The usage may have been influenced by Eph 6:12, however. F. C. Conybeare, “The Testament of Solomon,” *JQR* 11 (1898), 6, on the other hand, argues that the phrase *kosmokratoras tou skotous* cannot be regarded as imported from Ephesians into the Testament. He sees the phrase as reflecting Jewish demonology.” Arnold, *Powers* p. 192 n. 80.

The fact that these are parallel ideas can be seen by remembering the overall context of Ephesians and the corresponding language of the *stoicheia* in other parts of the NT. Consider the strange, almost abrupt change in topic from the household lists that ended with **slaves** and masters to this seemingly brand new idea of fighting in a war against these supernatural powers. Then listen to how the *stoicheia* are talked about in Colossians and Galatians.

“See to it that no one *takes you captive* by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits (*stoicheia*) of the world, and not according to Christ” (Col 2:8). He does the same thing in Galatians, “How can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles (*stoicheia*) of the world, whose *slaves* you want to be once more?” (Gal 4:9). Do you hear the language of slavery? Humanity is enslaved to the *stoicheia*. Is it a coincidence that Paul just finished talking about slaves and masters? *Stoicheia* and *kosmokratoras* are slave masters.

What are the *stoicheia*? In the ancient world, *stoicheia* can refer to three things. 1. Elementary principles of religious teaching, especially law. 2. The basic elements of nature such

as earth, water, air, and fire. 3. Personal spiritual beings of some kind.²¹ These are all intimately related.

First, it is interesting that the English words *elementary* and *elements* are related to one another. A maxim like $2+2=4$ is something “elementary” (see the translation of *stoicheia* as “basic principles” in **Heb 5:12**). Something that is elementary is taught to you by someone else, like a school teacher. Curiously, Paul calls these creatures “guardians and managers until the Father decides the fullness of time has come” (**Gal 4:2**), even as he calls the law that was put into effect through angels (**3:19**) a “tutor” or “schoolmaster” (*paidagogos*; **Gal 3:24**).²² In other words, there is a direct relationship between the basic teachings of the nations and their origin in the *stoicheia*. Do you still wonder why the sky was so important to them?

²¹ Daniel G. Reid, “Elements/Elemental Spirits of the World,” in *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 229-33; Michael Heiser, “The *stoicheia*/'Elements' or 'Elemental Spirits,’” *Behind the Façade* vol. 3, no. 10 (March 2005): 36-43. Heiser seems to agree that *stoicheia* in Galatians are star deities. Also on the *stoicheia* and the law see Bo Reicke, “The Law and This World According to Paul,” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 70:4 (Dec 1951): 259-76.

²² This idea of the law being put into effect through angels is very similar to the *stoicheia* teaching the world knowledge or running it according to what we might call natural laws or whatever. It is an often ignored but deeply biblical idea. See (Acts 7:53; Gal 3:19; Heb 2:2; cf. Dt. 33:2, especially the Targums).

Second, In Galatians and Colossians, the *stoicheia* has to do especially with religious “laws” of the pagans: “do not handle, do not taste, do not touch” (Col 2:21-23) or religious observances: “days and months and seasons and years” (Gal 3:10). Think about the zodiac and how people use it today in both these ways. In fact, the zodiac sets our calendar and thus our holy days (like Christmas which was originally on the shortest day of the year), and people supposedly live their lives according to what they sign tells them. Thus, some scholars directly relate the *stoicheia* of Colossians and Galatians to the zodiac, the same way they do the *kosmokratores*.²³

Third, in Ephesian Magical Papyri, *stoicheia* most commonly refers to the stars and/or the gods they represent. Perhaps even more curious, the *stoicheia* refer to the 36 astral

²³ Gk. *esmen stoicheia*, “we are heavenly bodies.” In antiquity the *stoicheia* are mentioned as letters of the alphabet (TSol 17:4.; the four basic elements of the world, namely, earth, air, fire, and water (Wis Sol 7:17; 19:18; 4 Mac 12:13; Josephus, *Ant* 3.7.7; 2 Pet 3:10f.; sometimes worshiped as deities (Philo, *Vita Cont* 3.; and heavenly bodies, worthy of worship, often identified with the twelve signs of the zodiac (perhaps Gal 4:3, 9; Col 2:8, 20). One should compare the “seven spirits of deceit” in TRou 2f. and the “seven ruling demons” in Origen, *Contra* 6.30. Here they are demonic stars grouped by seven (cf. 1En 21:3), a sacred number in ancient astrology (TRou 2; Mt 12:45; Lk 8:2; 11:26; Rev 1:16, 20; 2:1; Origen, *Contra* 6.30). McCown (*Testament*, p. 70) states that these seven are to be identified with the Pleiades, the seven daughters of Atlas; originally they were stars, though only six are visible. Cf. Job 9:9; Amos 5:8. The *stoicheia*, who are the *kosmokratores* tou *skotous* (n. b), are the thirty-six decans of the zodiac in TSol 18; see TSol 18:2, 4, nn. d, f; cf. also TSol 15:5. See “Textual Emendations” on 8:4.” C. C. Duling, “Testament of Solomon,” in James H. Charlesworth (ed.), *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, vol. 1 (New York; London: Yale University Press, 1983), 969 note a on TSol 8:2.

gods that rule over every 10 degrees of the heavens.²⁴ In other words, again, [the Zodiac](#).²⁵ They are the zodiac! Recall again Artemis wearing the [zodiac as a necklace](#). Perhaps now you are starting to see why Paul would choose the word *kosmokratores*. He's going after not the *stoicheia* themselves here, but the deity who supposedly controls them—probably [Artemis](#), the world-ruler of Ephesus, herself (or others, like Zeus). To these people so steeped in magic, this language would have conveyed the all-to-real wickedness of the powers they had left to follow Christ.

The way I've come to look at this particular word and the accompanying *stoicheia* parallel is that God did in fact set the heavens over the earth in a kind of married mirrored relationship. When God [divided the nations](#) at Babel and each

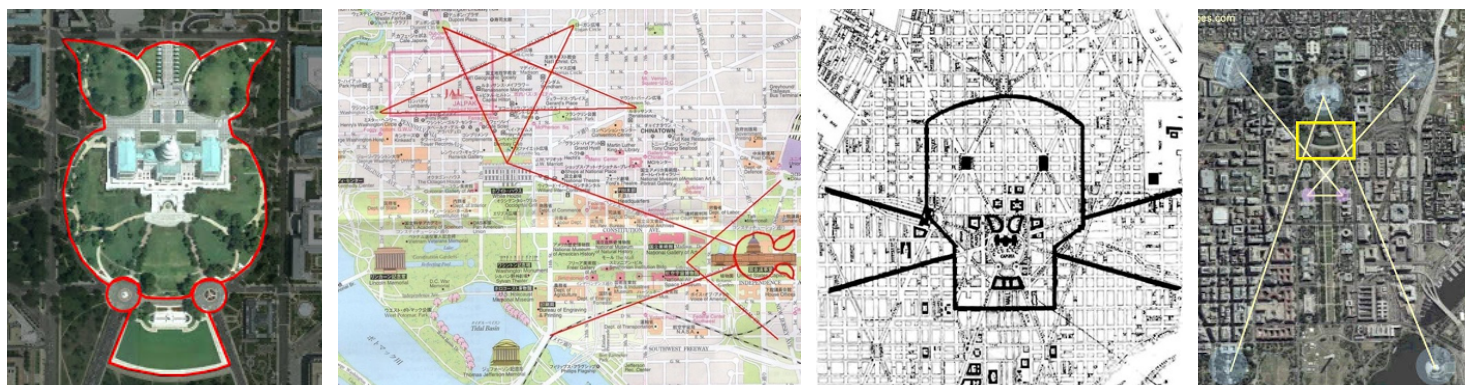
²⁴ This idea is found in [Ronn Johnson](#), Dissertation, 190 n. 36; ????????

