

The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored illustration of two fencers in a sparring stance. One fencer is on the left, and the other is on the right, both holding their foils and ready for action. The overall tone is light and airy, with the text overlaid in a bold, black font.

EN GARDE!

A STUDY OF UNSEEN FORCES AT WORK IN OUR WORLD

JoLynn Gower

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217-493-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.org

Lesson 14

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

WHY A NEW EARTH?

- **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- Since God didn't have a beginning, then it certainly wasn't the beginning of God
- We could legitimately ask how much time elapsed between this event and what follows (if time existed!)
- We know that time began to pass as God began doing things recorded beginning in Genesis 1:3
- Before that the Earth was formless and void (*tohu* and *bohu* could also be translated chaotic and empty)
- **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."

FILL, SUBDUE AND RULE

- Fill: *male:* to fill, to fulfill; to fill up or replenish something that was empty
- Subdue: *kabash:* to bring something into subjection
- Rule: *radah:* to have dominion
- One thing that Jesus paid the price for with His death is the redemption (renewal) of the Earth
- The Kinsman Redeemer had four duties
 1. Redeem a relative who was in slavery (people are in slavery to sin)
 2. Redeem the land a relative lost (people lost control of the Earth—Satan is called the ruler of this world)
 3. Marry the one with no heirs (the church is the bride of Christ)
 4. Serve as the avenger of blood (guiltless executioner of the murderer of a family member)

REDEEMING THE EARTH

- **First, we must convince ourselves that people really lost control of the Earth:**
- **John 12:31** Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
- **John 16:11** ...and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
- **John 8:44** "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
- **Matthew 4:8-9**...devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

EARTHLY FLOOD?

- TV documentaries should take a peek at the Bible!
- **Genesis 9:13-15** I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh.
- **2 Peter 3:5-7**...when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

DESTRUCTION OF EARTH

- **Isaiah 24:3** The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word.
- **Mark 13:31** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
- **2 Peter 3:10-12** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

PASSING AWAY

- Pass away: *parerchomai*: to pass by or to pass beside
- In two weeks, we will look at the fate of the heavens
- **Isaiah 65:17** "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind."
- **Isaiah 66:22** "For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure."
- **Revelation 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.
- First: *protos*: first; former; the one before

NEW EARTH CHARACTERISTICS

- **Matthew 5:5** "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth."
- Gentle: *prautes*: controlled strength or power; meekness
- New: *kainos*: completely refurbished; if it were new in existence or age the word would be *naos* or *chronos*
- No sea
- New Jerusalem is on (or over) it
- God dwells in the New Jerusalem, which has come down to earth
- It is always day in the New Jerusalem; is it always day on the new earth?
- Satan cannot influence it because he has been thrown into the lake of fire

NEW EARTH CHARACTERISTICS (2)

- **Psalm 102:25-26** "Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.
- Wear out: *balah*: to become old and decayed
- The earth seems to have been restored to the spiritual state in which it existed in the Garden of Eden
- The physical state isn't the same:
- **Genesis 1:10** God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.
- **Revelation 22:3** There will no longer be any curse;

A COMING SHAKING

- **Hebrews 12:25-29** See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned *them* on earth, much less *will we escape* who turn away from Him who *warns* from heaven. And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." This *expression*, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.