**Victory for the Christian will actually be determined by *how badly he wants to win*.**

**The Spiritual Warfare BOOK  
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**COMMENTARY** by Charles Strong of[Bible One](http://www.bibleone.net/)

Christians are presently engaged in a battle against powerful angelic rulers in the spirit world. These angels, *ruling in the kingdom of Satan*, are striving for the *souls* of men; and the outcome of this conflict, like any conflict, is determined by *proper* or *improper preparation* as one engages the enemy.

A properly prepared Christian can enter the conflict and consistently *win* battle after battle, but an improperly prepared Christian entering the conflict can only experience *defeat* time after time.

*Victory* is achieved through engaging the enemy within the framework of the Lord's *instructions* in [Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV). A Christian though who engages the enemy after *any other fashion* is entering the *conflict apart* from the Lord's instructions, leaving himself in a very vulnerable position, one in which the enemy can *consistently achieve victory*.

Thus, in this respect, *victory* on the one hand or *defeat* on the other is determined by the Christian's *preparation* for the conflict at hand. A Christian can *either heed* the Lord's instructions or he can *ignore* the Lord's instructions. There is *no* middle ground ([Matthew 12:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+12.30&t=NKJV); [Luke 11:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+11.23&t=NKJV)). The former will produce *readiness* for battle and result in *victory*, but the latter will *leave* the Christian very vulnerable to attack and can only *result* in *defeat*.

Victory for the Christian will actually be determined by *how badly he wants to win*. The overriding thought in Ephesians has to do with *individuals being saved for a revealed purpose*. Christians have been saved by grace through faith ([Ephesians 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8&t=NKJV)) in order to realize an inheritance in heavenly places ([Ephesians 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.11&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.18&t=NKJV); [2:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.6-7&t=NKJV); [3:1-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.1-6&t=NKJV)). The task of a pastor-teacher is to lead Christians into a *mature knowledge of this inheritance*, a *mature knowledge* of the things surrounding the *purpose for their salvation* ([Ephesians 4:11ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.11ff&t=NKJV)), resulting in *their being filled with the Spirit* ([Ephesians 5:18ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.18ff&t=NKJV)) and being able to engage the enemy after the fashion given at the end of this epistle ([Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV)).

How badly do Christians really want to achieve victory over the enemy and one day *realize the proffered inheritance with God's Son?* *That is the question* that will determine what a Christian does about the Lord's instructions concerning *proper* preparation for the battle at hand.

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FOREWORD

There is an existing, ongoing warfare between powerful spirit beings in the heavens (Satan and his angels) and individuals on the earth (Christians). This warfare centers on *salvation* — NOT the Christians’ presently possessed eternal salvation BUT present and future aspects of salvation, the salvation of the soul. In this respect, *the existing warfare is a battle for the souls* (the lives) *of the saved*.

And the warfare has *regal ramifications*, which takes one all the way back to:

1. The reason for man’s creation in the beginning (“*let them have dominion* [‘let them rule’]” [[Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV)]).

2. And the reason Satan brought about man’s fall (Satan was the one to whom God had previously given dominion [rulership] over the earth, the one who held the scepter at the time of man’s creation [[Ezekiel 28:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14&t=NKJV); [Luke 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+4.6&t=NKJV)], with man created TO replace the incumbent ruler).

Man HAS been, IS being, and WILL be saved for *a revealed purpose*. There is *a revealed goal* in view, and, relative to salvation, *that goal is always the same in Scripture*, regardless of what aspect of man’s salvation is in view. *That goal is the same* for the whole of man’s salvation — “*spirit, soul, and body*” ([1 Thessalonians 5:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.23&t=NKJV)). *That goal has to do with redeemed man ultimately occupying the position for which he was created in the beginning.*

Man, realizing the goal of salvation, *must one day hold the scepter*. And this will occur after “Man’s Day” has run its course, at the beginning of the Messianic Era.

(This is the manner in which Scripture presents salvation throughout, with the unchangeable foundational pattern set in the opening verses of Genesis.

The inhabited world to come will not be placed in subjection to angels, as the present world [[Hebrews 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5&t=NKJV)]. *This is the message seen throughout Scripture*. A new order of Sons is about to be brought on the scene [[Romans 8:18-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.18-23&t=NKJV)]. Satan and his angels are about to be replaced by Christ and His co-heirs. And, from a Scriptural standpoint, man’s salvation centers on that coming day when this new order of Sons will hold the scepter and rule the earth.)

Man invariably deals with salvation in relation to eternity and going to heaven, while seldom mentioning salvation in relation to the Messianic Era and the kingdom of the heavens. Scripture, on the other hand, presents the matter in the latter respect. Scripture invariably deals with salvation in relation to the Messianic Era and the kingdom of the heavens. *Heaven* (the present dwelling place of God) and *the ages beyond* are mentioned at times, but not relative to salvation in the same sense that man relates them to salvation.

Man is not going to spend either the Messianic Era or the eternal ages that follow in the place known today as *heaven*. And, in relation to *the eternal ages* that follow the Messianic Era, God is not going to dwell in this place either. God is going to dwell *on the new earth throughout the ages comprising eternity.*

And even when Scripture does deal with saved man in heaven (*e.g*., Christians following death, or Christians following the rapture) matters are always completely consistent with the way Scripture elsewhere deals with saved man. If future time comes into view, reference is made to things surrounding the Messianic Era, not the ages beyond (though in several instances the Messianic Era is connected with and seen as the first of these ages, though separate from them [*e.g*., [Luke 1:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.33&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.7&t=NKJV)]).

The Messianic Era, Ages Beyond

During the Messianic Era, man will dwell either on a restored earth or in the heavens above this restored earth, with there being a Jerusalem above and a Jerusalem below (capital cities both over and on the earth, with Christians [along with certain Old Testament saints] inhabiting the city above, and Israel inhabiting the city below). During this era, there will be a rule from the heavens over the earth. And this rule, as today, will originate with God in heaven and progress through rulers placed in the heavens in relation to this earth.

Today, this rule progresses from God through Satan and his angels (though rebel rulers), who reside in the heavens above the earth. But during that coming day this rule will progress from God through His Son and His Son’s co-heirs, who will reside in the new Jerusalem above the earth.

A rule of the preceding nature, from the heavens over the earth, must continue during the Messianic Era, for this is the manner in which God established the government of the earth in the beginning. Such a rule must continue as long as the earth remains, which will be until the end of the Messianic Era — to the full end of the seven days, the 7,000 years, set forth in the beginning ([Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV)).

A rule from the heavens over the earth (one province in God’s kingdom) is not only the way in which God originally established the government of the earth but the way in which He evidently established His government throughout all other parts of the universe as well (all other provinces in His kingdom). And this can never change in relation to any one province, for “*the heavens do rule*” (*cf.* [Daniel 4:25-26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.25-26&t=NKJV)).

Thus, God’s Son, with His co-heirs, *must rule throughout the Messianic Era* in exact accordance with the way God established the government of the earth in the beginning. Such a governmental rule will have to continue during this time, for the present earth will not pass out of existence until the end of the Messianic Era ([Revelations 21:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelations+21.1-5&t=NKJV)).

God’s Son, with His co-heirs, will rule over the earth for 1,000 years — the earth’s coming Sabbath, foreshadowed by the seventh day in [Genesis 2:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.1-3&t=NKJV) (*cf.* [Exodus 31:13-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+31.13-17&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 4:1-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.1-9&t=NKJV)). They will rule for 1,000 years to effect order where disorder has prevailed for millennia in one province in God’s universe. And once order has been restored, the kingdom will be delivered up to God the Father, that God might be “*all in all* [*i.e*., permeate all, be ‘everything in all things’].” ([1 Corinthians 15:24-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24-28&t=NKJV))

Then, once order has been restored and the kingdom has been delivered up to the Father, the present heavens and earth will pass out of existence. A new heavens and a new earth will be brought into existence, and the new earth will become the place in the new heavens (as the earth today is located at a place in the present heavens) from where universal rule will emanate. God will move His throne to the new earth, the Son will sit with His Father on this throne (called “*the throne of God and of the Lamb*”), and saved man will exercise power from this throne as well ([2 Peter 3:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.10ff&t=NKJV); [Revelations 21:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelations+21.1ff&t=NKJV); [22:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelations+22.1-5&t=NKJV)).

Regality, the Earth, the Universe

*Therein lies man’s destiny*, not going to heaven *per se*. Man’s destiny in relation to the heavens has to do with *regality, the earth, and the universe* — first, ruling over this present earth from the new Jerusalem above the earth, during the Messianic Era; then, ruling out in the universe from the new Jerusalem on the new earth, during the ages that follow (*cf.* [Psalm 8:3-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+8.3-6&t=NKJV)).

(Note that the size of the New Jerusalem — about 1,500 miles in length, breadth, and height [[Revelation 21:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.16&t=NKJV)] — would give rise to the thought that the new earth will likely be much larger than the present earth. A city of this size would be completely out of place sitting on the present earth, but the new earth will apparently be of a size that could easily accommodate this city.)

Salvation in Scripture is always dealt with in relation to the scope of Scripture; and Scripture deals centrally with everything moving toward a seventh day, a seventh 1,000-year period (*cf.* [Matthew 16:28-17:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.28-17.5&t=NKJV); [2 Peter 1:15-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.15-18&t=NKJV); [3:3-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.3-8&t=NKJV)). Events during this coming day, the Messianic Era, must be brought to pass *first*. And therein lies the reason why Scripture deals with man centrally in relation to this time, with the ages beyond seldom being in view (regardless of which aspect of salvation is being dealt with — past, present, or future).

Only following the Messianic Era can the ages that lie beyond this era be brought into view in all their fullness. During the present time, the eternal ages are briefly dealt with in Scripture so that man can have some understanding of God’s plan for the ages, where the whole of the matter — 6,000 years, followed by a 1,000-year Messianic Era — will eventually lead. But only following the Messianic Era will matters move beyond that which is dealt with extensively in Scripture. Only then will God begin to open up and fully reveal that which will occur during the period *which man thinks of today as eternity.*

And the manner in which Scripture presents this whole matter — particularly as it relates to man’s salvation — has become very difficult, practically impossible, for most Christians to see and grasp. These Christians have been wrongly taught for years — not necessarily concerning *how to be saved*, but concerning *the purpose for salvation* *and that which lies ahead for redeemed man*. And because this erroneous teaching surrounding salvation (seeing eternal salvation as the goal) has become so ingrained within their way of thinking, attempts to present salvation from the correct biblical perspective usually meet with askance looks, opposition, or antagonism on almost every hand.

(Eternal salvation, rather than being the goal, places man in a position where he can one day realize *the goal that God has for man, which is regal*. Eternal salvation, wherein unsaved man passes “*from death to life*” [[John 5:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+5.24&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.1&t=NKJV)], places an individual in the position where he can one day realize the purpose for his very existence, the purpose for his creation in the beginning — “. . . *let them have dominion*” [[Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV)].)

When that which is depicted by the woman placing the leaven in the three measures of meal in [Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV) (which apparently occurred very early in the dispensation and concerned an attempt on Satan’s part to corrupt all biblical doctrine having to do with the Word of the Kingdom), anything related to the Word of the Kingdom began to be adversely affected. And this working of the leaven, of necessity, extends even into the biblical scope of salvation by grace.

The latter would have to be the case because of the inseparable connection salvation by grace has with the Word of the Kingdom. It is man passing “*from death to life*” that places him in a position where he can realize the salvation of his soul.

And matters become even more negative surrounding the relationship that salvation by grace has with the kingdom through the message of those advocating Lordship Salvation. Those proclaiming this message take things having to do with the Word of the Kingdom and erroneously bring these things over into and apply them to the message of salvation by grace (*i.e.*, things having to do with present and future aspects of salvation are removed from their respective contexts and applied to things having to do with the past aspect of salvation). And, by and through this means, those proclaiming this message not only remove the kingdom from view but they do two other things in the process. They both destroy the Word of the Kingdom and corrupt the message of salvation by grace.

Interestingly enough, those who proclaim *a correct salvation message per se but ignore the kingdom* and those who proclaim *a Lordship Salvation message* (*who, by and through this means, destroy one message and corrupt the other*) form two major groups in Christendom today. Those from these two groups remain at almost complete odds with one another on the message of salvation by grace; but when it comes to correctly relating this message to the kingdom, which neither does, it can only be said of both groups that they similarly have been adversely affected by the same leavening process that is rampant in the Laodicean church of today.

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Chapter One

**Location of the Conflict**

*If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God that was given to me for you,*

*how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery . . .*

*And to make all see what is the fellowship* [‘dispensation’] *of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things through Jesus Christ:*

*to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by* [‘through’] *the Church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,*

*According to the eternal purpose* [‘According to a purpose of the ages’] *that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord* ([Ephesians 3:2-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.2-3&t=NKJV), [9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.9-11&t=NKJV) [3a]).

There is an existing, ongoing warfare between powerful spirit beings in the heavens (Satan and his angels) and individuals on the earth (Christians). This warfare centers on salvation — not the Christians’ presently possessed eternal salvation but present and future aspects of salvation, the salvation of the soul. In this respect, *the existing warfare is a battle for the souls* (the lives) *of the saved*.

And the warfare has *regal ramifications*, which takes one all the way back to:

1. The reason for man’s creation in the beginning (“*let them have dominion* [‘let them rule’]” [[Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV)]).

2. And the reason Satan brought about man’s fall (Satan was the one to whom God had previously given dominion [rulership] over the earth, the one who held the scepter at the time of man’s creation [[Ezekiel 28:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14&t=NKJV); [Luke 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+4.6&t=NKJV)], with man created to replace the incumbent ruler).

Man has been, is being, and will be saved for *a revealed purpose*. There is *a revealed goal* in view, and, relative to salvation, *that goal is always the same in Scripture*, regardless of what aspect of man’s salvation is in view. *That goal is the same* for the whole of man’s salvation — “*spirit, soul, and body*” ([1 Thessalonians 5:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.23&t=NKJV)). *That goal has to do with redeemed man ultimately occupying the position for which he was created in the beginning.*

Man, realizing the goal of salvation, *must one day hold the scepter*. And this will occur after “Man’s Day” has run its course, at the beginning of the Messianic Era.

The Church was called into existence to be the recipient of that which Israel rejected at Christ’s first coming — proffered regal positions in the kingdom of the heavens. This offer was extended to Israel in time past, but Christians are the ones to whom the offer is presently being extended. And, with this in view, Christians (as Israelites in time past) are the ones presently being afforded the opportunity to bring forth fruit in relation to the kingdom (*cf.* [Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 2:9-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+2.9-10&t=NKJV)).

It is Christ and His co-heirs (Christians from the present dispensation) who are destined to one day replace Satan and his angels, the present rulers in the kingdom. This is what is being made known to the present rulers (“*the principalities and powers in the heavenly places*”), *through the Church*, in [Ephesians 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.10&t=NKJV) — the fact that they are about to be replaced, by man, 6,000 years after the fact, realizing the purpose for his creation in the beginning.

God is about to bring in a new order of Sons, and Satan knows this. Six thousand years ago, *at the time of man’s creation*, it was made known that man would replace the incumbent rulers ([Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV)). And, during the present dispensation, a continuing declaration of this same fact is being made known *through the Church* in a more specific manner (*i.e*., not man in general but Christ and His co-heirs [Christians] in particular will replace the incumbent rulers).

*This is why the warfare rages*. Satan and his angels are doing everything within their power to prevent God’s new order of Sons from being brought forth. Satan and his angels know that once God brings forth this new order of Sons (Christ and His co-heirs), these Sons will not only rule the earth in the stead of the incumbent rulers but they will rule from the same heavenly places (*cf*. [Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)).

(Note that the battle seen between Michael and his angels on the one hand and Satan and his angels on the other in [Revelation 12:7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.7-9&t=NKJV) [*cf.* [Ezekiel 28:16-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.16-19&t=NKJV) {16b}] — a battle that will occur near the middle of the coming Tribulation, in which Satan and his angels will be cast out of their heavenly places onto the earth — anticipates and prepares the way for Christ and His co-heirs to then move into this heavenly realm and exercise regal power therein.)

The coming kingdom of Christ, toward which the whole of Scripture moves, will be one kingdom with two realms — *a heavenly realm*, and *an earthly realm*. Christ, the Seed of Abraham, will be the Supreme Ruler; and occupying positions of power and authority with Him will be the seed of Abraham (the Church) ruling from *a heavenly realm* and the seed of Abraham (Israel) ruling from *an earthly realm*.

Christ, after this fashion, will have a dual reign, both from *His Own throne in the heavens* and from *David’s throne on the earth* ([Luke 1:31-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.31-33&t=NKJV); [Revelation 3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV)). There will be *a Jerusalem above* and *a Jerusalem below*. The New Jerusalem will rest in a heavenly position above the earth, as the capital of the earth from above (apparently a satellite city which those on the earth can possibly behold); and the city of Jerusalem on the earth will be restored, existing as the capital city of the earth from below.

Christ with His co-heirs will exercise power and authority from the New Jerusalem above the earth; and Christ in the midst of and with His people, Israel, will exercise power and authority from Jerusalem below. Power and authority from above will emanate from Christ’s own throne, and power and authority from below will emanate from David’s throne, which will be given to Christ.

That will be the basic structure of the coming kingdom of Christ, in which both *the heavenly seed* and *the earthly seed* of Abraham will “*possess the gate of* [rule over]” the Gentile nations of the earth. And this rule will result in not only the nations being blessed but the kingdom ultimately (at the end of 1,000 years) being brought back into a state where it can be delivered up to the Father so that “*God may be all in all* [‘God may be all things in all of these things’]” ([Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV); [1 Corinthians 15:24-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24-28&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Colossians 1:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.16&t=NKJV), [20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.20&t=NKJV)).

The Present Kingdom

The earth is a province in the kingdom of God, and Satan holds the position of Messianic Angel (the provincial ruler) over the earth. He has held this position since the time of his appointment by God in the beginning, prior to his fall; and he (along with angels ruling under him) will continue holding this position until he is one day replaced by Man — the second Man, the last Adam, with His co-heirs, redeemed from the lineage of the first man, the first Adam ([Ezekiel 28:14-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14-16&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 2:5-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5-10&t=NKJV)).

Satan’s fall produced no change in his appointed position, for a principal of biblical government necessitates that an incumbent ruler hold his appointed position until his successor not only appears but is ready to take the scepter. There is no such thing as God removing a ruler from a province in His kingdom and not, at the same time, appointing another ruler.

Though Satan’s fall produced no change in His appointed position, it did bring about a change in the kingdom over which he ruled. The material kingdom itself was reduced to a ruin.

*The earth was* [‘But the earth became’] *without form, and void; and darkness was* [‘and darkness became’] *upon the face of the deep*.” ([Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Ezekiel 28:18b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.18b&t=NKJV))

From that time until immediately prior to the creation of Adam, though Satan continued to occupy his appointed position, he ruled over a ruined kingdom shrouded in darkness.

Then, approximately 6,000 years ago God restored the earth, along with the light of the sun and moon, and brought man into existence with a view to man taking the scepter held by Satan. This is the way Scripture begins.

1. A creation.

2. A ruin of that creation, resulting from Satan’s sin.

3. A restoration of the ruined creation through divine intervention, over six day’s time.

4. Then, the creation of man to take the scepter, in the stead of Satan.

However, the incumbent ruler, Satan, brought about the first man’s fall; and this necessitated the appearance of the second Man to provide redemption before fallen man could one day hold the scepter, as God had originally intended. Satan, bringing about the first man’s fall, followed by God’s redemption of fallen man, follows the pattern previously established in Genesis chapter one:

1. A creation.

2. A ruin of the creation, resulting from Satan’s intervention.

3. A restoration of the ruined creation through divine intervention, over six days (6,000 years) time.

4. Then, redeemed man ultimately holding the scepter in the stead of Satan, realizing the reason for man’s creation in the beginning.

The earth had been brought into existence for a purpose — “to be inhabited,” *i.e.*, to be an inhabited province in God’s kingdom ([Isaiah 45:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+45.18&t=NKJV)); and, following its ruin, the earth was restored in order that God’s purpose for the earth might be realized.

Man, likewise, had been brought into existence for a purpose ([Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV)); and following man’s ruin, God began a work of restoration in order that His purpose for man’s existence might be realized.

As God (following Satan’s fall) restored the ruined material creation over a six-day period, He (following man’s fall) is presently restoring another ruined creation — ruined man — over the same length of time, with each day in the latter restoration being 1,000 years in length. Then, as God rested for a day following the prior restoration ([Genesis 2:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.1-3&t=NKJV)), He will rest for a day, for 1,000 years, following the present restoration ([Hebrews 4:4-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.4-9&t=NKJV)).

The pattern concerning how God restores a ruined creation was set at the very beginning, in the opening verses of Genesis. And man, a subsequent ruined creation, must be restored in exact conformity with the God-established pattern.

As this restoration pertains to “time,” it will occur over six days, over six thousand years (*cf*. [Matthew 16:28-17:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.28-17.5&t=NKJV); [2 Peter 1:15-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.15-18&t=NKJV); [3:3-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.3-8&t=NKJV)). And there will then be a day of rest that will last for one day, for one thousand years. This is the earth’s coming Sabbath, toward which every earthly Sabbath pointed and every earthly Sabbath anticipated ([Exodus 20:8-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+20.8-11&t=NKJV); [31:13-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+31.13-17&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 4:4-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.4-9&t=NKJV)).

The whole of Scripture, progressing through six days of redemptive work, moves toward that coming Sabbath of rest. The skeletal structure was set *in perfect form* in the beginning, and the whole of Scripture beyond that point must rest on this structure. The whole of Scripture moves toward that coming seventh day when Christ and His co-heirs will take the scepter and rule the earth in the stead of Satan and his angels.

(For additional details concerning a correct interpretation and understanding of [Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV), refer to chapters 2-4 in the author’s book, [The Study of Scripture](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php), in this site.)

From what realm though do Satan and his angels presently rule? It is clear from both Old and New Testament Scriptures that they rule from *a heavenly realm over the earth*. Satan and his angels have *access to the earth* ([Genesis 6:2-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+6.2-4&t=NKJV); [Job 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+1.7&t=NKJV); [2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+2.2&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+5.8&t=NKJV); [Jude 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.6&t=NKJV)), but they do not rule *on the earth*.

*1) Location of Satan’s Rule — Old Testament*

Daniel chapter ten presents certain insights into how the present kingdom of Satan is structured, along with the location of those administering power and authority in the kingdom. In this chapter, a heavenly messenger who had been dispatched to Daniel on the earth from that part of the heavens where God resides and rules (the northernmost point in the universe in relation to the earth [[Isaiah 14:13 ASV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.13&t=ASV)]) was detained at a point in route. This messenger was detained in the heavens above the earth by “*the prince of the kingdom of Persia*.” Then Michael was dispatched from heaven, and the messenger remained there with “*the kings of Persia*” while Michael fought with the prince of Persia for his release ([Daniel 10:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.13&t=NKJV)).

The picture presented is that of *powerful angels in the kingdom of Satan ruling the earth from a heavenly realm through counterparts in the human race on earth*. There was a prince (ruler) of Persia in the heavens, and there was a prince (ruler) of Persia on the earth. Then, in the heavens, there were lesser rulers associated with Persia (the kings of Persia); and the same would have been true in the earthly kingdom (*cf.* [Daniel 2:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.39&t=NKJV); [5:28-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+5.28-31&t=NKJV); [7:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.5&t=NKJV); [8:3-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+8.3-6&t=NKJV), [20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+8.20&t=NKJV)).

Then beyond that “*the prince of Greece*” is mentioned — another heavenly ruler, the angelic heavenly ruler over the Grecian kingdom on earth ([Daniel 10:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.20&t=NKJV)). And the reason why attention is called to this heavenly ruler is easy to see and understand. Daniel, throughout his book, deals with the kingdom of Babylon, from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to the days of Antichrist; and [Daniel 10:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.20&t=NKJV) (“…*the prince of Greece will come*”) anticipated that day when Alexander the Great in the Grecian kingdom on earth would conquer the kingdom of Babylon under the Medes and the Persians (*cf.* [Daniel 2:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.39&t=NKJV); [7:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.6&t=NKJV); [8:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+8.7-8&t=NKJV), [21-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+8.21-22&t=NKJV)).

Thus, there is not only a breakdown of powers in the heavenly kingdom under Satan corresponding to a breakdown of powers in various earthly kingdoms under fallen man but there is also a shifting of powers in the heavenly kingdom corresponding to a shifting of powers in the earthly kingdoms. In this respect, any person occupying a position of power in any Gentile earthly kingdom during the present age is merely occupying a position of power under Satan and his angels, as they rule from the heavens through counterparts on the earth.

(Note that the nation of Israel is the lone exception among nations on earth whose rulers presently hold positions of power and authority under fallen angels in the kingdom of Satan. The prince over Israel is “Michael” [[Daniel 10:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.21&t=NKJV)], an angelic prince in the heavens who is not numbered among those ruling in Satan’s kingdom, as Israel is not numbered among the nations [[Numbers 23:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+23.9&t=NKJV)].)

*2) Location of Satan’s Rule — New Testament*

The book of Ephesians presents the same picture of Satan’s present kingdom as the book of Daniel, though from a different perspective. Ephesians is a book dealing with the heavenlies, pointing to the place where the Christians’ future inheritance lies ([Ephesians 1:3-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3-23&t=NKJV)). Christians have been saved with a view to realizing an inheritance as co-heirs with Christ in a heavenly kingdom at a future date. That is one of two central messages in this book.

The other central message has to do with the present inhabitants of that heavenly sphere — Satan and his angels ([Ephesians 1:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.21&t=NKJV); [3:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.9-11&t=NKJV); [6:11ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.11ff&t=NKJV)). They are said to reside “*in heavenly places*” ([Ephesians 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.10&t=NKJV)), and [Ephesians 6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6&t=NKJV) presents an existing, ongoing warfare between Christians and these angels.

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places* [KJV: high places]. ([Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV))

(The words “*in heavenly places*” [[Ephesians 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.10&t=NKJV)] and “*in high places*” [[Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)] are both translations of the same Greek words, referring to *a heavenly sphere*. The reference, in both instances, is to angels exercising positions of power and authority *from places in the heavens* within the kingdom under Satan — the present existing kingdom of the heavens.

For additional information concerning the present existing kingdom under Satan, along with the coming kingdom under Christ, refer to the author’s book, [The Most High Ruleth BOOK](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#The%20Most%20High%20Ruleth%20BOOK), in this site.)

Thus, there is a present existing warfare between the heavenly rulers and Christians; and that warfare rages because Satan and his angels know the reason that the *“one new man” in Christ* has been called into existence (*cf.* [Ephesians 3:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.9-11&t=NKJV)). The *one new man* will comprise the co-heirs ruling with Christ in that coming day, following the time Satan and his angels will have been put down. And Christ, with His co-heirs, ruling in the stead of Satan and his angels, will exercise power and authority from the same realm where Satan and his angels presently rule.

Thus, the warfare rages because Satan and his angels will do everything within their power to prevent this transfer of power and authority; and it will continue to rage until Christians have been removed from the earth, anticipating Satan and his angels being removed from their heavenly realm (“*threw them to* [‘unto,’ ‘upon’] *the earth*” [[Revelation 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.4&t=NKJV), [7-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.7-10&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Ezekiel 16-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+16-19&t=NKJV) {16b}]) with a view to Christ and His co-heirs taking the kingdom ([Revelation 19:11-20:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.11-20.6&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Revelation 11:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=NKJV)).

These things will occur at the end of the present dispensation (which has lasted almost 2,000 years) and near the end of the present age (which has lasted almost 6,000 years). Then, and only then, will redeemed man realize the purpose for his creation in the beginning — “. . . *let them have dominion*” ([Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV)).

(The present dispensation covers time between the sixty-ninth and seventieth week in Daniel’s Seventy-Week prophecy [[Daniel 9:24-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+9.24-27&t=NKJV)], though not time related to the prophecy itself. The present dispensation comprises a 2,000-year period *separate from time in Daniel’s prophecy.*

God’s chronometer, marking time in the prophecy, has, so to speak, stopped, allowing the present dispensation to run its course. Then, once the present dispensation has been completed, the Church will be removed, and God will complete His dispensational dealings with Israel by and through the fulfillment of that which is seen in Daniel’s prophecy.

God’s chronometer relating to the Jewish people will then mark time in Daniel’s prophecy once again, fulfilling the final week, the final seven years. This final unfulfilled week is the coming seven-year Tribulation. And the fulfillment of this final week will not only complete seven unfulfilled years of the previous dispensation but also the final seven years of the age covering “Man’s 6,000-year Day.”

For more information on Daniel’s Seventy-Week prophecy, refer to Chapter 12, “Daniel’s Seventy Weeks,” in the author’s book, [The Time of the End](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php#The%20Time%20of%20the%20End), in this site.

For information on distinctions between ages and dispensations, refer to the author’s book, [The Study of Scripture](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php), chapter 5, in this site.)

The Proffered Kingdom

Israel was called into existence to be the nation that God would not only bless but would, in turn, through this nation, bless all the other nations as well. In this respect, Israel was called into existence to be the channel through which God would bless all of mankind ([Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV)).

In order for these blessings to ultimately be realized in their fullness, man must occupy the position for which he was originally created. *Man must hold the scepter*. There can be (there have been and presently are) blessings for mankind, through Israel, as man moves toward that end; but the fullness of blessings that God has in store for mankind, through Israel, *cannot be realized until Israel has been restored and man actually holds the scepter.*

To effect the whole of the matter, Israel’s calling involved giving man the Redeemer, giving man the Word of God, and being made the repository for both heavenly and earthly promises and blessings.

Through Israel God has given to man the Redeemer and the Word of God, revealing His plans and purposes. But the heavenly and earthly promises and blessings, other than a foretaste, have yet to be realized. Such a realization *awaits Israel’s restoration and man holding the scepter during the coming Messianic Era.*

*1) Israel and the Proffered Kingdom — Past*

There were two times in history when the nation of Israel was placed in a position where the people of Israel could enter into and occupy the kingdom. The first was under Moses and later Joshua following the Exodus from Egypt, and the second was under Jesus the Christ almost 1,500 years later.

*a) The Earthly*

The proffered kingdom during the days of Moses and Joshua had to do with the earthly segment of the kingdom. The Israelites had been called out of Egypt to realize an inheritance in another land, and that other land was *the earthly land of Canaan.*

The nation under Moses, at Kadesh-Barnea, rebelled against God and His appointed leader Moses. Because of unbelief, they refused to enter the land and, under God, take the land; and, within their actions, they even went so far as to seek to appoint a new leader and return to Egypt ([Numbers 13:26-14:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13.26-14.4&t=NKJV)).

This resulted in the entire accountable generation, save Caleb and Joshua (because they possessed “*a different spirit*” relative to entering the land), being overthrown in the wilderness during the next thirty-eight and one-half years ([Numbers 14:5-38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14.5-38&t=NKJV)). And then Joshua, after the overthrow of the entire accountable generation and after the death of Moses, led the second generation of Israelites into the land ([Joshua 1:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joshua+1.1ff&t=NKJV)).

The Israelites entering the land under Joshua though, along with succeeding generations of Israelites, never realized the fullness of the purpose for their calling. This failure was the result of unbelief and disobedience at different times on the part of the people. And the attitude and action of the people in this respect governed the attitude and action of God in this same respect ([Leviticus 26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Leviticus+26&t=NKJV); [Deuteronomy 28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+28&t=NKJV)).

*God’s blessings* would follow Israel’s belief and obedience, resulting in the surrounding Gentile nations also being blessed. But exactly the opposite would result from unbelief and disobedience. There were *curses* rather than blessings, and a withholding of blessings from Israel resulted in a withholding of blessings from the surrounding Gentile nations as well.

The kingdom reached its heights during the days of David and his son, Solomon. But following the division of the kingdom after Solomon’s death, things took a different turn entirely. The nation, through *a continuing disobedience*, became entrenched in a downward course from which there would be no return, leading to *Gentile captivity and the “times of the Gentiles.”* God’s call to His people to “*humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways*” ([2 Chronicles 7:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Chronicles+7.14&t=NKJV)) — through the prophets — went unheeded.

And God remaining true to His Word ([Leviticus 26:32ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Leviticus+26.32ff&t=NKJV); [Deuteronomy 28:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+28.25&t=NKJV), [37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+28.37&t=NKJV)), eventually allowed Gentile powers to enter the land and take His people captive, uprooting the Jewish people from their own land and transporting them to Gentile lands. The Assyrians came down and took the northern ten tribes into captivity beginning about 722 B.C., and the Babylonians came over and took the southern two tribes into captivity beginning about 605 B.C.

The removal of the southern two tribes, completing a captivity and removal of the Jewish people from their land by Gentile powers, began the period known as “*the times of the Gentiles*,” which extends from that point until the end of the coming Tribulation.

The kingdom was taken from Israel at this time, along with the Glory; and neither will be restored to Israel until the coming Messianic Era ([Ezekiel 10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+10.4&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+10.18&t=NKJV); [11:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+11.22-23&t=NKJV); [43:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+43.1-5&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Luke 9:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+9.32&t=NKJV); [Acts 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+1.9&t=NKJV); [1 Timothy 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+3.16&t=NKJV)). Though the Jewish people were allowed to return from captivity seventy years following the Babylonian captivity, only a remnant returned; and though the temple was rebuilt, it housed no Glory.

And the same holds true today. Though the nation has been allowed to return, only a remnant has done so (but this time by and through a Zionistic, man-made movement, in unbelief); and though Israel will shortly rebuild her temple, it will house no Glory.

Another parallel relative to Israel past and present also holds true. The remnant forming the present nation, just as the remnant forming the past nation, will be uprooted and driven to the ends of the earth. The former occurred under the Romans, beginning in 70 A.D., and the latter will occur under Antichrist, beginning in the middle of the Tribulation.

And as the temple that was built by the remnant returning to the land following the Babylonian captivity was later destroyed (in 70 A.D.), so will it be with the temple that Israel is about to build. It too will be destroyed ([Daniel 9:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+9.26&t=NKJV); [Matthew 24:15-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.15-22&t=NKJV); [Luke 21:20-24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+21.20-24&t=NKJV)).

Israel, with her temple (housing the Glory of God once again), will be restored only *after* the “times of the Gentiles” has run its course and *after* Messiah returns. Christ, *Himself*, *will personally* restore the nation ([Deuteronomy 30:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+30.1-3&t=NKJV); [Matthew 24:30-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.30-31&t=NKJV)), and *He, Himself,* *will personally* build the temple ([Zechariah 6:11-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+6.11-13&t=NKJV)).

*b) The Heavenly*

The preceding forms a brief historic and prophetic overview of the earthly segment of the kingdom, which could be understood following the days of David as *the kingdom covenanted to David* ([2 Samuel 7:4-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+7.4-17&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Luke 1:31-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.31-33&t=NKJV)).

However, there is another segment of the kingdom that also, of necessity, had to be offered to Israel; and that other segment is *the heavenly.*

This segment of the kingdom was offered to Israel at the time of Christ’s first advent. Scripture clearly reveals that the earthly segment of the kingdom was not in view at all at this time. *Only the heavenly segment was in view.*

John the Baptist preceded Christ with the message,

*Repent* [plural in the Greek text, referring to the entire nation]: *for the kingdom of heaven* [*lit*. the heavens] is at hand! ([Matthew 3:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+3.1ff&t=NKJV))

John was the forerunner of the Messiah ([Matthew 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+3.3&t=NKJV)); and he appeared, calling the nation to *repentance* (a change of mind), announcing that *the kingdom of the heavens* (the rule of the heavens over the earth) was at hand (*i.e*., had drawn near and could have been established, for the Messianic King Himself was present [*cf.* [Matthew 2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+2.2&t=NKJV); [27:37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+27.37&t=NKJV)]).

(The expression, “*the kingdom of heaven*,” appearing thirty-two times in the gospel of Matthew [KJV, *et al*.] should literally be translated, on every occasion, “*the kingdom of the heavens*.” The word “heaven” is always plural and proceeded by the definite article in the Greek text.)

Then after John was imprisoned, Jesus took up the message ([Matthew 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+4.12&t=NKJV), [17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+4.17&t=NKJV)), later He called out twelve disciples to carry this same message to the people throughout the land of Israel, and later yet He called seventy others for the same purpose ([Matthew 10:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+10.1ff&t=NKJV); [Luke 10:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+10.1ff&t=NKJV)).

Thus, the offer of the kingdom of the heavens was extended to Israel initially by John the Baptist and for a subsequent three and one-half years by Christ and His disciples — the Twelve, and then the Seventy. But, after all had been said and done, the nation, because of the attitude of the religious leaders in Israel, rejected not only the offer but even went so far as to reject and crucify the One who made the offer ([Matthew 12:22-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+12.22-32&t=NKJV); [23:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+23.1ff&t=NKJV); [27:17ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+27.17ff&t=NKJV)).

(An offer of the *heavenly* segment of the kingdom was a matter that the religious leaders in Israel should have been quite familiar with. This segment of the kingdom, though not dealt with as extensively in the Old Testament as the *earthly*, was still a major subject of Old Testament Scripture [[Genesis 14:18-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+14.18-22&t=NKJV); [15:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.5&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV); [26:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+26.4&t=NKJV); [Daniel 7:18-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.18-27&t=NKJV); [10:13-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.13-21&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Job. 1:6-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job.+1.6-12&t=NKJV); [2:1-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Job+2.1-6&t=NKJV)]. And many Israelites throughout Old Testament history, understanding these things, looked beyond the earthly to the heavenly [*cf.* [Matthew 8:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+8.11&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 11:8-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.8-16&t=NKJV)].)

Israel’s rejection of the kingdom of the heavens anticipated the Church being called into existence to be the recipient of that which the nation had rejected ([Matthew 16:1-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.1-18&t=NKJV)). And the announcement concerning the matter was subsequently made to the religious leaders in Israel, as recorded in [Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV), immediately prior to the events of Calvary:

*Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God* [that part of the kingdom that had been offered, the heavenly] *will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it*. ([Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV))

The heavenly segment of the kingdom was taken from Israel in view of the Church being called into existence to be the recipient of that offer. And Israel, from that point forward, in line with [Matthew 12:31-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+12.31-32&t=NKJV), could not bring forth fruit relative to *the kingdom of the heavens.*

Israel, *relative to this segment of the kingdom*, could no longer bear fruit, “*either in this age or in the age to come*.” That encompassed the two ages covering the whole of the time set forth by the seven days in Genesis chapters one and two, which covers the 6,000 years comprising Man’s Day and the 1,000 years comprising the Lord’s Day, the Messianic Era.

But note that this is relative to *the kingdom of the heavens only*. It has nothing to do with the kingdom covenanted to David, the earthly segment of the kingdom. This can never be taken from Israel, and Israel will one day be very fruitful, *on the earth*, when Messiah returns and this segment of the kingdom is restored to the nation.

*2) The Church and the Proffered Kingdom — Present*

When Christ announced to the religious leaders in Israel that the kingdom would be taken from Israel and be given to “*a nation bearing the fruits of it*,” that nation — *the Church* ([1 Peter 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+2.9&t=NKJV)) — did not then exist. But though the Church had not yet been called into existence, it had previously been mentioned by Christ ([Matthew 16:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.18&t=NKJV)) and had been anticipated by events leading into [Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV) ([Matthew 12:22-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+12.22-32&t=NKJV); [13:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.1ff&t=NKJV); [21:18-42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.18-42&t=NKJV)).

The first mention of the Church though, in reality, actually precedes these events in the gospel of Matthew by one and a half millennia in one respect and by four millennia in another respect.

Moses, 1,500 years before Christ’s first appearance and 1,500 years before the Church was brought into existence, provided the first recorded information concerning the Church. And this information is provided by way of typology in Genesis chapters two and three, drawn from events occurring 2,500 years before Moses recorded them (Eve removed from Adam’s body, foreshadowing Christ’s bride removed from His body, etc.).

Then another interesting matter surrounds the fact that the Church is presented in biblical typology prior to any mention of Israel after this fashion. Israel is not seen in biblical typology until the events recorded in [Genesis 4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+4&t=NKJV) (Cain slaying Abel, Israel slaying Christ). And events in chapter four parallel events in the previous chapter, in [Genesis 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3&t=NKJV), where Adam partakes of sin to effect Eve’s redemption, foreshadowing Christ becoming sin to effect our redemption ([2 Corinthians 5:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.21&t=NKJV)).

Thus, matters surrounding Israel rejecting the offer of the kingdom of the heavens, climaxed by the crucifixion of the One who made the offer and necessitating the calling into existence of the Church, all have their roots back in the opening chapters of Genesis. The Church is that “holy nation” ([1 Peter 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+2.9&t=NKJV)) spoken of in type by Moses, referred to by Christ in [Matthew 16:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.18&t=NKJV), and in the mind of Christ in [Matthew 21:43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.43&t=NKJV) when He announced to the religious leaders in Israel that the kingdom would be taken from them and be given to “*a nation bearing the fruits of it*.”

The Church is comprised of *a heavenly people with heavenly promises and blessings*, and these promises and blessings will be realized during a future day (the Messianic Era), *in the heavens*, not on the earth. Contrariwise, Israel’s future promises and blessings are *earthly alone*, for the heavenly promises and blessings have been taken from Israel.

Accordingly, viewing the matter after the preceding fashion leaves no room to question what facet of the kingdom (heavenly or earthly) was offered to, rejected by, and taken from Israel. The Word clearly states what facet: the “*kingdom of the heavens*,” referring to the *heavenly sphere of the kingdom*.

(The confusion in this realm usually emanates from erroneously understanding the expression, “*the kingdom of the heavens*,” as referring only to a kingdom having its origin in the heavens, where God dwells, not to a kingdom located in a heavenly sphere.

Then, beyond these clear statements concerning what facet of the kingdom was in view at the time of Christ’s first coming, exactly the same thing can be seen and understood when viewing the matter from the standpoint of the whole of Scripture.)

The earthly segment of the kingdom had been covenanted to David via an unconditional covenant and *could not have been, nor can it ever be*, taken from the nation of Israel. Christ’s announcement to the religious leaders in Israel *could* *not* have had anything to do with the earthly segment of the kingdom; nor was the earthly segment of the kingdom even in view in the offer of the kingdom to Israel, beginning with John and continuing with Christ and His disciples.

*The heavenly segment of the kingdom alone* was in view in the offer to Israel, the rejection by Israel, the removal from Israel, and the offer to another nation. And *the Church alone — “Abraham’s seed* [because of the Christians’ position ‘*in Christ*’], *and heirs according to the promise* [heavenly, not earthly]” ([Galatians 3:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.29&t=NKJV)) — is the only entity that can possibly be identified as this new nation, the one presently being extended the opportunity to bring forth fruit relative to the kingdom of the heavens ([1 Peter 2:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+2.9-11&t=NKJV); [2 Peter 1:8-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.8-11&t=NKJV)).

And the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the entire present dispensation revolves around this whole overall thought. Redeemed man, removed from both Jew and Gentile, has been saved (has become *a new creation*, a part of *the one new man “in Christ”*) *for a purpose*; and that purpose has to do with bringing forth fruit (present) with a view to occupying a position as co-heir with Christ in the “*kingdom of the heavens*” (future).

The Future Kingdom

Satan and his angels are to be put down, and Christ and His co-heirs are to take the kingdom. That is the clear testimony of Scripture, beginning in Genesis and concluding in Revelation. The matter will occur after exactly the same fashion set forth in [Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV).

*. . . by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will* . . . ([Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV))

The Most High will one day give the kingdom to His Son ([Daniel 7:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.13-14&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Revelation 11:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=NKJV)), Satan and his angels will be put down (exactly as Nebuchadnezzar in history was put down, for that will be “*the decree of the Most High*” [[Daniel 4:23-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.23-31&t=NKJV)]), and the Son will then take the kingdom and rule, holding the scepter.

At that time God will place redeemed, qualified individuals in positions of power and authority as co-heirs with His Son ([Daniel 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17&t=NKJV), [25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.25&t=NKJV), [32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.32&t=NKJV); [Matthew 20:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+20.23&t=NKJV)); and Christ, with His co-heirs, will hold the scepter (*cf*. [Psalm 2:6-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2.6-9&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV)).

Christ’s co-heirs will have previously been shown qualified at the judgment seat; and following the Father positioning these co-heirs on the throne with His Son, Christ and His co-heirs (who will form His wife in that day) will then rule the earth from His throne in the heavenly Jerusalem for 1,000 years.

Israel will have been restored to the nation’s earthly land, and the kingdom covenanted to David will have been restored to Israel. David’s throne will have been given to Christ; and He will rule from this throne on the earth as well as from His own throne in the heavens (note that David will also rule from this throne [*cf*. [Ezekiel 34:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+34.23&t=NKJV); [37:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.24&t=NKJV); [Luke 1:31-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.31-33&t=NKJV)]).

Thus, Christ will have a dual reign during the Messianic Era. And it will be after this fashion that Christ will exercise power and authority over the earth for 1,000 years.

Christ’s rule *from the heavens* will involve *His co-heirs* (His wife), who will exercise power and authority with Him over the nations. And Christ’s rule *on the earth* will involve *the Jewish people* (the restored wife of Jehovah) who will also exercise power and authority with Him over the nations.

Accordingly, the Gentile nations, in this manner, will be governed from two realms during this time — *heavenly* and *earthly*; and blessings will flow forth through Abraham’s Seed from both realms (*cf*. [Genesis 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.3&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV); [Romans 9:4-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+9.4-5&t=NKJV); [Galatians 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.16&t=NKJV), [29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.29&t=NKJV)).

And the object of Christ’s rule after this fashion will be *to bring order out of disorder, to effect a cosmos out of a chaos*.

“*All rule and all authority and power*” must be put down; “*all enemies*” must be put “*under His* [under Christ’s] *feet*,” even “*death*.” And when “*all things are made subject to Him* [Christ],” the kingdom will be “*delivered up*” to “*God the Father*” in order that “*God may be all in all* [‘God may be all things in all of these things’]” ([1 Corinthians 15:24-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24-28&t=NKJV)).

This is what the whole of Scripture, beginning in the opening verses of Genesis, anticipates; and to bring the matter to pass, the Son, in conjunction with His co-heirs in the heavens and the nation of Israel on the earth, will rule the earth for the duration of that seventh day — for 1,000 years — foreshadowed by the seventh day seen at the very beginning, in [Genesis 2:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.1-3&t=NKJV) *the position for which he was created in the beginning*.

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Chapter Two

**Participants in the Conflict**

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.*

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

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places* [against the spirit forces of wickedness in heavenly places]. ([Ephesians 6:10-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10-12&t=NKJV))

Christians are presently engaged in a battle against powerful angelic rulers in the spirit world. These angels, ruling in the kingdom of Satan, are striving for *the souls of men*; and the outcome of this conflict, like any conflict, is determined by proper or improper preparation as one engages the enemy.

A properly prepared Christian can enter the conflict and consistently win battle after battle, but an improperly prepared Christian entering the conflict can only experience defeat time after time.

*Victory* is achieved by engaging the enemy within the framework of the Lord’s instructions in [Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV). A Christian though who engages the enemy after any other fashion is entering the conflict apart from the Lord’s instructions, leaving himself in a very vulnerable position, one in which the enemy can consistently achieve victory.

Thus, in this respect, *victory* on the one hand or *defeat* on the other is determined by the Christian’s preparation for the conflict at hand. A Christian can either heed the Lord’s instructions or he can ignore the Lord’s instructions. There is no middle ground ([Matthew 12:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+12.30&t=NKJV); [Luke 11:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+11.23&t=NKJV)). The former will produce *readiness for battle and result in victory*, but the latter will leave the Christian *very vulnerable to attack and can only result in defeat*.

Victory for the Christian will actually be determined by how badly he wants to win. The overriding thought in Ephesians has to do with *individuals being saved for a revealed purpose*. Christians have been saved by grace through faith ([Ephesians 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8&t=NKJV)) in order to realize an inheritance in *heavenly places* ([Ephesians 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.11&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.18&t=NKJV); [2:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.6-7&t=NKJV); [3:1-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.1-6&t=NKJV)). The task of a pastor-teacher is to lead Christians into a mature knowledge of this inheritance, a mature knowledge of the things surrounding the purpose for their salvation ([Ephesians 4:11ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.11ff&t=NKJV)), resulting in their being filled with the Spirit ([Ephesians 5:18ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.18ff&t=NKJV)) and being able to engage the enemy after the fashion given at the end of this epistle ([Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV)).

How badly do Christians really want to achieve victory over the enemy and one day realize the proffered inheritance with God’s Son? *That is the question that will determine what a Christian does about the Lord’s instructions concerning proper preparation for the battle at hand.*

Confronting the Enemy

Knowing one’s enemy and his objective is all-important when one enters into a battle. The enemy, in this case, is identified in very graphic terms at the outset of the Lord’s instructions, and the enemy’s objective is a major subject of Scripture. Christians are to be “*strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might*”; and they are to properly clothe themselves with provided armor as they move about in this fashion (being strong in the Lord, relying upon His power and might) in order that they might be able “*to stand against the wiles of the devil*” ([Ephesians 6:10-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10-11&t=NKJV)). And the crafty ways that Satan uses as he lies in wait to deceive are brought to pass by and through the actions of powerful fallen angels, world-rulers in his kingdom ([Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Ephesians 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.14&t=NKJV)).

Satan is the great imitator. He ever seeks to counterfeit the work of God as he and his angels move against Christians. God has innumerable angels at His command who perform activities in His kingdom; and Satan, “*the god of this world age*” ([2 Corinthians 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+4.4&t=NKJV) [“the god of this age” in relation to the earth and his rule]), has innumerable angels at his command who perform activities in his kingdom.

(The kingdom of Satan is actually a part of the overall kingdom of God. Angels rule domains throughout God’s kingdom, and their rulership over domains is looked upon and referred to as *the rule over a kingdom*. Delegated power and authority of this nature has to do with *numerous kingdoms within one overall kingdom*.

Satan, in time past, was among the angels given a kingdom and dominion. However, dissatisfied with the extent of his delegated power and authority, Satan sought to “*exalt his throne"* and “*be like the most High* [be like God Himself, the supreme Ruler over all].”

And today Satan is a rebel ruler within his kingdom, along with one-third of his original contingent of ruling angels, who followed him in his attempt to increase his hold on power and authority [*cf*. [Isaiah 14:12-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.12-14&t=NKJV); [Revelation 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.4&t=NKJV)].

Satan’s present kingdom is referred to as “*the kingdom of the world*” or “*his kingdom*.”

Christ, at His first coming, called attention to both the present kingdom under Satan and His coming kingdom when he said, “*My kingdom is not of this world* [*lit*., ‘not out of this world,’ referring to the present world kingdom under Satan]” [[John 18:36a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+18.36a&t=NKJV)]. And this will explain that which is involved in [1 John 2:15ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+2.15ff&t=NKJV), “*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world* . . . .”

It is *this present kingdom under Satan* that will one day *become “the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ”* [[Revelation 11:15 ASV](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=ASV), [Revelation 16:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.10&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Matthew 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+6.10&t=NKJV)]. And it is this kingdom, which Christ and His co-heirs will rule with a rod of iron for 1,000 years in order to bring the kingdom back into conformity with the way God has established individual kingdoms within His overall kingdom [*cf.* [Psalm 2:6-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2.6-9&t=NKJV); [1 Corinthians 15:24-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24-28&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-28&t=NKJV)].)

In God’s kingdom, it is evident that angels perform various activities within the scope of *fixed laws* in order to fulfill the perfect will of God concerning matters, apart from any immediate command from God; and by so doing, their actions are looked upon as those of the Lord Himself.

(For an example of the preceding, note that the destruction of the cities of the plain during Abraham’s day was carried out by angels, who could only have been acting under *fixed laws*. And, though angels destroyed these cities, the Lord Himself is also said to have been the One who performed the act. That which was performed by these angels acting under fixed laws *became* the actions of the One who established these laws [[Genesis 19:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.13-14&t=NKJV), [29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.29&t=NKJV)].)

It appears evident that the same thing occurs in Satan’s kingdom. Satan, “*the god of this age*,” is the one who moves against Christians in a deceptive manner, the one who ever stands ready to devour them (*cf*. [Ephesians 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.11&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+5.8&t=NKJV)). But our warfare is revealed to be, more specifically, against the innumerable host of angels in Satan’s kingdom rather than against Satan himself, as an individual ([Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)).

This can only be carried out by Satan’s angels acting within the scope of *fixed laws* in order to fulfill the will of Satan, apart from any immediate command from Satan; and by so doing, their actions are looked upon as those of Satan himself.

(Note that these *fixed laws*, operable in Satan’s kingdom, would have their origin and basis in laws established by God in the beginning. And the manner concerning how these laws operate, though continuing to be operable in a system that had become corrupted under Satan, could not change.)

Thus, by warring against angels in Satan’s kingdom, Christians are actually engaged in a battle against Satan himself. Because of the apparent manner in which command has been established in Satan’s kingdom, *there would be no difference between warring against his angels or warring against him personally.*

*1) Description of the Enemy*

Different terms are used in [Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV) to describe the angels in Satan’s kingdom against whom Christians are engaged in battle. They are called *“principalities,” “powers,” “rulers of the darkness of this age,”* and *“spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

These four different descriptions do not form references to various gradations of angels ruling in different territorial domains under Satan, though Satan’s kingdom is structured after this fashion. These descriptions merely constitute four different ways that the Lord uses to describe the enemy, providing various facets of information.

a) “*Principalities*”: This is a translation of the Greek word *arche*, which refers primarily to “a beginning” (*e.g*., [Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV) [Septuagint]; [John 1:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.1-2&t=NKJV)). When the word is used in the sense that it appears in the text though, the reference is to “a ruler.” This is the same word used earlier in [Ephesians 1:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.21&t=NKJV); [3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.10&t=NKJV), referring to *world-rulers*. This is also the word used in [1 Corinthians 15:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24&t=NKJV), revealing the purpose for Christ’s coming reign over the earth — “*when He puts an end to all rule* [*arche*] *and all authority and power.*” That is, Christ is going to reign until all world-rulers, those holding positions of power and authority, have been completely subdued.

(Though Satan and his angels will be bound in the abyss during this future time [[Revelation 20:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.1-3&t=NKJV)], Gentile nations, with their rulers, will still be present on the earth. And rebellion will, at times, as it presently does during Man’s Day, still exist within their ranks [[Ezekiel 14:16-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+14.16-21&t=NKJV); [Revelation 20:7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.7-9&t=NKJV)].)

The Greek word *arch*e, referring primarily to “a beginning” — used as the opening word to describe *the incumbent world-rulers in heavenly places* — would undoubtedly be an allusion to the fact that those described have held their positions *since the beginning*. They form part of *the original contingent of rulers.*

(Those referred to by the word *arche* form one-third of the original contingent of angels that God deemed necessary to rule the earth with the one later known as “Satan.” Two-thirds of this original group of angelic rulers refused to follow Satan in his attempt to exalt his throne. This is dealt with in “Objective of the Enemy” following in this chapter.)

b) “*Powers*”: This is a translation of the Greek word *exousia*, meaning “power” or “authority,” and is simply another way to describe those occupying positions of governmental power. They are not only “rulers,” but they are “powers,” “authorities.” This is also the same word used with *arche* in the previous references ([1 Corinthians 15:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.24&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 1:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.21&t=NKJV); [3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.10&t=NKJV)). *Exousia* not only calls attention to the “power and authority” held by an *arche*, “a ruler,” but it is also used as a synonym for the *arche*.

c) “*Rulers of the darkness of this age*”: The word “rulers” here is the translation of a different word in the Greek text than the word “principalities” appearing earlier in the verse. The word used here is *kosmokrato*r, a combination of two words — *kosmos*, meaning “world”, and *kratos*, meaning “to rule.” Thus, *kosmokrator* means “world-ruler,” shown as such in the KJV text, though the word “rulers” is separated from the word “world.” The expression, “*rulers of the darkness of this age*,” could perhaps be better translated, “world-rulers of the present darkness,” or “rulers of this present dark age.”

d) “*Spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places*”: The words “*spiritual hosts of wickedness*” could be better translated “spirit forces of wickedness,” referring to Satan and his angels. And these individuals are said to reside in “*heavenly places,*” literally “in the heavenlies,” or “in heavenly places” (identical expression in the Greek text as used in [Ephesians 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3&t=NKJV)).

Thus, Christians are at war against, not flesh and blood (individuals on the earth), but against the powerful world-rulers of this present dark world who occupy various positions of power and authority under Satan in heavenly places. It is these individuals with whom we are engaged in battle; and because they evidently act within the scope of fixed laws as they seek to carry out Satan’s plans and purposes, our warfare is equally against Satan himself.

*2) Objective of the Enemy*

Battles between opposing armies are normally fought for territorial rights, which would include governmental control over that territory. The objective in battle is to either retain one’s presently possessed territory or acquire new territory through victory over the opposing side.

And the warfare in Ephesians chapter six is no different. On one side there are powerful world-rulers seeking to hold onto presently possessed territory, along with their positions as rulers over this realm. Then, on the other side there are those called into existence to one day move into and occupy this territory, ruling over this same realm in the stead of the incumbent world-rulers.

Satan and his angels have ruled over the earth from the very beginning of God’s established government in this one province in the universe. Satan was created and positioned over this earth as the “*anointed cherub* [‘messianic (ruling) angel’]” by God in the beginning ([Ezekiel. 28:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel.+28.14&t=NKJV)), and a great host of other angels were also created and placed in positions of power under him (*cf*. [Daniel 10:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.13-14&t=NKJV), [20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.20&t=NKJV); [Matthew 25:41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.41&t=NKJV); [Revelation 12:7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.7-9&t=NKJV)). And the scepter has been held by Satan and his angels, without interruption, since that time.

However, because of Satan’s aspirations to be “*like the Most High*” ([Isaiah 14:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.14&t=NKJV)), major changes have occurred in his kingdom. Disruption, producing chaos in God’s government, entered at one place in the universe by and through the unlawful actions of one provincial ruler.

The first major change in Satan’s kingdom was in *the sphere of active rulership — his governing power structure*. Two-thirds of the angels originally ruling under Satan refused to follow him in his God-dishonoring, rebellious act, leaving only one-third of the original number ([Revelation 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.4&t=NKJV)). Thus, at the very beginning, Satan’s ranks were depleted by two-thirds from that number that God had originally deemed necessary to properly rule this province in His kingdom.

The second major change was in *the domain itself*. Because Satan had attempted such an act — which was actually an attempted coup, an attempted takeover of the government of the universe — his kingdom was reduced to a ruin. God had no choice other than to act in accordance with His perfect justice and righteousness, executing judgment of a nature that reduced Satan’s kingdom to the ruin described in [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV). And though Satan continued to hold the scepter, he and the angels who had allied themselves with him, could only rule over a ruined domain.

These things occurred during an age or during ages preceding man, and Scripture provides no revelation concerning “time” during this period. Scripture is silent concerning how long Satan and his angels ruled over the earth in its original state, and Scripture is equally silent concerning how long the earth lay in its ruined state following Satan’s move to exalt his throne.

God has deemed “time” within events prior to the restoration of the earth to be of no moment [Editor’s note: consequence] insofar as His plans and purposes for man are concerned. Thus, “time” begins to be reckoned in God’s revelation to man only when God begins His act of restoring the ruined creation in [Genesis 1:2b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2b&t=NKJV), anticipating man being created to take the scepter.

Almost 6,000 years ago God restored the earth over a six-day period; and on the sixth day, after God had completed His restoration work, man was created for the express purpose of *ruling the earth in the stead of Satan and his angels*. An entirely new creation, created in the image and likeness of God — a creature unlike any other in the universe — was brought into existence *to take the scepter and rule over the restored province, the restored domain*.

Satan knew exactly why the earth had been restored and why God had created man. Following the restoration of the earth, both before and after the creation of man, God made matters very clear through His announced plans and purposes.

God, prior to the creation of man, said,

*Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion* . . . .” ([Genesis 1:26a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26a&t=NKJV))

Then following the creation of man, and the removal of the woman from the man,

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion*. . *. .”* ([Genesis 1:28a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.28a&t=NKJV))

The word translated “*dominion*” from the Hebrew text, in both instances ([Genesis 1:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26&t=NKJV), [28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.28&t=NKJV)), is the word *radah*, meaning “to rule.” This is the same word used in [Psalm 110:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+110.2&t=NKJV), translated “*rule*,” referring to Christ’s coming rule over the earth as the second Man, the last Adam.

The earth had been restored for man, and man had been created to take the dominion that Satan possessed; and since the one to take the scepter of the earth within God’s planned economy was now present, Satan possessed only one recourse to retain his position: *Man must be disqualified.*

Disruption within God’s plans concerning His new order of rulers, rendering man unfit to hold the scepter, is the reason Satan approached and deceived Eve in the beginning. Such resulted in Adam’s fall, disqualifying man and placing him in the same fallen position as Satan — a position in which man *could not* assume control of the government.

In man’s case though, following his fall, God acted after an entirely different fashion than He had acted when Satan fell. God, in His condemnatory remarks to Satan, because of that which had occurred through his deception of Eve, promised a Redeemer for man ([Genesis 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.15&t=NKJV)); and He then acted in a redemptive capacity by slaying animals and providing coats of skins for Adam and Eve ([Genesis 3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.21&t=NKJV)). These things were done immediately after man sinned, before he was barred from Eden; and they were done with a view to redeemed man one day holding the scepter in the stead of Satan and his angels.

Satan knew exactly why God had promised a Redeemer and why a redemptive act had been performed for fallen man, and this is the reason he continued his move against man and has continued it to this day. Satan’s move to retain his position, which began against Adam through Eve, has continued against Adam’s descendants on an uninterrupted fashion for the past 6,000 years. *Man* is the one whom God brought into existence to replace the incumbent rulers, and the battle has to do with *regal rights over a territory — rulership over the earth*.