²⁵ **Going Deeper:** A full rotation of the heavens creates a circle (360 degrees). The zodiac divides this circle into 12 parts, such that each sign of the zodiac fills roughly 30 degrees of sky. Astrologers and astronomers of the ancient world divided these up into even smaller sections, such that now each of the signs is assigned minor constellations with them, so that you can divide the sky into units that are only 10 degrees, hence the 36 astral gods rather than 12 (12x3=36; 36x10=360). These particular gods are thus deities somehow associated with the constellations. For example, we are not dealing in this case with goes like Zeus or Artemis, but Leo the lion or Taurus the Bull of Virgo the virgin, etc. We could also add a point about the elements. The elements are the elementary building blocks of life in the ancient mind. All things go back to earth, wind, and fire (as a famous 70s band featuring Denver's own Philip Bailey taught you). But earth, wind, fire, and water were considered elementary things to understand if you wanted to know anything about the world around you.

nation went to their allotted parts of the earth, these constellations somehow were already over the lands. Those people moved under their influence. They all knew it, but in good Babel fashion, they tried to manipulate the powers to use to their advantage. This is the point of the [magic](#), this is the point of the [New Age](#), this is the point of the [illuminated esoteric cults](#) and [alchemists](#) and [Neo-Platonists](#) and [Gnostics](#). This is what the layout of Washington D.C. is all about, what Cusco is all about, what the pyramids are all about, why Mexico City had to be built on a swamp. In this, we are starting to get to the bottom of the strangeness that was the entire ancient world. Something humans have never actually left behind.

This is what Paul says that we are fighting *against*. Not that these powers are not real, but that they are very real and that they have become so corrupt that they now lead all the nations astray into every manner of idolatry and wickedness. We think that we are so enlightened today that we have evolved past such childish superstition, and yet it is the Enlightenment itself that brought about our own capital city which every second of every day screams out to the powers of heaven that we are aligned with you! This is the god of America. It is every bit as Babel as Babylon ever dreamed of

being. Atheism, Evolution, Materialism, Naturalism, none of it has eradicated this thinking from the contemporary mind. It has only disguised it. We are utterly deceived. Look around, look with spiritual eyes and see what is happening.



Occult Symbolism of Washington D.C.

Owl, Square & Compass, Pentagram (there are many), Skull and Crossbones, Pyramid with Eye of Horus

Archas and Exousia

But this is only one of our words. I'll be much briefer as I talk about the others, because we have seen them before and are at least a little more familiar with them. Let's look at the pairing of words: **rulers and authorities** (*archas* and *exousia*). They showed up in **Ephesians 1:21**.²⁶ These terms refer

²⁶ Much work has been done on these terms. See especially **Ronn Johnson**, "The Old Testament Background for Paul's Use of 'Principalities and Powers,'" A Dissertation to Dallas Theological Seminary (May 2004), [https://www.godawa.com/chronicles_of_the_nephilim/Articles_By_Others/Johnson%20-%20Old%20Testament%20Background%20for%20Pauls%20Principalities%20and%20Powers%20\(Diss\).pdf](https://www.godawa.com/chronicles_of_the_nephilim/Articles_By_Others/Johnson%20-%20Old%20Testament%20Background%20for%20Pauls%20Principalities%20and%20Powers%20(Diss).pdf); also Arnold, *Powers*; **Arnold**, "The 'Exorcism' of Ephesians 6:12 in Recent Research: A Critique of Wesley Carr's View of the Role of Evil Powers in First-Century AD Belief," JSNT 30 (June 1987): 71-87; **Wesley Carr**, *Angels and Principalities: The Background, Meaning, and Development of the*

not to constellations as a whole, but to those heavenly beings most people throughout history have considered to be **the gods**. Think Artemis, again, who holds the constellations around her neck.

These are, to put it in Daniel's language, the **angelic princes** whom God set over the nations—the prince (*archon*) of Greece (**Dan 10:20**), the prince of Persia (**Dan 10:13**), and so on.²⁷ These are those 70 entities that Moses talks about as being allotted to the nations at the tower of Babel (**Deut 32:7-8; 4:19-20; 17:3; 29:26**).

It is obvious that these entities are also related to the heavens, to the stars and especially to the planets. So, there is clearly overlap here with the *stoicheia* and *kosmokratores*. And yet, there is something different about these. For, **like the planets** that run roughshod anywhere they choose through the night sky, so these creatures are not confined to geographical boundaries. They are not fixed. In fact, when one nation conquered another, they often co-opted their pantheon, adopting it as their own.

Pauline Phrase bai archai kai bai exousiai, Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series 42 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981); **M. Jeff Brannon**, *The Heavens in Ephesians: A Lexical, Exegetical, and Conceptual Analysis*, Library of New Testament Studies (London: T&T Clark International, 2011); **Robert Ewusie Moses**, *Powerful Practices: Paul's Principalities and Powers Revisited*, Dissertation to the University of Duke (2012).

²⁷ In the OT, they are found together only in Dan 7:26-27 LXX and Theodotian. See our sermon on Ephesians 1:15-23 and Johnson's discussion in ch. 6.

A great example of this is how the Greeks smashed their way into Syria. As they did, they came across **the great mountain of Baal**, which the Bible refers to as Zaphon. The Canaanites called it **Baal-Zaphon**. When the Greeks conquered them, it became **Zeus-Kasios**. When the Romans conquered Greece, Zeus was turned into Jupiter. In this way, there is a sense in which all three (Baal, Zeus, and Jupiter) are considered the same deity. Curiously, the city of Pergamum housed the massive **Altar of Zeus** which depicts a giant throne-temple that was dismantled by the Germans and brought to the Berlin Museum, John called it, **“The throne of Satan” (Rev 2:13)**.

The Devil, the Evil One

What’s so curious about this is that the Jews and others spoke of someone called the **“prince (archon) of Rome.”** They identified this creature with none other than **Satan** himself. The Devil (Slanderer), the Evil One of Ephesians 6 and other places.²⁸ John calls him the **“prince (archon) of this**

²⁸ For references and more on this, see my paper “Satan, Zeus, Baal, and the Prince of Rome” (May 24, 2019), https://www.academia.edu/39252068/Satan_Zeus_Baal_and_the_Prince_of_Rome.

world” (John 12:31, 14:30; 16:11), which makes sense if he is the prince of Rome.

To me, it seems pretty obvious that Satan as the prince of Rome therefore becomes the dominant NT evil power, because he rules over the entire world through this marriage of heaven and earth—ala the Roman Empire. Because who ruled the world at that time? The Roman Empire. In a very important sense, who still rules the world today? The Roman Empire. When he tells Jesus that he can give him all the kingdoms of the world, it isn’t an empty boast, because he literally ruled over the known world as he presided over the Roman Empire. In this regard, you should probably take more seriously than you do the ramifications of this for [the papacy](#) which so closely aligned itself with the “Holy Roman Empire.” But I digress.

The point is, he becomes the head of the entire pantheon of fallen creatures. He becomes the [symbol of Evil](#) itself. He becomes the [chief enemy](#) of the NT, the terrible Evil One who started the whole thing off in Eden where he is known as the Serpent. The other rulers and authorities and powers are in some sense under his authority.

If you believe in Satan, then Paul’s teaching demands that you believe in these other entities as well. You may not

think they are, but the Scripture says they are plenty real. The Devil allows you to begin to understand the depths of evil that we fight against. But so also, I hope, does thinking about things like the zodiac and the power it has held over pagan peoples for millennia. This should alert you to the evil that is about you every day.

