

The Attackers: The Attack on the Royal Family of God: the Battleground Is the Soul & the Artillery Is Thought: the Cosmic Lie v. Biblical Truth; Believer's Armor is Doctrine in the Soul, Eph 6:10-11; Combat Is Not against Blood & Flesh but the Satanic Army; Their Ordnance Is Cosmic Thought, Documentary Verses

XII. The Attack on the Royal Family:

1. The last paragraph of *The Attackers* addressed the satanic attack on the Word of God and included the battles being waged currently by the Progressives.
2. One of the ideology's major weapons is developed from ideas promoted by the scientific community regarding the origin of the universe.
3. This required a detailed study of creation from the source of biblical revelation and comparing it with the lack of evidence confirming the notions of cosmologists including the Big Bang and String Theories. †
4. We concluded the section by taking up attacks on several of the apostles including Paul and pastor-teachers, namely Timothy.
5. Alexander Coppersmith emerged as an illustration of how a believer in the cosmic systems and reversionism can become an emissary of Satan and cause great damage to a congregation.
6. The tactic used is to discredit the messenger so as to destroy the message.
7. This paragraph of our study will emphasize attacks on the believer and the divine assets provided by God to withstand those attacks.
8. To do this we will study Ephesians 6:10-17. We have examined the introductory verses of this passage in previous classes, but we have not done a detailed exegesis of the verses that describe the "full armor of God" (Ephesians 6:13-17).
9. A review of verse 10 through 13 is necessary for context and to serve as vectors that will draw from your doctrinal inventory.
10. We start with the NASB translation of Ephesians 6:10-11 with internal commentary:

Ephesians 6:10 - **Finally** [Τοῦ λοιπός (*toú loipós*): "From now on"], **be strong** [ἐνδυναμώω (*endunamóō*): intrinsic power from truth resident in the soul] **in the Lord in the strength** [κράτος (*krátos*): manifest (easily understood) power of truth in the soul] **of His might** [ἰσχός (*ischús*): functional (ability to execute) power of doctrine in the soul].

† These are actually flights of fancy: "An unrealistic idea or fantastic notion, a pipe dream. This idiom uses *flight* in the sense of 'a soaring imagination'" (Christine Ammer, *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms* [New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1997], 214).

v. 11 - Put on [constative aorist middle imperative of ἐνδύω (*endúō*): habitually keep yourself dressed to do battle] **the full armor** [πανοπλία (*panopliá*): πάς (*pás*) + ὅπλον (*hóplon*): “all weaponry,” i.e., full armor of the Roman hoplite: infantry soldier] **of God, so that** [purpose clause] **you will be able** [δύνامي (*dúmani*): have the power] **to stand firm** [constative active infinitive of ἵστημι (*hístēmi*): the purpose is to advance to spiritual maturity and hold your ground] **against the schemes** [μεθοδεία (*methodeía*): strategy and tactics] **of the devil.**

11. The spiritual battle is waged on an invisible battlefield – the believer’s soul.
12. The enemy’s artillery is cosmic thought that originates from a multiplicity of sources both internal and external.
13. Paul refers to the internal assaults as “futile speculations” in Romans 1:21 while the external attacks are called “doctrines of demons” in 1 Timothy 4:1.
14. Spiritual warfare requires the soul to be protected by spiritual weaponry. Verse 10 stresses the requirement for internal artillery stored in the magazine of the stream of consciousness’ memory center.
15. Verse 11 stresses the necessity of maintaining Code Red alertness for readiness against attacks both internally from the sinful nature and externally from the devil’s world.
16. The various attackers that occupy the legions of the Dark Side are the subject of the next verse:

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

17. This verse begins with the causal conjunction ὅτι (*hótí*) and instead of “for,” it should be translated “because.”
18. The following phrase, “our struggle is not” includes the possessive pronoun ἡμῶν (*hēmín*), translated “our,” followed by the subject πάλη (*pálē*). This word’s history goes as far back as Homer and originally meant “wrestling” and this is how the King James translates it.
19. The NIV and NASB translate it “struggle,” but Greek tragedies gave it a more general sense of “conflict.”

πάλη (pálē). A wrestling, struggle, or hand-to-hand combat. It was used of the wrestling of athletes and of the hand-to-hand combat of soldiers both of which required deftness and speed. It denoted the struggle between individual combatants in distinction from an entire military campaign.²

20. In the Invisible War, Church Age believers, like it or not or aware or not, are combatants. They are engaged in daily combat against the Dark Side and it is not hand-to-hand but “thought-to-thought.”

² Spiros Zodhiates, gen ed., “πάλη,” *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1992), 1091.

21. They must be able to think divine viewpoint or they will be seized as POWs. Shackled in chains of cosmic thought, they become enemies of the cross of Christ. Some biblical examples of cosmic deception amplify this critical truth:

Matthew 10:16 - “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd [φρόνιμος (*phrónimos*): a prudent and wise mind-set in dealing with unbelievers] as serpents and innocent as doves.”

Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive [POW] through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

1 Timothy 4:1 - The Holy Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

v. 2 - by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.

Romans 16:17 - Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

v. 18 - For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

v. 19 - For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

Ephesians 5:6 - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

v. 7 - Therefore do not be partakers with them;

v. 8 - for you were formerly darkness, but now are Light in the Lord; walk as children of the Light.

2 Peter 2:1 - False prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

v. 2 - Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned;

v. 3 - and in their greed they will exploit you with false words ...

1 Corinthians 15:33 - Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

2 Corinthians 11:3 - I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:13 - For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves [μετασχηματίζω (*metaschēmatízō*)] as apostles of Christ.

v. 14 - No wonder, for even Satan disguises [*metaschēmatízō*³] himself as an angel of light.

v. 15 - Therefore it is not surprising if [**1CC**] his servants also disguise [*metaschēmatízō*] themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

2 Timothy 3:13 - Evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Titus 1:10a - For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers ...

1 Peter 5:8 - Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

2 Peter 1:16a - We did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ...

2 Peter 3:3 - Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers [ἐμπαίκτης (*empaiktēs*): **scoffers showing disrespect and derision**] will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

2 Peter 3:4 - and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming [**the Rapture**]? For ever since the fathers fell asleep [**Old Testament writers now dead**], all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation [**uniformitarianism**⁴].

v. 5a - For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago ...

2 Corinthians 4:3 - Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

v. 4 - in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 John 7 - For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Matthew 22:29 - "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Revelation 12:7 - And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

v. 8 - and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

³ "μετασχηματίζω. This outward change is best illustrated by contrasting *metaschēmatízō* with *metamorphóō*, to transform. It is possible for Satan to transform himself into an angel of light, i.e., he can change his whole outward semblance. But it would be impossible to apply *metamorphóō* to any such change for this would imply an internal change, a change not of appearance but of essence, which lies beyond his power" (Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*, 973).

⁴ A theory developed by Scottish geologist Sir Charles Lyell asserting that all features of the earth's surface, including even its mountains, are produced by natural processes operating over a long period of time. In 1830 he published *Principles of Geology* as a polemic to the writings of French palaeontologist Georges Cuvier \kūv'-yā\ that claimed the normal operations of nature have been repeatedly suspended by direct intervention of a superhuman agency.

v. 9 - And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth; and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 20:3 - Then the seraph threw Lucifer into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer ...