



# **INVISIBLE POWERS AND PLACES**

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# WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-12** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 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*.
- Ephesians 1-3: Where the believer is **seated** in Christ
- Ephesians 4 – 6:9: The way a believer should **walk** worthy
- Ephesians 6:10-30: The way a believer should **stand** firm
- **Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
- Suppress: *katecho*: to restrain or hold back

# DIFFICULT TIMES

- **2 Timothy 3:1-5** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.
- Difficult: *chalepos*: fierce, grievous, hard to bear, violent
- Revilers: *blasphemos*: slanderers, scurrilous speakers
- Irreconcilable: *aspondos*: never a party to a truce;
- Godliness: *eusebia*: appearing to take the high ground, piety
- They are hard to take; they say things specifically to hurt the reputation of another, whether true or not; they will never give in; they claim the moral high ground but deny that they are empowered by the wrong side (Satan)

# THEY ARE LOST

- **Ephesians 2:1-3** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
  1. Follow the ways of the world (satanically organized system that hates God)
  2. Follow the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Satan)
  3. Forces controlled by Satan are actively working in them
- **1 John 5:19** We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one. (literally “under the evil one”)

# SPIRITUALLY POSITIONED

- **Ephesians 2:4-9** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- **Mercy:** *eleos*: compassion; not giving the punishment due
- **Grace:** *charis*: something undeserved credited to us
- Raised and Seated: this describes a spiritual positioning
- **Philippians 3:20-21** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

# ABOUT ENMITY

- **Genesis 3:14-15** The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life; and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."
- **Enmity:** *ebah*: hostility, hatred
- **Seed:** *zera*: offspring, descendants, children
- Satan's seed: fallen angels; beings resulting from sexual relationship between fallen angels and human women
- Woman's seed: humanity, but ultimately Jesus
- **Galatians 3:16** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.
- **Genesis 22:18** "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

# THE COVENANT

- **1 Peter 1:22-23** Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.
- HOW DID THE SEED OF MAN BECOME DESTROYED?
- **Genesis 2:15-17** Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."
- Die: *muth*: to die; to bring about death
- **Genesis 2:18** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

# THE TEMPTATION OF EVE

- **Genesis 3:1-3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"
- **Genesis 3:4-5** The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- **SATAN'S LIE: EATING THE FRUIT WON'T CAUSE DEATH; IT WILL MAKE YOU LIKE GOD, KNOWING GOOD FROM EVIL**
- **Genesis 1:28** God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."



# SATAN'S METHODOLOGY

- 1. Ask Eve a question when he already knows the answer
- 2. Approach Eve, who may not have heard it from God directly
- 3. Tell Eve that God lied about death
- 4. Insinuate that God is holding out on them – there is a way for them to be like Him, but He doesn't want them to do it
- **Genesis 3:13** Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the **woman** said, "The serpent **deceived** me, and I ate."
- **1 Timothy 2:14** And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the **woman** being **deceived**, fell into transgression.
- **Genesis 3:6** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

# EXAMPLE: METHODOLOGY

- **1 John 2:15-16** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
- **LUST OF THE FLESH:** the fruit was “good for food”
- **LUST OF THE EYES:** the tree was a “delight to the eyes”
- **BOASTFUL PRIDE/LIFE:** it was “desirable to make one wise”
- **Matthew 4:3** “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” (lust of the flesh)
- **Matthew 4:8** Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; (everything you see: lust of the eyes)
- **Matthew 4:5-6** ...the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’; ‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP;” (boastful pride of life)

# IMPUTATION OF ORIGINAL SIN

- **Romans 5:12-14** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.
- Deception was considered an unintentional sin
- Spread: *dierchomai*: to pass through
- Imputed: *ellogeo*: to put on to someone's account
- God doesn't put sin on your account until you know its sin
- Before the Law, people did sinful things without knowledge
- But before the Law, when people did things God had said not to do, it was imputed to their account
- Even if they had been perfect, death reigned b/c of Adam

# LAW: KNOWLEDGE OF SIN

- **Romans 3:20** ...because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.
- **Matthew 5:18** "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."
- The Law reveals God's righteous standard; God doesn't change
- **Romans 6:12-14** ...do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.
- **Romans 8:3-4** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.