The gifts and calling of God are “*without repentance* [‘without a change of mind’]” ([Romans 11:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.29&t=NKJV)). God is not going to change His mind concerning the reason He called man into existence. God has provided redemption for man, with a view to man one day taking the scepter.

*Regality was the purpose for man’s creation, this was the purpose underlying man’s subsequent fall, and this is equally the purpose for his redemption. Everything is regal in nature and has to do with the earth.*

Man’s Redeemer has shown Himself fully qualified to replace the incumbent ruler, Satan ([Matthew 4:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+4.1-11&t=NKJV); [Luke 4:1-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+4.1-13&t=NKJV)); and God has provided redemption for man, with a view to allowing redeemed individuals the opportunity to qualify for positions on the throne with the Redeemer when He takes the kingdom. Individuals qualifying for these positions will, in this respect, also replace incumbent rulers, for the angels presently ruling under Satan must also be put down.

(Actually, Christians qualifying to rule in the kingdom with the One who has redeemed them for *this purpose* will replace all angels associated with a rule over the earth within God’s economy, not just the angels presently ruling with Satan. Two-thirds of the original contingent of rulers over the earth refused to follow Satan, and they, even though not actively ruling today, still retain their crowns, which *they must relinquish.*

The principle of biblical government necessitating that an incumbent ruler hold the scepter until he is actually replaced *would require* this to be the case; and the crowns worn by these angels, along with the crowns worn by angels presently ruling in an active capacity under Satan, will be worn by Christians during the coming age.

Matters surrounding Christians about to assume these positions of power can only be why the twenty-four elders are presented arising from their thrones and casting their crowns before God’s throne after the manner and at the time seen in [Revelation 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+4.10&t=NKJV). There has to be definite reasons why this event not only occurs but also why it occupies a place in the book of Revelation at this particular point.

The entire matter can only have to do with *regality and the earth*. It can only have to do with *a transfer of power over a domain,* for that is not only what is seen in the overall outworking of the central subject matter of the book [Revelation 19ff] but that is also what is seen through the elders’ actions as well [relinquishing their crowns to the One who had originally placed them in a crowned position on thrones, showing a relinquishment of regality over a territory].

The time when the twenty-four elders arise from their thrones and cast their crowns before God’s throne, chronologically, is immediately following the judgment of Christians [at the end of this dispensation, preceding the Tribulation] and immediately before God begins to deal with the earth-dwellers [during the Tribulation].

Contrary to popular interpretation, the twenty-four elders do not represent Christians. *Such would be impossible*. Christians will not be seated on thrones and possess crowns at this time; nor would they arise from their thrones and cast their crowns before God’s throne if they did. Christians will wear crowns during the coming age, not cast them before a throne preceding the age.

These elders can only be identified as representing those angels, still crowned up to that point in time, who did not go along with Satan in his attempted coup. *The earth and its government are in view*, and the fact that these elders are crowned shows that they occupy ruling positions associated with the earth’s government [biblical revelation concerns itself with regality and the earth, not with regality and other provinces in the universe].

Also, the Greek word used for “crowns” in [Revelation 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+4.10&t=NKJV) is *stephanos*, not *diadema*, showing that although these elders are associated with the earth’s government [which itself identifies them as angels], they are not actively involved in this government at the time they cast their crowns before God’s throne [a crown worn by one actively occupying a governmental office is called a *diadema*, not a *stephanos*]. They are presented at this particular point in the book as willingly relinquishing their crowns, with a view to others about to take the kingdom [Christians having previously been shown qualified to rule at the judgment seat ([Revelation 1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1-3&t=NKJV))]; but crowns worn by Satan and his angels will have to subsequently be taken by force.

Refer to [Crowns Cast Before God’s Throne!](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#Crowns%20Cast%20Before%20God%E2%80%99s%20Throne!), in this site, for a more comprehensive discussion of [Revelation 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+4.10&t=NKJV) and crowned rulers.)

God has set aside an entire dispensation to call out the rulers who are to ascend and occupy the throne with His Son during the coming age. Christians, those individuals comprising the “*one new man*” *in Chris*t, are the ones presently being extended the offer to realize the very purpose for man’s existence. The Church, on which God’s present dispensational dealings center, was called into existence for this purpose (Israel, at Christ’s first coming, rejected heavenly promises and blessings; and the Church was called into existence to be the recipient of that which had been rejected — *i.e.* the offer to move into and occupy positions in heavenly places in the kingdom).

Accordingly, God’s *primary work in the world today* surrounds acquiring a group of qualified individuals from the human race who, during the coming age, will be able to ascend the throne with His Son and rule *from heavenly places* in the stead of angels. The “*world* [‘inhabited world’] *to come*” *will not* be placed under the rule of angels, as the present inhabited world. Rather, it will be ruled by *Man* ([Hebrews 2:5-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5-10&t=NKJV)).

And the Holy Spirit has been sent into the world by the Father to acquire a bride for His Son (the antitype of Eve, the one who will reign as consort queen with the second Man, the last Adam). That is *the primary mission* of the Holy Spirit in the world during the present dispensation (*cf.* [Genesis 24:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24.1ff&t=NKJV)), and *all of God’s activity surrounding Christians throughout the dispensation* has this one objective in view ([Matthew 25:14-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.14-30&t=NKJV); [Luke 19:12-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+19.12-27&t=NKJV)).

Thus, *the primary purpose for the present dispensation and the primary mission of the Holy Spirit during the dispensation are one and the same* — to acquire a bride for God’s Son, allowing the Son to take the scepter and rule the earth as the second Man, the last Adam, with His bride (comprised of His co-heirs).

(For a more detailed discussion of the present ministry of the Holy Spirit in the preceding respect, refer to the author’s book, Search for the Bride, <http://lampbroadcast.org/Books/SFTB.pdf>.)

Is it therefore any wonder that Christians today find themselves in a battle against the present world-rulers? Christians are *the destined heirs of a kingdom presently occupied and controlled by these rulers*. Christians are the ones destined to exercise regal power from the same heavenly sphere occupied by these angels, ruling in their stead from the heavens over the earth (a restored earth in the latter case, one removed from the present curse).

And the enemy, the present world-rulers, *know these things.* And these world-rulers, *as never before, in all their fury*, presently move against those Christians who aspire to occupy heavenly positions as co-heirs with the coming World-Ruler.

The dispensation is almost over. Man is about to move into that period beyond the 6,000 years, into the seventh 1,000-year period, into the Messianic Era; and God is performing an end-time work in the closing moments, as it were, of not only the dispensation but the entire 6,000 years comprising “Man’s Day.”

Satan and his angels know these things; and they also know that unless they can thwart God’s plans and purposes concerning man, decreed in the eternal council chambers of God before man was even created ([Hebrews 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.2&t=NKJV)), they are about to relinquish positions and territorial rights that they have held since time immemorial.  *It thus can only naturally follow that their attack would be centered against those about to move in and usurp these positions.*

Christ cannot be attacked on a personal level today, for He is at the right hand of the Father in heaven, *waiting for that coming day* ([Psalm 110:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+110.1-2&t=NKJV)). *However, Christians are presently here on the earth, within Satan’s domain*.  *They are in a position where the attack can come at any time, on any front*. And for this reason, Christians have been commanded to properly clothe themselves with the provided armor.

*The enemy is at hand, the warfare is very real, and victory or defeat is dependent upon Christians following the Lord’s instructions concerning the battle.*

On the Battlefield

The battle lines have been drawn, but something seemingly rather strange appears to exist in the world today. There doesn’t really seem to be an ongoing battle between Christians and the forces of Satan such as [Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV) describes. Christendom is seemingly in a state of non-combat, *more at peace than at war in and with a world ruled by Satan and his angels.*

Is this really the case though? And if so, Why?

*1) The Laodicean State of Christendom* ([Revelation 3:14-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.14-21&t=NKJV))

The absence of any real spiritual warfare, seemingly out of line with [Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV), is generally *very much the case throughout Christendom*; and the reason is quite evident. Where there is no move on redeemed man’s part to realize the purpose for his salvation — aspiring to one day occupy proffered positions in the heavenlies — there would be no reason for an ongoing warfare of the nature described in [Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV).

Satan continues to bring the entire matter under his control and sway, with a diminishing necessity for any type of continuing battle. And the nearness of the complete leavening process, seen in [Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV), would determine the nearness of both sides simply laying down arms.

Satan has worked for almost two millennia to bring Christendom into its present decadent condition — the Laodicean state of the Church prophesied to exist at the end of the dispensation. And, as previously stated, such has resulted from the continuous working of the leaven that the woman placed in the three measures of meal very early in the dispensation in [Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV), working through centuries into millennia of time.

Leaven works best in a place where the temperature is neither too hot nor too cold, and the “lukewarm” condition of the Laodicean church ([Revelation 3:15-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.15-16&t=NKJV)), fostering the working of the leaven, is today allowing the leaven to do its damaging work almost unchecked.

Not only has Christendom already been permeated through and through with leaven, but the leaven continues to work and is today producing the most rapidly deteriorating and damaging work in the entire 2,000-year history of the Church.

One sad, revealed fact is that those comprising this Laodicean state of Christendom today, for the most part, *are not even aware of their own “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”* condition. And they are equally unaware of that which has occurred and is continuing to occur ([Revelation 3:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.17&t=NKJV)).

The whole of the matter has to do with two kingdoms — *the present kingdom of Satan and the coming kingdom of Christ* (*ref.* [Colossians 1:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.13&t=NKJV)) — and those described in [Revelation 3:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.17&t=NKJV) know very little about either kingdom. In short, they lack the spiritual insight to analyze the situation as it exists.

Satan seemingly has Christendom exactly where he wants it; and with the rapidly deteriorating work continuing to be produced by the leaven, the matter is becoming even more so with each passing day. Thus, there is really no battle *per se* going on between Christendom at large and the world-rulers of this present darkness. All that these world-rulers have to do is maintain the status quo — *keep matters in check, and let the leaven continue its work, until such a time as even that will no longer be necessary.*

*2) But, “If any man hear My voice . . . .”* ([Revelation 3:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.20&t=NKJV))

There is, however, another side to the matter, one which is very much in keeping with that which is revealed in [Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV). There are those Christians who refuse to go along with the status quo, those who have enough spiritual insight to know what’s happening, those who understand and aspire to realize the goal of their calling, as Caleb and Joshua in the camp of Israel in Numbers chapters thirteen and fourteen. Those comprising this segment of Christendom, not those within Christendom as a whole, are the ones engaged in open warfare. *These are the ones against whom the present world-rulers move in all their fury.*

(For material on the Israelites under Moses at Kadesh-Barnea, refer to Chapter 3 in this book.)

Aside from the account of Caleb and Joshua, the matter can be seen very graphically in typology in the books of 1, 2 Samuel; and types, established by God in order to teach His people great spiritual truths, will always be fulfilled in exact detail by and through that which they foreshadow, by and through the antitype.

David, the anointed king of Israel, destined to one day ascend the throne and take over the government, replacing Saul (who had been disqualified to continue occupying the throne), found himself temporarily in a place of exile, in a place of rejection, out in the wilderness. He, though already anointed king, found himself separated from Israel and its government under Saul.

Certain men during this time gathered themselves to David. These were individuals described as being “*in distress . . . in debt . . . and discontented* [dissatisfied with the existing state of affairs in Saul’s kingdom]” ([1 Samuel 22:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+22.1&t=NKJV), [2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+22.2&t=NKJV)). These men remained in the wilderness with David, separate from the kingdom under Saul, and were faithful to David.

In the antitype, Christ has been anointed King over the earth. He is the One destined to one day take over the government, replacing the incumbent ruler, Satan. But today, Christ, as David in the type, finds Himself in a place removed from the kingdom, separated from the earth and its government under Satan (who, as Saul in the type, has been disqualified to continue on the throne).

And just as in David’s case, there are those who find themselves dissatisfied with the existing state of affairs and have gathered themselves unto Christ. These are the ones who remain in the place of exile, the place of rejection with Christ, separate from the present world system under Satan, and are faithful to Christ.

Saul and his men set themselves specifically against David and his men because *Saul knew the identity of those destined to one day take over the government* (*cf.* [1 Samuel 23:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+23.13-14&t=NKJV), [17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+23.17&t=NKJV), [26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+23.26&t=NKJV); [24:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+24.2&t=NKJV), [20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+24.20&t=NKJV)). David and his men during this time continually relied on the Lord; and the Lord, accordingly, delivered them out of the hands of Saul and his men ([1 Samuel 23:7-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+23.7-14&t=NKJV)).

In the antitype, Satan and those allied with him have set themselves specifically against Christ and those allied with Him, for Satan *knows the identity of those destined to one day take over the government*. Christ though is in the heavens, and Satan cannot touch Him; but those allied with Him are here on the earth and very open to attack. However, as David and his men, relying upon the Lord, were delivered from the enemy, so will the followers of Christ, relying upon the Lord, be delivered from the enemy. Deliverance in both instances occurs in the same way, after the same fashion.

When the day arrived that Saul and his men were finally put down, *David and his faithful followers moved in and took over the government.*

And it will be the same in the antitype.

When the day arrives when Satan and his angels are finally put down, *Christ and His faithful followers will move in and take over the government.*

*That which Saul knew* concerning David and his faithful band of men in the type precipitated a battle, and *that which Satan knows* about Christ and His faithful band of men in the antitype also precipitates a battle.

*This is where the real battle lies — type or antitype, with the outcome predetermined.*

And the type, fulfilled in history, demands that the antitype be fulfilled in prophecy. *Biblical completeness*, in this respect, is not seen apart from the latter being fulfilled as well.

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Chapter Three

**Preparation for the Conflict**

*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.*

*Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

*and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

*above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God;*

*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.* ([Ephesians 6:13-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.13-18&t=NKJV))

The central focus seen in the epistle of Ephesians is *heavenly*, not earthly; and that which is revealed throughout the epistle has to do with *both present and future time*. In this epistle, *both men and angels* are seen occupying the “*heavenly places*” — *Christ and Christians* on the one hand, and *Satan and his angels* on the other ([Ephesians 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3&t=NKJV), [20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.20&t=NKJV); [2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.6&t=NKJV); [3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.10&t=NKJV); [6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)).

*In relation to present time*, Christ is seated at His Father’s right hand in the heavens (the dwelling place of God, from whence universal rule is administered), awaiting the coming day of His reign; and Christians are positionally seated with Christ, awaiting that coming day as well ([Ephesians 1:3ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3ff&t=NKJV)).

*Then, in relation to future time*, Christ will be seated on His own throne in the heavens (the heavens associated with and in proximity to the earth, from where a rule over the earth is presently administered and will continue to be administered in that coming day); and Christians, in that coming day, will be seated on the throne as co-heirs with Christ ([Ephesians 3:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.1-11&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV); [3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV)).

Insofar *as the present government of this earth* is concerned (the present rule from the heavens over the earth [from that part of the heavens in proximity to the earth]), this heavenly realm is occupied by Satan and his angels, as Satan rules under God in a rebel capacity.

But *the future government of the earth* (the future rule from the heavens over the earth [from the same heavenly realm presently occupied by Satan and his angels) *will not* be administered by angels. *This government will be administered by Man; this government will be administered by Christ and His co-heirs* ([Hebrews 2:5-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5-10&t=NKJV)).

