

The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored illustration of two fencers in a sparring stance. One fencer is on the left, leaning forward with their sword extended towards the right. The second fencer is on the right, leaning back with their sword extended towards the left. The overall tone is light and airy, with the text overlaid in a dark, bold font.

EN GARDE!

A STUDY OF UNSEEN FORCES AT WORK IN OUR WORLD

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Lesson 10

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-13** 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*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
- Struggle: *pale:* to wrestle; a close quarters combat
- Resist: *anthistemi:* withstand while opposing
- Stand: *histemi:* make a stand; be established

WHAT ARE DEMONS?

- **Genesis 6:1-2** Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.
- Last week we saw that “sons of God” are angels
- Wives: *ishshah*: women, females, wives
- **Genesis 6:4** The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.
- Renown: *shem*: a name; a reputation
- Nephilim: from *naphal*: fallen ones; a bully; a giant

INSIGHTS FROM BOOK OF ENOCH

- Nonbiblical book says that the giants were taking over
- Whatever the situation was, God wasn't pleased!
- **Genesis 6:3** Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." The ark was a 120 year build?
- **Genesis 6:5-7** Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them."

ABOUT NOAH

- **Genesis 6:8-10** But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. These are *the records of* the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- Blameless: *tamim*: unblemished; without defect
- **Jude 1:6-7** And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after **strange flesh**, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

MORE FROM PETER

- **2 Peter 2:4-6** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter;
- **Matthew 8:16** When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.
- **Matthew 10:1** Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits...

UNCLEAN SPIRITS

- **Matthew 12:43** "Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find *it*."
- Rest: *anapausis*: to cause to cease; intermission; recreation
- There are those who believe that unclean spirits are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim; their bodies were destroyed but their spirit cannot rest until it inhabits another body
- I believe that unclean spirit is just another name for a demon – a fallen angel
- **James 2:19** You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.
- Demons can be extremely violent and strong

VIOLENT NATURE

- **Matthew 8:28-29** When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. *hey were* so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. They cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"
- **Mark 5:1-5** When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain. Because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him; the shackles broken in pieces; no one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones.

WORSHIPING DEMONS

- **Deuteronomy 32:16-18** "They made Him jealous with strange *gods*; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons who were not God, to gods whom they have not known, new *gods* who came lately, whom your fathers did not dread. You neglected the Rock who begot you, and forgot the God who gave you birth."
- Just as Satan was the spiritual force behind the leader of Tyre, demons are the spiritual force behind false gods
- **Psalms 106:35-38** But they mingled with the nations And learned their practices, and served their idols, which became a snare to them. They even sacrificed their sons and daughters to the demons, and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan

DEMONIC ORDERS

- Angels are called "heavenly host" which we saw in an earlier class means "heavenly armies"
- Demons are also ordered in the same way
- **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*.
- Rulers: *arche*: principality; a chief
- Powers: *exousia*: those with authority to act
- World forces of darkness: *kosmokratoras skotous*: sinful forces acting in the created world
- Spiritual forces of wickedness: *pneumatika ponerias*: spiritual evil at work
- Heavenly: *epouraniois*: acting in heaven

ACTING WITH A RULER

- **John 12:27-31** "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." So the crowd *of people* who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."
- The demons work for the ruler of this world
- Their eternal destination is the lake of fire

WHAT DEMONS CAN'T DO!

- **Romans 8:38-39** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Height: hupsoma: something lifted up; lofty thing
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ...