1Thes #20

Know the Rulers under Satan’s army

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving gathering and you kept our Lord and Savior in your hearts.

I do want to keep two close friends of mine who are faithful men of God in prayer…one is Pastor Bob of Grace Bible church in Massachusetts. The other is my spiritual brother, Jimmy in Rhode Island.

Where we left off last week before the Thanksgiving holiday was the beginning of a study that looks into our enemy.

Looking into what attacks, methods and agendas Satan and his fallen army have implemented right under our noises in our day to day lives.

This began as we looked in chapter two of 1Thessalonians.

/1Thes 2:1 For you yourselves know, brothers *and sisters,* that our reception among you **was not in vain**, 2 but after **we had already suffered and been treated abusively** in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid **much opposition** (*agōn*).

Serious combat, struggle and legal as well as physical battles.\

ARE-GON, is a Greek term that was used for legal battles but it also was used for combat in the arena. During the Colosseum games, where there were physical struggles or combat it was used as well.

The Apostle Paul and Silas went under a heated satanic attacked. Which led to physical beatings, unjust treatment and imprisonment in Phillipi. Their arrival in Thessalonica was also difficult because they were not welcomed there.

Most Christians are into cleaning up the devil’s world and the love aspect of God.

They never come to know that the world is under the authority of Satan. The cosmic system is never going to become a place of godly purity.

The world which we know as Satan’s cosmic system has been rejected by God, it is on the divine justice schedule for judgment and a cleansing.

/God will not clean up the cosmic system (a world filled with OSN & satanic influences). HE is drawing everyone toward HIS precious SON before HE begins to change the universe. The first stage of GOD’s new beginning related to the earth begins during the Tribulation. The 7 years of Tribulation and the 1,000 years of reign under Christ are the last stages of earth as we know it.\

After that, the whole universe will be reshaped into an eternal set of heavens with a distant, everlasting prison we know as the lake of fire, it will be out of our sight and out of our minds.

Most Christians never come to know what their true purpose is.

Therefore, the list of Christian casualties grows and grows.

/Satan has several strategies driven by two principles. First, Satan attempts to blind Bels to their true calling with distractions and counterfeits. Second, Satan attempts to blind Unbels to the true gospel of Jesus Christ with confusion and counterfeits. His forces are invisible and that does not dilute their power. In fact, it increases their deception.\

Which is why it is so important that we learn all that the word of God has to tell us concerning our enemy.

Turn to Ephesians chapter six.

Satan and his forces which make up the kingdom of darkness, is as real as we are. The educated Christians know an Angelic warfare has been raging since the creation of the rock we call earth, or perhaps even millions of years prior to that.

/Christians are not here to happily skip through life, having everything go their way. Some levels of temporal happiness can be found in the natural realm yet they are deceiving and fleeting. True happiness (contentment) is found in the spiritual realm. The spiritual is based on knowledge not emotion, so the true happiness (contentment) is found on the journey into the mind of Christ (BD).\

Knowledge means you know the landscape around you and ahead of you. Knowing one's enemy brings the Bel, confidence and power. It brings the assurance of action and the ability to hold one's ground under pressure.

 REPEAT

Let me read through Ephesians six, 11-13 because it is pertinent for our study today.

Many of you are familiar with these scriptures but for the context of our study, I want you to think about your role as a Christian soldier and the enemy we face.

/Eph 6:11 **Put on the full armor of God**, so that **you will be able to stand firm** (*histēmi*)against the schemes of the devil.

Prepared soldiers are trained and knowledgeable. They dwell or remain in their calling, solid and balanced.\

HIS-TAY-ME, we have noted in recent lessons, it means much more than to stand, it points to strength, balance and a dwelling place.

To be established in something, a place of comfort which is from a foundation of strength.

[Eph 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/6/12/s_1103012) 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.*

/Eph 6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood*

our struggle is not against blood (people's souls) and flesh (old sin nature),

The battle is a spiritual battle!\

The original language tells us blood and flesh pointing to our human life and OSN.

Stop making the battles about humanity, because there is a spiritual force behind the scenes.

2Cor 5:16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one by the flesh; even though we have known Christ by the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer.

/Eph 6:12 - *but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness*

Rulers- Satan’s highest-ranking leaders.

Powers- powerful fallen angels in position of authority.

World forces- demon possessed human leaders.

Spiritual forces- speaks to combined forces (human & fallen angels), working in conjunction in and around the atmosphere of earth.\

Ultimately evil attacks and demonic forces may have a human face upon them, but it is controlled by Satan and his army behind the scenes.

The whole atmosphere around the earth is littered with demonic and fallen angels moving around.

The uneducated Bel is focused on the temporal flesh.

/[Eph 6:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/6/13/s_1103013) Therefore, **take up the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to **resist** on the evil day, and having done everything, **to stand firm**.

An unprepared, uneducated soldier does not know how to prepare and stand strong when the attacks arrive.\

The armor of GOD is a learned skill set and repetitive application for the Bel.

Notice after you have prepared yourself the Bel does not need to run out and seek the fight!

Stand and become firm in that which GOD has given you, that which you have grown into.

The Believer therefore, studies the enemy camp through Bible doctrine. The word of God gives us great detail as to the character of our enemy, his position, his history, his forces, and his agenda.

 REPEAT

We know that Satan is not omnipresent as God is, Satan can only be in one place at one time.

Yet he does control a huge army of fallen angels who spread themselves around, observing and reporting back to their commanding general.

/The kingdom of darkness has eyes everywhere. And since angels don't die, his fallen angels have been around since the beginning of human history. They have compiled information on you and your family. They take note of your weaknesses, personal and that which runs in your family tree! They seek to attack and exploit the weak links in the chain of your life.\

The Rulers noted in Eph 6:12 are made up of the highest ranking fallen angels such as Apollyon, who is at this time imprisoned in the Abyss the 4th compartment of Hades.

/Rev 9:11 **They have as king over them**, the **angel of the abyss**; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon

Mentioned also in the OT, in the Hebrew reference of a synonym for Sheol or Hades (not always, but many times within the original Hebrew). \

His name means destruction and that was a version of the Hebrew term for death or the grave, a place of destruction.

The place where the human body is destroyed.

Beelzebub may well be another high ranking fallen angel and not just another term for Satan.

Actually, it is believed by some scholars that Beelzebub, who remains free, is of the same military rank as Apollyon.

Apollyon is the king of the Abyss and will not be released until half way through the tribulation.

Once he is released the world will know a terrible time of wrath, judgment, punishment, destruction and darkness! Fortunately, we, the Bels in Christ, will have been raptured out from the world before the Tribulation period.

Those left behind will encounter a world completely different than anything we know today.

For the first time in human history since Genesis chapter 6, fallen angels will actually be able to be seen. The Rapture will remove a cloak in the spiritual realm.

A veil that has kept fallen angels from physically grabbing hold of mankind and even really being seen in their full power – that will all open up to its full evil potential in those 7 years.

/Psa 76:10 For the wrath of mankind shall praise You; You will encircle Yourself with a remnant of wrath.

God can use the evil and wrath created by mankind or fallen angels for HIS glory in completing HIS plan.\

In the CA, elect angels can take visible form and occasionally be seen, but fallen angels cannot due to their transgression of [Gen 6](http://www.bibleserver.com/text/NIV/Genesis6), when they violated the rules of the angelic conflict.

Go to OT – 2kings chapter one.

It is believed by several theologians and I believe this as well, that the demon officer Beelzebub who is free at this time, though in a spiritual, invisible realm, is one of the experts of deceit.

He operates as Satan's inside man in covert warfare against the human race, especially in the religious arena. He is in charge of fake healings, signs and wonders.

/The name sometimes given to Satan, Beelzebub - is found in the NT in; [Mat 10:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/10/25/s_939025); Mat 12:24-27, [Mar 3:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mar/3/22/s_960022).

It is probably the same as Baalzebub, the god of Ekron, meaning *"the lord of flies,"* or, as others think, "*the lord of dung*," or "*the dung-god*."

It is not Satan but a demon/fallen angel of great deceptive powers.\

He is in charge of the demons who are the ventriloquist demons representing the (false) gift of tongues, or prophesy. His deception is one of counterfeits and emotions.

In 2Kings chapter one, we see the son and successor of King Ahab. He followed the counsels of his mother Jezebel, and imitated the ways of his father. Under his authority things were a hot mess!

2Kin 1:1 Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

The Moabites were under control with Ahab at the throne, not so much when his son took over.

/[2Ki 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2ki/1/2/s_314002) And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that *was* in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of **Baalzebub the god of Ekron**whether I shall recover of this disease.

Baal- lord or master.

zᵊḇûḇ- flies which represented death or the presence of death or evil. \

When we use a term like God or Lord just keep in mind Satan always has a counterfeit that many call by the same name or titles.

[2Ki 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2ki/1/3/s_314003) But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, *Is it* not because *there is* not a God in Israel, *go,* to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron?

Baalzebub was a Philistine deity worshipped at Ekron. Remember the BAAL system has gods and goddess but they are of their father the devil.

Ahaziah was seeking a healing from the demon god, one of many false gods under the BAAL system.

2Kin 1:4 Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which you have gone up, but shall surely die. And Elijah departed.

Often times Beelzebub will cause physical or mental induced illnesses and then heal the illness in a show of miracles.

Many Christians today fall for this type of nonsense. Again, Beelzebub is in operation now and Apollyon is presently imprisoned and will not be in operational status until the middle of the Tribulation.

 REPEAT

In closing I want to cover a few principles and we will continue with the series probably for another few hours until God the HS leads me in a different direction.

/Satan is a military leader of the highest order and intellect. His army is vast and powerful yet for the most part remains hidden from humanity. The abilities to infiltrate medical, physical and psychological aspects of the human body or human perception is incredibly strong. Without Christ, possession or even influence is almost inevitable.\

/Christians in a church building, ministry or denomination are often fooled that they are protected or on the right course. Yet many times the fox is inside the hen house, because the FOX (Satan) has designed that hen house! If you are inaccurately handling God’s word and being led astray by false doctrine and weak pastor-teachers you may be in that hen house.\

/What we call the cosmic system is the world (after the fall) under the influence of Satan and the chaos of mankind’s OSN. Satan can not manage all the demonic forces and fallen angels while also managing mankind’s OSN. So, confusion, chaos and criminal activity becomes more common each and every passing year. Satan and his army have great control yet they are not GOD! So, they can never create or precisely control every detail and circumstance.\