

12. When incoming principles are in common with a given doctrinal concept, the resultant linkage is defined as an “association.”
13. As spiritual growth continues to advance, the new information enlarges a specific doctrine so that the multiple wheel-tracks linkup into what we define as a “constellation.”
14. There are eleven categories of knowledge found in Scripture which are referred to as “systematic theology.”
15. As one’s spiritual growth continues all eleven coalesce into a tapestry of biblical truth that characterizes the believer’s doctrinal inventory.
16. The more spiritually advanced a believer becomes the more restraint he has on the Dark Side’s impact on himself as well as society.
17. The progress here described is accomplished by the filling, teaching, recall, and application ministries of the Holy Spirit.
18. PRINCIPLE: A believer cannot apply what he does not know. The more he knows the more he can apply. The more he applies the more restraint he has on Dark Side propaganda.
19. Consequently, during the Church Age, the primary goal of believers is to become an effective combatant in the Angelic Conflict.
20. Their advance in the Invisible War may be characterized by the Greek military formation called the phalanx (Gk: **φάλαγξ (phálagx)**):

In military science, a tactical formation consisting of a block of heavily armed infantry standing shoulder to shoulder in files several ranks deep. Fully developed by the ancient Greeks, it survived in modified form into the gunpowder era and is viewed today as the beginning of European military development.

The ancient Sumerian army fielded a standard six-man-deep phalanx; the first line went into battle carrying large, rectangular shields, and the troops bore heavy pikes and battle axes. During the 7th century BC the Greek city-states adopted a phalanx eight men deep.

The Greek hoplite, the heavy-armed infantryman who manned the phalanx, was equipped with a round shield, a heavy corselet [breastplate] of leather and metal, greaves (shin armor), an 8-foot pike for thrusting, and a 2-foot double-edged sword [μάχαιρα (*máchaira*)]. Since the phalanx held in solid ranks and was divided only into the center and wings, there was generally little need for an officer corps; the whole line advanced in step to the sound of the flute. Such a formation encouraged cohesion among advancing troops and presented a frightening spectacle to the enemy, but it was difficult to maneuver and, if penetrated by enemy formations, became little more than a mob.<sup>1</sup>

21. The structure of the phalanx consists of ranks and files. Ranks are assembled left to right while files are positioned front to rear. The most experienced warriors are placed at the front of each file and are referred to as **πρόμαχοι (*prómachoi*)** or “front rankers.”
22. As a believer advances spiritually, he may be characterized as moving up the ranks from rear to front.
23. Momentum tests are designed to deploy the believer into situations that require application of doctrine in order to move up through the ranks.
24. Advance to spiritual maturity puts the believer in the status of a **πρόμαχος (*prómachos*)**, the singular form: a “front ranker.”
25. Those in the forward ranks have increasingly more restraint than does the diminishing influence of those ranks toward the rear.
26. The phalanx characterizes the invisible impact which is the subject of 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 where Paul discusses the “restraining ministry” of the Holy Spirit during the Church Age.

**2 Thessalonians 2:6 -** And now you know what **thing** [ singular neuter of the article τό (*tó*): the **power** of the Holy Spirit ] **restrains** [ under rules of engagement] **him** [ Lucifer ] **now** [ Church Age ] **so that he will be revealed in his dispensation [ Tribulation ]**.

<sup>1</sup> *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia* (2010), 9:352.

**2 Thessalonians 2:7** - For the mystery of lawlessness [ **mystery doctrines of the Church Age related to satanic strategies** ] is already operational. Only He Who restrains [ **κατέχω (katéchō): the Holy Spirit suppresses or hinders** ] will continue that ministry of restraint until He is taken out of the way [ **at the Rapture** ].

27. The more believers there are in the forward ranks, the greater the restraint on sin, human good, and evil.
28. Degeneracy is restrained while civility advances within the population. Traditional standards are favored while Progressive ideologies are opposed.
29. Progressive ideas favor reform with emphasis on tolerance, but without any emphasis on cultural differences.
30. Amalgamation into the host country's culture is considered as bias while acceptance of all cultures causes the need to accept all standards as equal.
31. Taken to the ultimate extreme, the lack of restraint from lax establishment standards allows society to gravitate toward internationalization.
32. Internationalization brings a population under the protection and control of two or more nations.
33. Current examples of this idea are nations in the European Union and those who are members of NATO.
34. Yet, the Bible is clear on the fact that God has structured the human race to function under nationalism.
35. The Bible reveals that following the universal flood, God distributed the early inhabitants of the earth geographically, linguistically, and nationally.

**Genesis 10:1** - This is the account of Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood.

**v. 2** - The sons of Japheth were Gomer ... and the Dodanim \dō'-da-nim\ [ **vv. 2-4** ].