

Principles on Eph 3:8-10; Paul's Exposition of the Demonic Table of Organization, Eph 6:10-12: The Battle Is Not against Blood & Flesh, v. 12

35. Principles:

- 1) All Church Age believers are royal priests. It is through their individual efforts of honorably representing Christ in the appeal trial that the angelic conflict is resolved.
- 2) The fallen angels learn through the advancing believer's life testimony that they are destined to be defeated by means of Operation Footstool.
- 3) Because some believers make the advance by using the Word of God as their reference point in decision making and problem solving, the demons learn that their prehistoric condemnation was justified.
- 4) The communication of the Word of God and its application by believers reveals to the demons the manifold wisdom of God.
- 5) This wisdom is multifaceted and therefore perceives all the various aspects of the human and angelic condition and resolves them through the testimony of the Church.
- 6) The resolution is eternal victory through Christ for the Church and eternal incarceration in the lake of fire for the fallen angels.
- 7) The mystery of the Church Age is gradually exposed by believers' testimonies in the rebuttal phase of the appeal trial of Satan.

36. The first two passages in our study read this way in our corrected translations:

Ephesians 1:21 - (Jesus Christ is) over and above all demon general officers, commissioned officers, special forces, fifth columns, and the rank and file, not only during the Church Age but also in the Tribulation yet to come.

v. 22 - And God put all things in subordination under Jesus Christ's feet, and God gave Christ as head above all over the universal church.

Ephesians 2:1 - You were dead in your trespasses and sins,

v. 2 - in which your former behavior patterns were according to the present circumstance of this world, according to the highest ruler of the authority of the global atmosphere, the disposition which now is operational in the children of disobedience and obstinacy.

37. Prior to examining these passages we were doing a study of Ephesians 6:10-12, a passage where Paul gives an extensive breakdown of the demonic armies' authority structure. We had finished the first two verses when we began a survey of the angelic creation both elect and fallen, but with emphasis on the demons that make up Lucifer's officer corps.

Ephesians 6:10 - From now on, be strong in the Lord through the power of truth in the soul and of His power to execute.

v. 11 - Habitually keep yourself dressed for battle as an infantry soldier of God, so that you will have the power to seize and hold your ground against the strategy and tactics of the devil.

38. The next verse gives us the entire officer corps of Satan's army:

Ephesians 6:12 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (NASB)

1. This verse begins with the causal conjunction **ὅτι, hoti** and instead of "for," it should be translated "because."
2. The following phrase, "our struggle is not" includes the possessive pronoun **ἡμῶν, hēmin**, translated "our," followed by the subject **πάλη, palē**. This word's history goes as far back as Homer and originally meant "wrestling" and this is how the King James translates it.
3. The NIV and NASB translate it "struggle," but Greek tragedies gave it a more general sense of "conflict."

πάλη, palē. A wrestling, struggle, or hand-to-hand combat. It was used of the wrestling of athletes and of the hand-to-hand combat of soldiers both of which required deftness and speed. It denoted the struggle between individual combatants in distinction from an entire military campaign.¹

4. In the Invisible War, Church Age believers, like it or not or aware or not, are combatants. They are engaged in daily combat against the Dark Side and it is not hand-to-hand but "thought-to-thought." They must be able to think divine viewpoint or they will be seized as P.O.W.s by the chains of cosmic thought.
5. At this point in our study I quoted eighteen biblical examples of cosmic deception in order to amplify this critical truth. Here they are for your review: Matthew 10:16; Colossians 2:8; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; Romans 16:17-19; Ephesians 5:6-8; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 11:3,13-15; 2 Timothy 3:13; Titus 1:10; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 1:16; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 2 Peter 3:3-5; 2 John 7; Matthew 22:29; Revelation 12:7 and 21:3.

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, gen ed., "πάλη," *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1992), 1091.

6. This collection of passages defines the strategy and tactics of the unseen enemy. The target is your soul and your biblical worldview – if you have one.
7. All of these passages confirm Paul’s opening comment in verse 12 which is best translated, “Because our combat.” The opponents in this conflict are said *not* to be “flesh and blood.”
8. All major English translations have this phrase backwards. The Greek manuscripts have the opposite beginning with the pronoun in the accusative of opposition: **πρός, pros** translated “against.” It is followed by the noun **αἷμα, haima**, translated “blood,” plus the conjunction **καί, kai**, translated “and,” and the noun **σάρξ, sarx**, translated “flesh”: “against blood and flesh.”
9. When “blood” and “flesh” unite to form a unit it refers to the physical nature of man: that which is alive, i.e., “blood,” and visible, i.e., “flesh.”
10. Our combat in the Invisible War is not really with people. Sure, they are the physical representatives of Lucifer and they convey his propaganda throughout the devil’s world.
11. But cosmic viewpoint has to have an origin. Just as divine viewpoint has its origin in Scripture, in like fashion, cosmic viewpoint obtains its viewpoint from the Dark Side.