Present Government, Future Government

Satan is “*the prince of the power of the air* [or, ‘the ruler of the authority of the air’]” ([Ephesians 2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.2&t=NKJV)). The word “ruler” in the latter rendering is a translation of *archon* in the Greek text, a cognate form of the word *arche* used in [Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV), translated “*principalities*”; and the word “power” is a rendering of the Greek word *exousia*, used and translated the same way in [Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV). Satan is the “chief ruler” among a great host of other powerful spirit beings; and this entire contingent of rulers, with Satan in command, *presently exercises governmental power over the earth from the “heavenly places.”*

Christ though has been raised from the dead and placed at His Father’s right hand, also in the heavens but far above the present “*heavenly places*” occupied by Satan and his angels ([Ephesians 1:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.20&t=NKJV); [4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.10&t=NKJV)). God’s “*right hand*” points to *the hand of power*, and the matter in view by the Son occupying this place at the Father’s right hand is *the future government of the earth* ([Ephesians 1:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.21&t=NKJV)).

The Father has told His Son,

*Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool*. ([Psalm 110:1b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+110.1b&t=NKJV))

And, following the Son’s enemies having been made His footstool (following complete subjection of all to the Son), the Son is to rule the earth (hold the scepter) as the second Man, the last Adam, and a King-Priest “*after the order of Melchizedek*.”

*The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion* [Jerusalem]. *Rule in the midst of Your enemies!*

*Your people* [the Jewish people] *shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.*

*The LORD has sworn and will not relent* [will not change His mind], *“You are a priest forever* [for the age] *according to* [KJV: ‘after the’] *order of Melchizedek”* ([Psalm 110:2-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+110.2-4&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Genesis 14:17-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+14.17-20&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 5-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+5-7&t=NKJV)).

Christians are presented in Ephesians as having been raised up together and made to sit together “*in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*” (*cf.* [Ephesians 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3&t=NKJV); [2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.6&t=NKJV)). Christians occupy these “*heavenly places*,” *positionally* seated with Christ (“*in Christ*”) at His Father’s right hand, awaiting a future day.

Christians await that day when Christ will leave His present position at His Father’s right hand and come forth as the great King-Priest “*after the order of Melchizedek*,” for only when this occurs can they realize the purpose for their present positional standing by ascending the throne and ruling as co-heirs, as “*kings and priests*,” with Christ in His kingdom ([Revelation 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+5.10&t=NKJV)). Christ and His co-heirs, forming His bride, will then reside in and rule from *the same “heavenly places” presently occupied by Satan and his angels.*

Awaiting That Day

The position at the Father’s right hand presently occupied by Christ, and positionally by Christians, portends future governmental power. The Father has invited His Son to occupy this position as Christ awaits the future day of His “power” ([Mark 13:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Mark+13.26&t=NKJV); [2 Peter 1:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.16&t=NKJV); [Revelation 11:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.17&t=NKJV)), and Christians occupy their position “*in Christ*” with a view to the outworking of God’s plans and purposes in “*the ages to come*,” when God will “*show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus*” ([Ephesians 2:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.6-7&t=NKJV)).

The ages have been planned around the preordained activity of God’s Son within these ages ([Hebrews 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.2&t=NKJV)), and the Messianic Era is the first of *an unending array of ages* during which the eternal plans and purposes of God will be fulfilled insofar as God’s Son occupying kingly power is concerned.

During the Messianic Era, God’s Son will rule over the present earth from *His own throne* in the heavens. And during the ages beyond, His rule can only be of a universal nature, for it will emanate from *the throne of God and of the Lamb* on the new earth ([Revelation 3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV); [22:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.1-3&t=NKJV)).

(Universal rule emanates from God’s throne today [located at a northernmost place in the universe, north of the earth], and during the ages beyond the Messianic Era, this throne will rest upon the new earth and exist as the Son’s throne as well. In that day, universal rule will emanate from *the throne of God and of the Lamb* on the new earth.

The Messianic Era should not be thought of as the first of the eternal ages, for it plainly is not. Rather, the Messianic Era will complete the 7,000 years foreshadowed by the six and seven days in [Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV) [*cf*. [John 1:1-2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.1-2.1&t=NKJV)]. It is foreshadowed by the seventh of these days and is connected with t*he septenary arrangement of time and events shown by all seven days*, not with time and events during the eternal ages that follow.

The Messianic Era though will be the first of the ages in which *the eternal plans and purposes of God* are worked out. These plans and purposes have to do with this earth alone during the Messianic Era; then, they have to do with the new heavens, the new earth, and the universe at large during the ages beyond.

Thus, even though the eternal plans and purposes of God will be worked out during both the Messianic Era and the ages beyond, these two periods of time, as noted, must be distinguished from one another.)

How though is God going to exhibit His “kindness” to Christians during the coming ages, referred to in Ephesians chapter two? It will simply be *by and through man realizing the purpose for his existence.*

Christians — those referred to in the passage — will realize the highest of all possible callings, not only in the coming age but in the ages beyond as well. They will occupy positions with Christ on *His throne* during the coming age and continue to occupy positions with Christ on *the throne of God and of the Lamb* during the ages beyond (*cf.* [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV); [22:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.5&t=NKJV)).

The eschatology of Scripture though concerns itself *almost exclusively with the coming age*, when God’s Son will ascend His own throne and, along with His co-heirs, rule this present earth with a rod of iron for one thousand years. And attention was called specifically to this age when the Apostle Paul, in [Ephesians 3:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.1ff&t=NKJV), began discussing “*the mystery*” that had previously been revealed to him.

The mystery revealed to Paul had to do with saved Gentiles being made “*fellow heirs* [‘joint-heirs,’ ‘co-heirs’]” with saved Jews, forming one body, Christ’s body. And, forming Christ’s body together in this manner, both saved Jews and saved Gentiles would be in a position to ascend the throne with Christ as co-heirs with Him during the coming day of His power, when He is revealed as “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” (*cf*. [Ephesians 3:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.1-11&t=NKJV); [Colossians 1:25-29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.25-29&t=NKJV)).

But, though attention is called specifically to activities during this one age in chapter three, the thought of “ages” from the preceding chapter would carry over into the whole of the matter. And this could only be particularly true of that which is made known to “*the principalities and powers in the heavenly places*” through the existence of this new entity, the Church:

*to the intent that* [‘In order that’] *that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by* [through] *to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,*

*according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord* ([Ephesians 3:10-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.10-11&t=NKJV)).

(The Greek word translated “*eternal*” [*aionios*] in verse eleven — God’s “*eternal purpose*” — does not itself mean “eternal.” There is no one word that, in and of itself, means “eternal” in the Greek text of the New Testament This is the word translated “eternal” throughout the New Testament, but the word itself refers to *a long period of time*, usually thought of as *an age*.

*Aionios* can be understood in the sense of “eternal” if the context permits. The immediate context in [Ephesians 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.11&t=NKJV) doesn’t [[Ephesians 3:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.1ff&t=NKJV)]; but the far context, referring to “ages,” does [[Ephesians 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.7&t=NKJV)]. Thus, that which is made known to Satan and his angels by and through the existence of the Church *would have to do specifically with the coming age but could only extend out into the ages beyond as well.*

To avoid confusion in this realm, in Ephesians chapters two and three, “ages” in [Ephesians 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.5&t=NKJV), [21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.21&t=NKJV) KJV, is a translation of *genea* in the Greek text and should be rendered “generations,” not “ages.”)

The Church in existence today reveals *the outworking* of God’s plans and purposes in the preceding respect, *not only to men but to angels as well*. The very existence of the Church could only cause Satan to act in a contrary manner to that which God has decreed, as did the existence of Adam and Eve in Eden, or the existence of Israel at a later time.

The Church is in existence to fulfill *an eternal purpose* that God “*accomplished* [KJV: ‘purposed’] *in Christ Jesus our Lord*” ([Ephesians 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.11&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Ephesians 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.11&t=NKJV)). The working out of this purpose will occur in the coming age first, then throughout all of the ages beyond.

In this respect, the immediate or near purpose for the existence of the Church is a rule with Christ from *His own throne* in the heavenlies over *this present earth* in the stead of the incumbent “*principalities and powers*”; and the far purpose is a continued rule with Christ as He sits with His Father on *the throne of God and of the Lamb* on the new earth, which, as previously noted, can only be *universal in scope*.

Satan and his angels know the position that Christians will occupy during the Millennium, and, resultantly, warfare ensues. And the warfare could only be further intensified by their knowledge of the position that Christians will occupy beyond the Millennium.

Not only will Christ and His co-heirs move into positions presently occupied by Satan and his angels and rule the earth for one thousand years but they will, following the Millennium, rule out in that realm beyond the earth where Satan and his angels sought to rule. And their God-dishonoring aspirations in time past resulted in their disqualification to even continue occupying regal power and authority in the one realm where they had originally been placed.

Thus, an irony of the entire matter is seen in that which will occur beyond the Millennium, which could only result in Satan’s further hatred for and onslaught against Christians. Satan and his angels will not only relinquish their God-appointed positions over the earth but they will relinquish these positions to individuals who will eventually move out into the far reaches of the universe itself and evidently occupy comparable positions to those which they (Satan and his angels) at a time, in the distant past, sought to occupy.

Satan’s knowledge of these things is why the apostle Paul closed his epistle “*to the saints . . . at Ephesus*” with information and instructions concerning the warfare in which Christians find themselves. He had been writing about the Christians’ position in the heavenlies (present and future) throughout the epistle. *This is what Ephesians is about.*

Christians have been saved and positioned in the heavenlies, “*in Christ*,” *for a purpose.*

And whether Christians understand this purpose or not, *one can rest assured that Satan and his angels understand and know what’s happening,* resulting in the existing onslaught against Christians by the world-rulers of this present darkness.

(In relation to man’s calling to one day occupy regal positions in the heavenly places, there is an interesting paradox when this is viewed in the light of the aspirations of both saved and unsaved man today.

Unsaved man on the earth has no calling to go out into the heavens; but, nonetheless, he expresses a desire to go anyway [to the moon, to Mars, and beyond within man’s present space program]. Saved man on the earth, on the other hand, has a calling to one day go out into the heavens — the heavens associated with this earth during the Messianic Era, and the heavens associated with the universe at large in the ages beyond. But, in the main, saved man is not interested.

In short, unsaved man is interested in that which God has no interest in; and saved man, for the most part, shows little to no interest in that which occupies, in reality, the central place in God’s interest surrounding the saved.

Saved man thinks in terms of dying [or being removed from the earth alive at the time of the rapture] and going to heaven, with that being somewhat the end of the matter. But Scripture deals with saved man after an entirely different fashion. Scripture deals with saved man in relation to a rule over this present earth for 1,000 years, from the heavenly places [the heavenly places in relation to the earth, not from the heavenly place where God presently dwells]; and Scripture deals with saved man beyond the 1,000 years ruling out in the universe from a new earth, a rule that will extend throughout the subsequent eternal ages.

The entire matter is *regal* in nature. *Regality* marks man’s beginning in Genesis chapter one, and *this never changes throughout Scripture, throughout man’s existence, which is eternal*.)

Proper Preparation

God has placed pastor-teachers in the Church to lead Christians from immaturity to maturity in the faith, and the revealed reason is given in [Ephesians 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.14&t=NKJV):

*That we should no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.*

In the epistle of Ephesians, instruction provided by pastor-teachers would, of necessity, have to center on:

1) One’s positional standing “*in Christ*” *in the heavenlies* ([Ephesians 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3&t=NKJV), [20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.20&t=NKJV)).

2) The “*inheritance*” awaiting Christians ([Ephesians 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.11&t=NKJV), [17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.17-18&t=NKJV)).

3) The very purpose for one’s salvation ([Ephesians 2:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.6-7&t=NKJV)).

4) The “*fellowship* [‘dispensation’] *of the mystery*” ([Ephesians 3:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.1-11&t=NKJV)).

5) The necessity for maturity in the faith ([Ephesians 4:11-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.11-16&t=NKJV)).

6) The necessity for being filled with the Spirit ([Ephesians 5:18-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.18-20&t=NKJV)).

7) The spiritual warfare at hand ([Ephesians 3:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+3.10&t=NKJV); [6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV)).

Concluding his epistle with the exhortation, “*Put on the whole armor of God*” ([Ephesians 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.11&t=NKJV)), the writer uses similar wording in the Greek text to that which he had used in [Ephesians 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.14&t=NKJV).

This earlier verse ([Ephesians 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+4.14&t=NKJV)) concerns proper preparation through spiritual maturity in order to avoid being led astray by the “*cunning craftiness*” of those who “*lie in wait to deceive*” (KJV). And the later verse ([Ephesians 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.11&t=NKJV)) concerns one being clothed in “*the whole armor of God*” in order that he might be able to “*stand against the wiles of the devil*.”

The thought in both instances has to do with *a settled plan, a systematic strategy* used by those who have set about to deceive and lead Christians astray relative to matters surrounding their calling, as revealed in Ephesians; and Christians, in both instances, are to be properly prepared for such deception.

Instruction is progressive throughout Ephesians (and elsewhere in Scripture), and the concluding exhortation in [Ephesians 6:10ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10ff&t=NKJV) is really for Christians who have attained an element of spiritual maturity in their lives. This is very evident from what is stated in the passage.

There can be no such thing as a spiritually immature Christian being “*strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might*” ([Ephesians 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10&t=NKJV)); nor can there be any such thing as a spiritually *immature* Christian being able to properly clothe himself in “*the whole armor of God*” and “*stand against the wiles of the devil*” ([Ephesians 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.11&t=NKJV)). Spiritually immature Christians have little to no understanding of the warfare, much less how to properly clothe themselves.

This can be easily demonstrated from an Old Testament type, which is the central type in the Old Testament dealing with this subject — the Israelites under Moses at Kadesh-Barnea, in a position to go in, take the land, and realize an inheritance therein.

The march from Egypt to Kadesh-Barnea was by way of the wilderness of Sinai, where detailed instructions from the Lord were given to the people of Israel through Moses. And when the Israelites subsequently reached Kadesh-Barnea, spies were sent into the land ahead of the nation to gather information concerning the land and the inhabitants therein. These spies spent forty days and nights in the land, traversing it from one end to the other, and returned not only with information concerning the land and its inhabitants but with actual samples of the fruits of the land itself.

The people of Israel had received the Word of God at Sinai. They had then heard the report concerning the land and the inhabitants therein, and they had tasted the actual fruits of the land at Kadesh-Barnea before thought was given to entering the land and combating the inhabitants. That is, the people of Israel had been led from a rudimentary knowledge of their salvation in Egypt (through death and shed blood, where the death of the firstborn occurred by means of a substitute) to a mature knowledge concerning God’s plans and purposes relating to the nation at Kadesh-Barnea (where a revealed inheritance lay before the people). And the entire matter had to do with the Israelites going into the land, warring against the inhabitants, being victorious over the inhabitants, and realizing God’s purpose for the nation, within a theocracy.

And that which this overall type foreshadows, seen in the antitype today (*cf.* [1 Corinthians 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+10.6&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+10.11&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3&t=NKJV); [4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4&t=NKJV)), is exactly the same. Growth from immaturity to maturity in the Christian life is likewise for a purpose ([Hebrews 5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+5&t=NKJV)), and that purpose has to do with being able to achieve victory over the enemy and to one day realize an inheritance in a heavenly land within a theocracy ([Hebrews 6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+6&t=NKJV); [10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10&t=NKJV); [12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12&t=NKJV)).

Christians are to be fully capable of clothing themselves in the whole armor of God that they might be able to “*withstand in the evil day*.” The word “*withstand*” is a translation of the Greek word *anthistemi*, which is a compound word comprised of anti (“against”) and *histemi* (“to stand”). Thus, the thought, beginning in verse ten, is to be “*strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might* [note where one’s strength lies — not in himself, but in the Lord]”; and in conjunction with an exhibition of this type of strength, one is told, “*Put on the whole armor of God*,” for only by so doing will he be able *to firmly stand* against the settled plan, the systematic strategy of Satan, holding his ground and giving no place to the enemy.

*1) Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth* ([Ephesians 6:14a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.14a&t=NKJV))

Following the events of the Passover in Egypt during the days of Moses, 3,500 years ago ([Exodus 12:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.1ff&t=NKJV)), the people of Israel were to be led out of Egypt in order to realize an inheritance in another land. They were to be removed from Egypt and established in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And the people of Israel were to be established in this land in the position of God’s firstborn son (the nation that God recognized as possessing the rights of primogeniture). As God’s firstborn son, Israel would be the ruling nation within a theocracy, and the Gentile nations would then not only be ruled by Israel but these same nations would also be blessed through Israel ([Genesis 12:2-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.2-3&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV); [Exodus 4:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22-23&t=NKJV); [19:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+19.5-6&t=NKJV)).

Exactly the same things apply in relation to Christians, except a heavenly land is in view. Christ has died, His blood has been shed; and the firstborn has died vicariously, through the provided Substitute. And, exactly as in the type, an inheritance in another land is in view.

That is to say, an individual has been saved *for a revealed purpose*, and that purpose in the antitype is the same as seen in the type.

*Then He brought us out from there* [out of Egypt], *that He might bring us in* [into the land to which they had been called], *to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.* ([Deuteronomy 6:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+6.23&t=NKJV)).

Christians, from a typical standpoint, have been saved in Egypt (a type of the world) to realize an inheritance in Canaan (a type of the heavenly land to which they have been called). That is, Christians have been saved in the world in order to one day be established in a heavenly land as God’s firstborn son (that “*holy nation*” that God recognizes as possessing the rights of primogeniture [[Hebrews 12:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.23&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+2.9&t=NKJV)]); and as God’s firstborn, Christians will rule as co-heirs with Christ, within a theocracy. The Gentile nations will not only be ruled by Christ and His co-heirs but these same nations will also be blessed through Christ and His co-heirs ([Genesis 22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.3&t=NKJV); [Philippians 3:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.20&t=NKJV); [Colossians 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.5&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 3:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.1&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.4&t=NKJV)).

(Spiritual blessings in that day can and will flow not only from Christ and Israel on earth [Christ seated on David’s throne, in the midst of the Jewish people] but through Christ and His co-heirs in the heavens as well [Christ seated on His own throne, with His bride], in complete accordance with [Genesis 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.3&t=NKJV); [22:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+22.17-18&t=NKJV).

And this can be true because all those associated with Christ in this manner [both on earth and in the heavens] will be of the seed of Abraham [[Galatians 3:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.29&t=NKJV)], the seed through whom God has decreed that all spiritual blessings are to flow.)

The Israelites in the type had been led from Egypt through the wilderness to the borders of the land of Canaan at Kadesh-Barnea. They were in possession of the Word of God received at Sinai, they had heard the report of the spies who had traversed the land of Canaan, and they had tasted the actual fruits of the land that the spies had brought back with them. The Israelites had moved from a simple knowledge of the rudimentary things surrounding the death of the firstborn in Egypt to an extensive knowledge concerning the plans and purposes of God for the nation (which centered on the land of Canaan and the purpose for Israel’s calling).

In the terminology of Scripture, the Israelites had moved from a state of *gnosis* (“knowledge”) to a state of *epignosis* (“mature knowledge [especially as it related to the things surrounding the purpose for their calling]”). They were now ready to enter the land, combat the “*giants*” inhabiting this land ([Numbers 13:32-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13.32-33&t=NKJV)), and possess the land in accordance with their calling and God’s promise.

Their seeming inability to conquer the “*giants*,” who were far stronger, was to be of no consequence. They were to recognize that *the battle belonged to the Lord* ([1 Samuel 17:47](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Samuel+17.47&t=NKJV)) and that circumstances were not to be viewed from a naturalistic standpoint but from a divine viewpoint. They were to know that the enemy could not be overcome within their own strength ([Numbers 14:42-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14.42-45&t=NKJV)) but, rather, through the strength of the One dwelling in their midst.

Such was the attitude exhibited by Caleb and Joshua (two of the twelve spies) as they sought to present the truth of the matter to a people who had been troubled by the preliminary report given by the spies concerning the land and its inhabitants ([Numbers 13:26-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13.26-30&t=NKJV)). And this is what is in view in [Ephesians 6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.14&t=NKJV) when Christians are told to have their waists “*girded . . . with truth*.”

“*Truth*” in this passage is *not* a reference to the Word of God. A person clothing himself to enter the conflict with the inhabitants of the land wherein his inheritance lies occurs, as in the type, at Kadesh-Barnea when he enters the conflict, not back in Egypt. At this point, the person properly clothing himself could only have previously moved from an immature understanding of the Word to one that would allow him to grasp various things about the spiritual warfare at hand. That is, such a person would not only be in possession of the Word but he would be in possession of an understanding of this Word, particularly as it relates to things surrounding the battle for the land and Christians ultimately holding regal positions therein.

Taking and using the Word *already in one’s possession* is seen later, in verse seventeen, not at this point in the instructions, in verse fourteen.

“*Truth*” in this passage is a reference to *entering the conflict after the same fashion Caleb and Joshua were exhorting the people to enter the conflict during their day*:

*Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*” ([Numbers 13:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13.30&t=NKJV))

“*Truth*” with which one enters the conflict, in this respect, is *sincerity, earnestness* as the person goes forth, relying upon the Lord (“. . . *be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might*” [[Ephesians 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10&t=NKJV)]).

One has to, first of all, be sincere and earnest about the conflict in which he finds himself engaged. This battle isn’t something that one can enter after any type of frivolous fashion. There is a systematic, well-planned effort on the part of Satan to bring about a Christian’s defeat; and a Christian, to be victorious in battle, *must* exhibit the same type of attitude as manifested by Caleb and Joshua.

(The “*giants* [Hebrew: *nephilim*, ‘fallen ones’]” inhabiting the land during Moses’ day were the offspring of a cohabitation of the sons of God with the daughters of men — the offspring of a cohabitation between fallen angels in Satan’s kingdom and female members of the human race. Thus, the battle set before the Israelites for possession of the land, as the battle set before Christians for possession of a land today, involved things beyond the natural, requiring God’s supernatural intervention on behalf of His people.)

*2) . . . having put on the breastplate of righteousness* ([Ephesians 6:14b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.14b&t=NKJV))

*The girdle* is the first piece of armor mentioned in Ephesians chapter six; and a warrior arraying himself for battle was to put the girdle on first, for other pieces of the armor were attached to the girdle.

*The breastplate*, the next piece of armor mentioned, was normally attached to the girdle in both the front and the rear, making the girdle necessary for the breastplate to be held firmly in place.

The thought is that there must first be a "Caleb and Joshua type" attitude on the part of the Christian before going beyond this point in properly clothing himself. One must first have on the girdle of sincerity, earnestness and truthfulness before the breastplate can be properly affixed.

It is a simple thing to see that the breastplate can have nothing to do with the righteousness of God that has been imputed to every believer. The righteousness of God is a righteousness with which God clothes us at the point of salvation, as He clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins following their fall (requiring death and shed blood).

The righteousness in view in [Ephesians 6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.14&t=NKJV) is a righteousness that the Christian himself is to put on. It is a righteousness to be put on by the one already in possession of the imputed righteousness of God.

This is the personal righteousness mentioned in [Revelation 19:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.8&t=NKJV), associated with the wedding garment. This garment is made up of “*the righteousness of saints.*” The word “righteousness” is plural in the Greek text and should be translated “righteousnesses,” or “righteous acts.” These are the *justifying acts* referred to in [James 2:21-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.21-25&t=NKJV).

A man is first justified by faith ([Romans 5:15-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.15-18&t=NKJV)), being clothed in the righteousness of God (spoken of in a singular sense — *one justifying act* [performed by Christ]); and the man is then to be justified by works ([James 2:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+2.24&t=NKJV)), clothing himself by righteous acts (spoken of in a plural sense — *justifying acts* [performed by the one already justified by faith, justified through the act of Another]).

Righteous acts performed by Christians simply have to do with exercising faithfulness within the scope of one’s particular calling, fulfilling his particular responsibility as a servant in the Lord’s house. And, as one exercises faithfulness, waiting upon the Lord, righteous acts will be the natural outworking of faithfulness as the person follows the leadership of the indwelling Spirit.

That is to say, in relation to that which is seen in [Ephesians 6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.14&t=NKJV), after one exhibits the proper attitude toward the battle at hand, he is then to exercise faithfulness as a servant in the house. Such will result in works, righteous acts, allowing that person to have on (he will have put it on himself) the breastplate of righteousness and allowing that person to one day be clothed (actually, he will one day clothe himself) in the wedding garment.

(For the proper relationship that *faith* and *works* occupy in relation to one another, refer to the author’s book, [Salvation of the Soul](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/salvation-of-the-soul.php), Chapter 5, “Faith Made Mature,” and the Appendix, “[Faith and Works](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/salvation-of-the-soul.php#Faith%20and%20Works%20(SOS)),” in this site)

*3) And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace* ([Ephesians 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.15&t=NKJV))

Note the emphasis in verses eleven, thirteen, and fourteen relative to standing as one goes forth to battle: “*to stand*” ([Ephesians 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.11&t=NKJV)), “*withstand* *[lit*. ‘stand against’],” “*to stand*” ([Ephesians 6:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.13&t=NKJV)), and “*Stand*” ([Ephesians 6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.14&t=NKJV)). One must have solid footing to stand upon. Both feet must be firmly planted, “*having shod your feet with the preparation* [‘readiness’] *of the gospel of peace*.”

There are two aspects to the gospel in Scripture. One appears in connection with “*peace with God*,” and the other appears in connection with “*the peace of God.*”

“*Peace with God*” comes about through justification by grace through faith, as seen in [Ephesians 2:8-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8-9&t=NKJV). “*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*” ([Romans 5:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.1&t=NKJV)). This peace results from one being placed upon the foundation, with the most sure, steadfast footing possible, apart from which there can be no conflict.

However, distinctions between “*peace with God*” and “*the peace of God*” are not what is in view in [Ephesians 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.15&t=NKJV), for availing oneself of the proper footwear (for both feet) is something that, contextually, occurs following salvation.

In a parallel passage to that which is in view, the latter part of [Romans 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+10.15&t=NKJV) states,

*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!*

The feet are seen as the vehicle of transportation for the messenger, as he goes about proclaiming good news concerning peace. Within the overall scope of the good news, as previously stated, there is a facet of the message having to do with “*peace with God*” (for the unsaved [[Romans 5:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.1&t=NKJV)]) and there is a facet of the message having to do with the “*peace of God*” (for the saved [[Philippians 4:5-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+4.5-7&t=NKJV)]). The contextual emphasis in [Romans 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+10.15&t=NKJV) though has to do with *the saved*, not with the unsaved.

Exactly the same thought is in view regarding the armor in [Ephesians 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.15&t=NKJV). Having one’s feet properly shod has to do with proper preparation relative to the good news concerning *peace*, as it pertains to the saved, exactly as seen in [Romans 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+10.15&t=NKJV); and this would be based on the person already having “*peace with God*,” as seen in [Romans 5:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.1&t=NKJV).

The messenger’s feet being properly shod shows a proper preparation of the messenger as he goes about proclaiming this message concerning *peace*. And this message of *peace* would have two facets — *the peace of God* now (having to do with the present aspect of salvation, the outworking of the saving of the soul), culminating in a future *peace* when *the Prince of Peace* is Himself present (having to do with the future aspect of salvation, when the salvation of the soul will be realized).

*4) Above all, taking the shield of faith . . .* ([Ephesians 6:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.16&t=NKJV))

The weakness of the average Christian is lack of faith, wrought through the neglect of prayerful study and meditation on the Word of God.

“Faith” is simply *believing* God, and God speaks to us today through His Word. This is the reason that “*faith comes by* [‘out of’] *hearing, and hearing by* [‘through’] *the Word of God*” ([Romans 10:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+10.17&t=NKJV)). We find what God has to say about a matter in His Word; and we can then either exercise faith by believing that which He has said, or we can fail to exercise faith through unbelief.

Caleb and Joshua at Kadesh-Barnea exercised “faith.” *They believed that which God had to say about entering into and possessing the land of Canaan* ([Exodus 2:24-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+2.24-25&t=NKJV); [3:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+3.7-8&t=NKJV); [6:4-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+6.4-8&t=NKJV); [13:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+13.5&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+13.11&t=NKJV), [19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+13.19&t=NKJV); [Numbers 13:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13.30&t=NKJV)). However, the remainder of the nation, led astray by the “*evil report*” presented by the other ten spies, failed to exercise “faith.” *They didn’t believe God concerning entrance into the land*, and they even went so far as to consider appointing a new leader (someone other than Moses) and returning to Egypt ([Numbers 13:31-14:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+13.31-14.4&t=NKJV)).

Exactly the same thing confronts Christians today: Will you exercise faith concerning that which God has to say about entrance into the land (in line with that manifested by Caleb and Joshua)? Or, will you fail to exercise faith concerning that which God has to say about entrance into the land (in line with that manifested by the remainder of the nation)?

Caleb and Joshua possessed “*the shield of faith*”; the remainder of the nation though didn’t possess this shield. The “*shield of faith*” is put on by and through simply believing that which God has to say concerning entrance into the land. It is put on by trusting the Lord to see you safely through the conflict with the world-rulers of this present darkness, resulting in your realizing an inheritance in the land during that coming day.

Possessing the shield of faith would be synonymous with *earnestly striving with respect to the faith* in [Jude 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.3&t=NKJV) or *striving in the good contest of the faith* in [1 Timothy 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+6.12&t=NKJV).

*5) And take the helmet of salvation* . . . ([Ephesians 6:17a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.17a&t=NKJV))

This is something that a person already in possession of salvation is to, himself, put on; and it is to be put on in view of a warfare. Thus, it can be easily seen that putting on “*the helmet of salvation*” has to do with things beyond that which is foreshadowed by the death of the firstborn and application of the blood in Egypt. Continuing with the type, it has to do with being properly arrayed (by having arrayed oneself) at Kadesh-Barnea, with a view to entering the land and combating the giants.

[1 Thessalonians 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.8&t=NKJV) reveals that “*the helmet of salvation*” is *the hope of salvation*:

*But let us who are of the day* [Christians waiting and watching for their Lord’s return ([1 Thessalonians 5:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.6-7&t=NKJV))] *be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and for an helmet the hope of salvation.*

The “*hope of salvation*” is a reference to the salvation that will be revealed at the time of Christ’s return — the salvation of the *soul*. The “*hope*” is something that may or may not be realized (*cf*. [Luke 23:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+23.8&t=NKJV); [Acts 16:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+16.19&t=NKJV); [27:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+27.20&t=NKJV)). And the salvation of one’s soul, inseparably connected with hope, has to do with realizing an inheritance as God’s firstborn son in the land to which Christians have been called — something that Christians, individually, may or may not realize.

A Christian can forfeit his inheritance and lose his soul, which itself has nothing to do with his presently possessed eternal salvation. Again, bear in mind, *this is something* (as seen in the type) *that occurs at Kadesh-Barnea and beyond, not something that occurs back in Egypt.*

One clothes himself with the helmet of salvation — the hope of salvation — in view of achieving victory over the inhabitants of the land to which he has been called. His hope is that of being victorious — being an overcomer — and one day being privileged to ascend the throne and rule as co-heir with Christ in this land.

This is a hope that results in purification in a believer’s life and is a hope that should be on the lips of every believer, as a ready testimony surrounding the purpose for his salvation ([1 Peter 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+3.15&t=NKJV); [1 John 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+3.3&t=NKJV)).

(See the author’s book, [Salvation of the Soul](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/salvation-of-the-soul.php), chapter 6, “Hope, Inheritance, Salvation,” in this site, for a more comprehensive discussion of this subject.)

*6) . . . and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God* ([Ephesians 6:17b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.17b&t=NKJV))

A Christian having his waist “*girded with truth*,” having on “*the breastplate of righteousness*,” having his “*feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace*,” taking “*the shield of faith*,” and having on “*the helmet of salvation*” is then to take “*the sword of the Spirit*” — the Word of God — as he goes forth to combat Satan. After being properly arrayed in all the other revealed fashions, he is then to take the *one thing* that God has provided as a weapon to be used against the enemy.

[2 Timothy 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+3.16&t=NKJV) in the KJV reads,

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God . . . .*

The words, “*given by inspiration of God*,” are a translation of one Greek word, *Theopneustos*, meaning “God-breathed.” This is a compound word comprised of *Theos* (“God”) and *pneuma* (“breath” in this particular usage [this is also the word used for “Spirit” in the New Testament — the Holy Spirit, man’s spirit, and the use of spirit in general; also “wind” in [John 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+3.8&t=NKJV)]).

That which is meant by and the implications of Scripture being God-breathed are given in a somewhat simple manner in Scripture, but one has to look at and compare related parts of both Testaments before he can really begin to see and understand that which is involved. A person has to reference passages in one Testament, then passages in the other. He has to compare scripture with scripture, *i.e.*, he has to compare “*spiritual things with spiritual*” ([1 Corinthians 2:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.13&t=NKJV)).

First note [Hebrews 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.12&t=NKJV):

*The Word of God is quick* [*lit.*, alive], *and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword . . .*

Why is the Word of God “*alive*,” “*powerful*,” and “*sharper than any two-edged sword*”? The answer: B*ecause of its origin*. The Word is “*Theopneustos*”; the Word is “*God-breathed*.”

But, what does that mean? And why is the Word “alive” because of its origin? This is where one has to go back to beginning points in the Old Testament and find the first mention in Scripture of God bringing a matter to pass through the use of His breath.

This is necessary not only because of the need to compare scripture with scripture but also because of a principle of biblical interpretation called, *The First-Mention Principle*.

This principle has to do with *unchangeableness*, and it centers on an unchangeable structure of the Word given by the unchangeable God. Because of the inherent nature of the Word, the first time a subject is mentioned in Scripture, a pattern, a mold is established at that point that remains unchanged throughout all subsequent Scripture.

Remaining within this principle, the first time one finds the breath of God mentioned in Scripture is in [Genesis 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.7&t=NKJV), where life was imparted to man by and through God’s breath. And, consequently, at this beginning point, this verse connects *life* with *the breath of God* after *an unchangeable fashion*.

God formed and fashioned man from the dust of the ground, but man was not created alive. Life was subsequently imparted through God breathing into man’s “*nostrils the breath of life*,” resulting in man becoming “*a living soul*.”

Thus, in [Genesis 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.7&t=NKJV), the unchangeable connection between God’s *breath* and *life in relation to man* is established and set. Only God can produce life, and any time life is produced beyond this point it *must always* be through the one means set forth at the beginning, revealed in [Genesis 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.7&t=NKJV).

There is *nothing more powerful* at a Christian’s disposal than the Word of God. It was this Word that Satan chose to use against Christ in the wilderness, and Christ used this same Word as He countered Satan ([Matthew 4:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+4.1-11&t=NKJV)).

And going forth, properly arrayed for battle, using the Word as a weapon against the world-rulers of this present darkness, a Christian, at the same time, is to constantly be “*praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints*” ([Ephesians 6:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.18&t=NKJV)).

If the provided instructions are followed, victory after victory in the present spiritual warfare will ensue. But, if the provided instructions are not followed . . . .

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Appendix 1

**Amalek**

To see the true place and significance of the Amalekites in Scripture and to properly understand the typology involved different places where these people are mentioned, one needs to go back and look at Esau as a progenitor of the Amalekites. And it matters not that the Amalekites existed as a nation prior to this time, for the Amalekite nation is seen existing *apart from change* throughout its history, whether before or after the days of Esau’s grandson, Amalek (though little is revealed about the Amalekites prior to Esau’s progeny).

Esau is really the only link which Scripture provides to trace the origin of the Amalekites. They appeared during the days of Abraham apart from a reference to their origin. And, the fact that they were associated with Esau at a later point in time from their original appearance, must be looked upon as by Divine design, for a particular reason.

It is within the person of Esau that characteristics are seen which depict *the true nature* of the Amalekites (within a spiritual frame of reference), allowing that which God has for man to see in passages such as [Exodus 17:8-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+17.8-16&t=NKJV) to become self-evident.

Rights of the Firstborn

Esau, *a man of the world*, was the firstborn son of Isaac. He looked upon matters — particularly matters pertaining to his birthright (his rights as firstborn, the main thing singled out in Scripture about Esau) — as the world viewed them rather than as God viewed them. It is said of Esau that he “despised his birthright” ([Genesis 25:34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+25.34&t=NKJV)).

The Septuagint (Greek version of the O.T.) uses a word for “despised” which means that Esau regarded his birthright as *a paltry possession*, as something *insignificant* or *of little value*. He regarded his birthright as *practically worthless*. And, Esau, looking upon his birthright after this fashion, sold his rights as firstborn to his twin brother, Jacob, for a single meal of “bread and pottage of lentils.” He sold his rights as firstborn to satisfy his hunger, to satisfy a fleshly gratification.

The account of Esau selling his birthright and not realizing its value until it was too late forms the fifth and final major warning in the Book of Hebrews ([Hebrews 12:16-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.16-17&t=NKJV)). This account in Hebrews chapter twelve forms the apex toward which all things in the book move. The preceding four warnings have to do with different facets of the overall teaching pertaining to the birthright; and chapter eleven, the chapter on “faith” leading into chapter twelve, forms both a summation for the preceding warnings and an introduction for the final warning, tying everything together with the thought of *faithfulness to one’s calling.*

Esau looked upon matters from the vantage point of the world. He saw things from *a* *fleshly* perspective rather than from *a spiritual*. And it was only at a time when it was too late that he gave thought to the spiritual, allowing him to see the birthright in its true light.

Thus, “Esau” typifies *the fleshly man*; and his brother, “Jacob [actually, ‘Israel’],” typifies *the spiritual man*. This would be after a similar fashion to the way Ishmael and Isaac are set forth in preceding Scripture.

(Referring to a more specific part of the type, the name, “Jacob,” has to do with *the fleshly* [or *natural*] *man*; and the name, “Israel,” has to do with the spiritual man [*cf*. [Genesis 32:28-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+32.28-30&t=NKJV); [Psalm 147:19-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+147.19-20&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 9:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+9.8&t=NKJV)]. Note, for example, that the separate creation performed by God in [Isaiah 43:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+43.1&t=NKJV) [establishing a second creation within mankind, leaving two creations, Jew and Gentile] had to do with “Jacob,” not with Israel. Thus, this creation, because it was of *the natural man*, could be passed on through procreation.

Also note in [Luke 1:32-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.32-33&t=NKJV) that Christ’s future reign is to be over “the house of *Jacob*,” and it is to last “forever [Gk., *eis tous aionas* (‘with respect to the ages’ — not only the Messianic Era but also all the succeeding ages comprising eternity)].” This verse, referring to *the natural man*, reveals that the Israelites will not only reside in natural bodies on this present earth throughout the Messianic Era but also on the new earth throughout the eternal ages as well [in complete keeping with the type body Lazarus possessed when he was raised from the dead, foreshadowing the future resurrection of Israel ([John 11:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.6-7&t=NKJV), [43-44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.43-44&t=NKJV))].)

Seeing how Scripture presents Esau in connection with the rights of the firstborn is *the key* to correctly understanding the various spiritual lessons inherent in the different places where the Amalekites are mentioned, for this is exactly the fashion in which they appear in Scripture. The main thing marking the Amalekites would be that of *possessing the mind of Esau toward the things of God, particularly those things concerning the rights of the firstborn*. And, during Moses’ day, they are first seen in Scripture setting themselves in opposition to *God’s firstborn son, Israel* ([Exodus 4:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22-23&t=NKJV)).

In the type, Israel was called out of Egypt to inherit the rights of the firstborn, within a theocracy, in another land. This was the direction toward which all things surrounding Israel moved ([Exodus 15:1-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+15.1-18&t=NKJV)).

But, then Amalek appeared and stood in the way, seeking through any means possible to stop Israel at this point in the journey, short of the goal of the nation’s calling.

In the antitype, every Christian is a “child” of God, or “son,” as seen in [Hebrews 12:5-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.5-8&t=NKJV), *awaiting the adoption, to be followed by a realization of the inheritance belonging to firstborn sons.* And this inheritance has to do with another land (*heavenly*, rather than earthly [*cf*. [Ephesians 1:11-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.11-14&t=NKJV); [Philippians 3:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.20&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 3:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.1&t=NKJV)]). This is the direction toward which *all things* in the lives of Christians are presently moving, whether Christians know it or not (most don’t).

And Amalek, the man of flesh, is presently making his appearance — attacking, exactly as in the type (though *the light* now exists, *the darkness* remains [*cf*. [Genesis 1:3-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.3-5&t=NKJV); [II Corinthians 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=II+Corinthians+4.6&t=NKJV)]). And Amalek will seek, through every means possible, to stop Christians short of the goal.

In this respect, the man of flesh, typified by Amalek, is presented in Scripture as one whose main goal centers around *opposing those called to inherit the rights of the firstborn*. He is the one who *stands in the way,* seeking through every means possible to prevent individuals from coming into a realization of the inheritance to which they have been called.

And how is Amalek to be defeated? That’s what the account of the Israelites’ encounter and battle with Amalek in [Exodus 17:8-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+17.8-16&t=NKJV) is about. This section of Scripture reveals how the man of flesh is to be defeated, so that redeemed individuals can be *victorious* in the present warfare, allowing them to *one day realize the rights of the firstborn, in another land, within a theocracy.*

Slay Amalek, Or…

Either *slay Amalek*, as the Lord commands, or *Amalek will, in the end, rise up and slay you*. This is a teaching graphically set forth in the Books of I and II Samuel (*cf*. [Numbers 14:42-43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14.42-43&t=NKJV); [20:2-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+20.2-21&t=NKJV)).

Saul, the first king in Israel, was told by Samuel,

*“Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have…”* ([I Samuel 15:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Samuel+15.3&t=NKJV)).

But Saul rendered incomplete obedience. He spared Agag, *the king* of the Amalekites; and he saved *the best* of Amalek’s possessions — the sheep and oxen “to sacrifice unto the Lord,” along with the fatlings, the lambs, and everything that appeared *good in his sight* ([I Samuel 15:7-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Samuel+15.7-15&t=NKJV)).

This resulted in the Lord, through Samuel, rejecting Saul as king over Israel ([I Samuel 15:16-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Samuel+15.16-28&t=NKJV)). And in later years, because Saul had not previously carried out the Lord’s command concerning Amalek, an Amalekite appeared and slew Saul after he had been mortally wounded in a battle with the Philistines.

The account of Saul’s death in [I Samuel 31:1-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Samuel+31.1-6&t=NKJV) and the account given to David by the Amalekite who killed Saul in [II Samuel 1:2-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=II+Samuel+1.2-10&t=NKJV) must be compared to see and understand exactly what occurred. Saul had been mortally wounded in battle, he fell on his sword in an attempt to kill himself, but he failed in the attempt. An Amalekite then appeared; and, responding to Saul’s question, “Who art thou?”, he said, “*I am an Amalekite*” ([II Samuel 1:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=II+Samuel+1.7-8&t=NKJV)).

Then Saul said,

*“Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me”* ([II Samuel 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=II+Samuel+1.9&t=NKJV)).

And the Amalekite, relating the story to David, said,

*“So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm…”* ([II Samuel 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=II+Samuel+1.10&t=NKJV)).

Saul, in the beginning, had been commanded to slay Amalek. But he didn’t. And, in the end, after Saul had “fallen,” Amalek not only *slew him* but *stripped him of his regality*.

That is the central point in the Old Testament to which the warning in [Revelation 3:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.11&t=NKJV) relates:

*“Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”*

Either *slay Amalek now*, as the Lord commands, or *he will bring you down and, in the end, rise up, slay you, and take your crown.*

And the “crown” has to do with *the regal part of the rights of the firstborn*. It has to do with occupying a position with Christ in the coming kingdom, for only crowned rulers will ascend the throne with Christ and realize the other two aspects of the birthright (being not only *kings* but *priests* [*king-priests*], and receiving *a double portion of all the Father’s goods* as co-heirs with the “King of kings, and Lord of lords”).

Means and Length of the Battle

In the account of the battle with Amalek in [Exodus 17:8-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+17.8-16&t=NKJV), Moses, accompanied by Aaron and Hur, ascended a nearby hill while the Israelites fought with Amalek in the valley below. And during the battle, as long as Moses held “the rod of God” high in his hand, the Israelites prevailed. But when he lowered the rod (a sceptre [[Exodus 4:20-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.20-23&t=NKJV)]), Amalek prevailed ([Exodus 4:10-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.10-11&t=NKJV)).

There would be a dual type in relation to Moses holding the sceptre on the top of the hill. Though Christ, fulfilling one part of the type, would need no help, Christians, fulfilling the other part of the type, *would* need help. And Aaron and Hur can be seen in the second part of the type.

One part of the picture concerns Christ fighting the battle on the Christians’ behalf, and the other part of the picture concerns Christians engaged in the battle as well. And Christians grow weary in the battle and need help from fellow-Christians also engaged in the battle. Christians are to help one another in this respect.

That’s what [Hebrews 10:23-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10.23-25&t=NKJV) is about. We are told to “hold fast the profession of our faith [*lit*., ‘the confession of the hope’] without wavering”; and we are told to associate ourselves with other Christians *of like mind* to encourage, exhort, and pray for one another, “and so much the more,” as we “see the day approaching.”

It is, at times, a lonely and weary battle in the place of exile; and Christians have been exhorted to help one another in the race of the faith. They are exhorted *to encourage one another and help one another hold the sceptre high* as each goes forth, *properly arrayed*, to combat the enemy with *the Sword of the Spirit* ([Ephesians 6:10-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.10-18&t=NKJV)).

And the battle, after this fashion, is to be fought “until the going down of the sun” ([Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)), which can only depict a battle lasting *the entire duration of the Christian life*. Christians are in the race of the faith for the long haul, and the battle exists throughout the entire course of the race.

When Moses began to grow weary in the battle, Aaron and Hur not only helped hold his hands up but they also placed a stone under Moses so that he could sit, though still holding the sceptre high. And, through Aaron and Hur’s help, Moses was able to continue after this fashion for the entire duration of the time. Scripture reads, “…*his hands were steady until the going down of the sun*” ([Ephesians 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.12&t=NKJV)).

The “stone” upon which Moses sat itself pointed *to the kingdom of Christ*, to which the “rod,” the sceptre, he held pointed ([Daniel 2:34-35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.34-35&t=NKJV), [44-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.44-45&t=NKJV)). Then, beyond that, Moses, Aaron, and Hur had gone up to the top of a particular hill — “the hill”; and the word “hill,” as “mountain,” when used in a symbolic sense in Scripture, *signifies a kingdom* ([Isaiah 2:2-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+2.2-4&t=NKJV)). Typically, they fought the battle from the top of a particular kingdom as they held up the sceptre.

*Everything* about realizing victory in the battle against Amalek centers around one thought — *taking one’s eyes off the things pertaining to the present kingdom under Satan and fixing them on the things pertaining to the coming kingdom under Christ.*

In the words of [Genesis 19:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.17&t=NKJV),

*“…escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.”*