The Destruction of the Powers

In various ways, especially geographically and covenantally, God had put these creatures over the earth and over the nations. If someone like Plato is to be believed,²⁹ during [the golden age](#) of man (which seems to have been before the Flood), their rule was generally benevolent, though they quickly began to corrupt themselves and turn people against the Most High (which fit into his plan all along). Now, the nations are walking about in darkness ([Matt 4:16](#); [Acts 17:27](#); [Eph 6:12](#); etc.) and slavery. For their treachery, God decreed a day when these powers would be totally destroyed.

Psalm 82 says they will one day “[die like men](#)” ([Ps 82:7](#)). Isaiah 24 says the whole earth is shaking violently and “[On](#)

²⁹ See the *Critias*.

that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven in heaven” (Isa 24:21). Peter tells us that the “heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved” (2Pe 3:10), which has to be read through the lenses of supernatural entities. Jesus tells us that eternal fire has been prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt 25:41). John tells us that Satan and the demons are going to be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10). This is the end that awaits these rebellious entities that have been so hell-bent on destroying humanity since the days of Eden and the Flood.

I have a good friend who argues that these rulers, these principalities, these watchers have been judged and are now cast into the lake of fire *already*. He makes some very good points, especially that their rule is directly tied covenantally to the grant and permission of God, who alone rules over them. As Jesus has taken up all authority in heaven and on earth, the old covenant has been utterly destroyed, as symbolized in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. We are living in the days of the new covenant, and a new thing now legally binds these creatures in Christ.³⁰ This is in part exactly why Paul says that we are no longer under their rule as

³⁰ See especially Brian Godawa, *Psalm 82: The Divine Council of the Gods, the Judgment of the Watchers, & the Inheritance of the Nations* (Los Angeles, CA: Embedded Pictures Publishing, 2018), especially chs. 3, 5, 6.

Christians! *We* have been set free from them in Christ. They do not hold legal power over *us*.

Some have asked my friend, if they are gone, then **what is the source of all the incredible wickedness in the world?** His explanation of current evil is profoundly rooted, rightly so, in the **total depravity of man**, who is quite capable of committing gross wickedness quite apart from Satan's instigation. And while he does think that the demons, who are very different creatures from the gods-angels, are still roaming around causing havoc, I think that at the end of the day, this kind of teaching means that we really have to throw out **Ephesians 6:12**. For if it was true, then in fact we no longer wrestle against these rulers or authorities or cosmic powers or spiritual forces, including Satan himself, because they simply do not exist any longer. They have been finally judged once and for all.

The Battle Rages On

While his argument that the old covenant has in fact been done away with is correct, I think he wrongly roots the origin of these creatures' authority in what the Bible calls "**the old covenant**," which strictly speaking is the **covenant**

God gave to Israel with Moses.³¹ But the assigning of these entities to the nations goes back much, much farther than Moses.

It goes back to at least the Tower of Babel, and covenantally speaking, it goes all the way back to the original covenant God made with creation and with man prior to the Fall, when he created the stars themselves. Through synonymous words with “covenant” such as “bind” (Job 38:31),³² or “oath”³³ or “decree” (Jer 5:22) or “ordinance and rule” (Job 38:33), God established a covenantal order with what we today would call the forces of nature. Natural laws (gravity, thermodynamics, etc.) are referred to as God’s “decree,” “ordinances,” and “rule” over the creation.

But ancients did not see nature as purely “natural.”³⁴ They were intimately related to these creatures. Creation was to be regulated and ordered by these laws *and* transcendent *moral laws*, which were put into effect throughout the

³¹ You would also take it in one respect back to Abraham and even the Seed of the women (Gen 3:15), in terms of Gospel. But in terms of law, which is what we are interested in here, it really has Moses as its main source.

³² The close association between “covenant” and “bind” is seen in the German language where “covenant” is *bund* and the verb “binding” is *binden*. The middle Assyrian noun *biritu* also means “bond” or “fetter.”

³³ See 1 Enoch 41:5; 69:13-25. On this covenant see Margaret Barker, “The Book of Enoch and Cosmic Sin,” *The Ecologist* (Jan 2000): 30ff. https://jbburnett.com/resources/barker/barker_enoch&cosmic-sin.pdf; Robert Murray, *The Cosmic Covenant: Biblical Themes of Justice, Peace, and the integrity of Creation* (London: Sheed & Ward, 1992): 7-13.

³⁴ See 1En 43:2.

nations by these beings, even as Christ (and the angels) put the law of Moses into effect (**Acts 7:53**; **Gal 3:19**; **Heb 2:2**; cf. **Dt. 33:2**, especially the Targums). Hence, Jeremiah calls it a “covenant with the day and the night” (**Jer 33:20, 25**). Or in Isaiah, “The everlasting covenant” (**Isa 24:5**).

But all have **transgressed** this covenant: on earth *and in the heavens*. “The LORD is enraged against all the nations, and furious against all their host” (**Isa 34:2**) because the peoples have said, “We have made a covenant with Death (Gk: *Thanatos*), and with Sheol (Gk: *Hades*) ... we have made lies our refuge and in falsehood we have taken shelter” (**28:15**).³⁵ Death and Hades are considered gods in all the nations who have covenanted with them.

But the covenant with creation, or what the Reformed often call the **covenant of works**, has not yet been eliminated. It is eliminated *for us*, as a means of salvation. Thank God. But it still stands over everyone else (Romans 2). This covenant predates the nation of Israel and her covenant. Therefore, these creatures are bound to an oath that predates the old covenant by many thousands of years until such day

³⁵ In 1 Enoch, the Watchers reverse this, swearing an “oath” together, thus placing themselves under their own covenant, as they decide to come down to earth and, in exchange for our women, give men all kinds of knowledge about war and writing and makeup and abortions and many other things.

as God finally eliminates that covenant and purges the earth of their evil once-for-all.

Other language for this covenant is “**this present age**” or “**this present evil age**” which began in Eden before the Fall, and this clearly did not end in 70 AD. Instead, it continues up until the Second Coming, even as the Age to Come began at the First Coming of Christ, even though it continues on into eternity.

Because of this, we must still take seriously Paul’s warning that the war he told the Ephesians about is still raging. **Satan still prowls around** like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may destroy. And while he holds no legal hold over Christians, he does still fight against us. He is the Dragon and a 1/3 of the stars followed him. That’s the point of this passage. Therefore, we have got to learn to think more biblically regarding our enemy and this war, and to therefore learn to fight this war with the weaponry we have been granted by the power of the gospel. This is what we will look at next time.

Until then, you need to understand that something like a *kosmokratoras* and some of the **other rogues of heaven** which were considered omnipotent and omnipresent by the Ephe-

sians, are nothing like that to Paul. Rather, they and the others all stand under the authority of God and of his Christ, who now sits enthroned above them, and who laughs at them. It is Christ who gives the Christian power *over them*. The Christian is able to fight this battle *and win*, because he has won the war. Christ now rules “in heavenly places,” a phrase found in **Ephesians 6:12**, which Lloyd-Jones said was the key to understanding the entire letter.

If the nations **walk in darkness**, surrounded by the wicked powers of the heavens like the zodiac that surrounds our planet, you and I have seen a great light. Indeed, we are the light (**Eph 5:8**), especially as we **walk as Children of light** (**5:8**). Consider the example of the OT Jews, who, like the zodiac, had 12 units. Joseph himself tells you, “Behold, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars were bowing down to me” (**Gen 37:9**). These tribes, also like the zodiac, were given symbols, such as Dan the Serpent, Judah the Lion, and so forth.

