

The background of the slide features a faint, light-colored illustration of two fencers in a sparring stance. One fencer is on the left, leaning forward with arms extended, while the other is on the right, also in a dynamic pose. The overall aesthetic is clean and minimalist, with the text overlaid on this background.

EN GARDE!

A STUDY OF UNSEEN FORCES AT WORK IN OUR WORLD

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Lesson 7

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 ANGELS?

- **Exodus 33:1-2** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Depart go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up from the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' I will send an **angel** before you and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite.
- Angel: *malak*: messenger, ambassador
- **Galatians 1:8** But even if we, or an **angel** from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!
- Angel: *aggelos*: messenger
- Most scholars believe that Old Testament references to "**the** angel of the Lord" are appearances of pre-incarnate Christ

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

- **Genesis 22:11** But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
- **Exodus 3:2-3** The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."
- **Judges 6:22** When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the LORD, he said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face."
- **Zechariah 3:6-7** And the angel of the LORD admonished Joshua, saying, "Thus says the LORD of hosts..."

HUMAN FORM

- Angels are spiritual beings; They are usually unseen, living in a different dimension than humans
- They can manifest as angels when directed by God
- Angels can also appear in human form; when they do they are usually male; when age is mentioned, young
- Angels appeared as men to Abram (Genesis 18-10)
- **Hebrews 13:1-2** Let love of the brethren continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.
- **Mark 16:3-5** They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.

AN ARMY

- **Nehemiah 9:6** "You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly **host** bows down before You.
- Host: *tsaba*: army
- **Luke 2:13-14** And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly **host** praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."
- Host: *stratia*: army
- **Malachi 3:12** "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.
- LORD of hosts: YHWH Tsabaot

CHERUBIM DESCRIPTION

- **Ezekiel 1:5-11** ...figures resembling four living beings. This was their appearance: they had human form. Each of them had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf's hoof, and they gleamed like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides *were* human hands. As for the faces and wings of the four of them, their wings touched one another; *their faces* did not turn when they moved, each went straight forward. As for the form of their faces, *each* had the face of a man; all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left; all four had the face of an eagle. Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each had two touching another *being*, and two covering their bodies.
- **Ezekiel 10:20** These are the living beings that I saw beneath the God of Israel by the river Chebar; so I knew that they *were* cherubim.

SERAPHIM DESCRIPTION

- **Isaiah 6:1-7** In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." One of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

FOUR LIVING CREATURES

- **Revelation 4:6-8** ...and before the throne *there was something* like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. The first creature *was* like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *is* THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."
- There are no descriptions of the elders seen with these creatures

CREATED BEINGS

- Angels are created beings; are not to be worshiped
- **Colossians 2:18** Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind...
- **Colossians 1:15-17** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
- **Nehemiah 9:6** "You alone are the LORD.... And the heavenly host bows down before You."

SONS OF GOD

- **Job 1:6** Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.
- **Job 38:4-7** "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding, who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?
- **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.

MORE ABOUT ANGELS

- **Psalm 89:5** The heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones.
- **Matthew 25:31** "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne."
- People who die do not become angels – or guardian angels
- Nothing in scripture mentions the number 222, or angel feathers, gold dust, or finding pennies
- Angels are God's messengers and warriors to worship Him and to help us