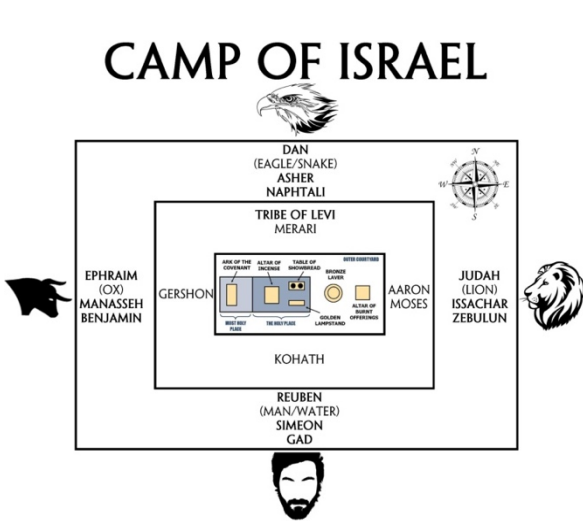
The Banners or Standards of Israel



In ancient synagogues, they have discovered that the Jews used to have zodiacs in them. That seems like an unfathomable idea, until you realize that these zodiacs were not of the constellations, but of the 12 Tribes of Israel. These tribes revolved around, not the



Mosaic pavement of a 6th century synagogue at [Beth Alpha](#), Jezreel Valley, northern Israel. It was discovered in 1928.



Representation of the 12 Tribes encircling the Tabernacle in the wilderness.

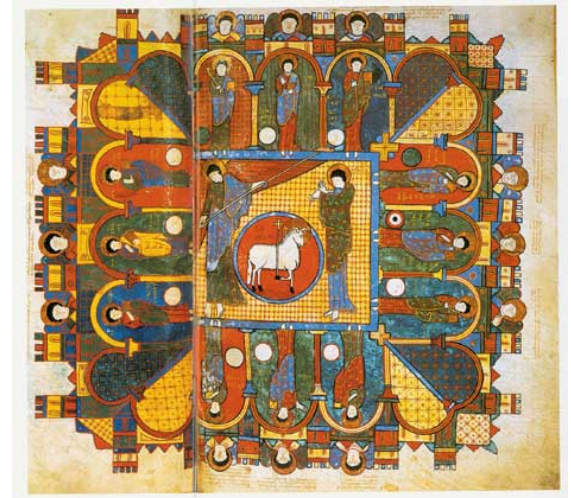
earth or the sun, but the Shekinah Glory of God. This was a symbolic way of representing something God patterned into the life of Israel as she walked around the wilderness for 40 years. God had the 12 tribes all encircle the Tabernacle, the place where the LORD himself was present in his Glory. They were to line up according to symbols, with the eagle on the north, the lion on the west, the man on the south, and the bull on the east. In this way, they became a living zodiac on earth, for these four symbols are the four cardinal directions symbolized by Leo (the lion), Aquarius (the man), Taurus (the bull), and Ophiuchus (the

serpent; today known as Scorpio). In other words, Israel is now replacing the constellations, the heavenly beings, as she becomes the new light to the world. She walks in the world's darkness as a light to the nations.



Curiously, the NT does the same thing with the twelve disciples, where the four Gospels replace Dan, Judah, Reuben, and Ephraim at the cardinal points. This seems to be at least part of the symbolism of the Great Jerusalem-City that comes down out of heaven in Revelation.³⁶

Therefore, your command to walk as children of light and to dispel this darkness like the sun removes the stars in the daytime sky has a direct biblical parallel to the evil powers of heaven. Make the world see only the Sun of Righteousness in how you live and how you behave, in what you believe and in what you say, in what you do and in who you are in Christ as his slaves redeemed at a costly price. Be the



The Heavenly Jerusalem
from the Apocalypse of Saint-Sever
(11th century)

³⁶ For more on this whole topic see my sermon “A Boot to the Head,” on Genesis 49:1-28.

new universe, the new creation to a fallen, evil world. Do this to the glory of God, even as the Son has glorified the Father to give you the power to do these things.

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