



INVISIBLE POWERS AND PLACES

**JoLynn Gower
Fall 2018
217-493-6151**

jgower@guardingthetruth.org

ABOUT THIS CLASS

- YOU WILL NEED:
 1. WORKBOOK (download extra copies)
 2. GOOD BIBLE TRANSLATION
 3. GOOD BIBLE DICTIONARY
 4. CONCORDANCE KEYED TO YOUR BIBLE TRANSLATION
- WORK THROUGH THE SECTION FOR EACH WEEK BEFORE CLASS
- Audio: meadow.org go to section called "messages"
- Workbook downloads: meadow.org; under the first week audio upload
- Powerpoint slides: meadow.org; under the audio upload weekly
- OR email me for audio links
- OR under curriculum at guardingthetruth.org

THINGS WE CAN'T SEE

- Scientists tells us that at the “Big Bang” there were dimensions that collapsed making them invisible to us
- Why “Bang?” Because the universe is expanding and an explosion could cause this to happen
- **Psalm 104:2** Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak, stretching out heaven like a *tent* curtain.
- The theoretical framework of Superstring Theory posits that there are ten dimensions, of which we interact with 4
- The Bible clearly teaches that there are dimensions that we can't see; so does science!
- In this class, we will consider what powers and places actually exist in those dimensions and our interaction with them
- Today, we will consider a “power” that is invisible: angels

ABOUT ANGELS

- We generally cannot see angels, although they might manifest in various forms or become spiritually visible in certain circumstances
- **Numbers 22:31** Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed all the way to the ground.
- “the” angel vs “an” angel
- Heavenly host: OT: *tsaba*: army NT: *stratia*: army
- **Colossians 1:16** 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.
- The angelic host seems to be organized into rank and order and various groupings much like the armies we think about
- Some of these angels chose to follow Satan when he sinned

ABOUT GOOD ANGELS

- They worship God **Hebrews 1:6** ... He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."
- They are ministering spirits **Acts 27:23-24** "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'
- They communicate and obey the will of God
- They execute the judgments of God **Acts 12:22-23** The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.
- Celebrate the praises of God **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."

THE SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE

- **Ephesians 6:11-12** 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*.
- Struggle: *pale*: to wrestle; to struggle in an up-close and personal way
- The struggle isn't with people, although they may be the instruments that the devil uses
- How do we know when we are in spiritual warfare, or when we are only dealing with the results of living in unredeemed bodies in an unredeemed world?
- Page 3 in the workbook lists some symptoms of warfare; the problem???? They may have other causes as well

ANGELS WHO SINNED

- Some are currently unimprisoned and work for Satan today
Eventually, Michael the archangel and the good angels will war with Satan and his angels
- **Revelation 12:7-9** And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 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.
- But in the meantime, they actively engage in warfare against believers and in influencing events on earth
- **Luke 4:33-34** In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

ANGELS WHO ARE BOUND

- There are angels who are currently confined to the abyss
- **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.
- **2 Peter 2:4-5** 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;
- **Luke 8:30-31** And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.
- Clearly, angels know that there is an abyss

ISSUES OF WARFARE

- **Ephesians 6:11-12** 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*.
- Struggle: *pale*: an up-close and personal wrestling
- Some problems are the result of living in a fallen world in bodies that aren't redeemed yet
- But some issues are the result of direct spiritual intervention by evil forces working for the enemy of our souls
- THE QUESTION: HOW DO WE DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE TWO SOURCES OF PROBLEMS?
- Page 3 in the workbook lists some problems that may have a causative source in warfare --- but may be rooted elsewhere

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

BE ALERT!

- The principle methodology of Satan is deception
- He doesn't want you to recognize that warfare even exists
- If you don't think that there's a war, then you don't fight
- When you begin to understand the truth, Satan will challenge your study
- Satan's goal is to keep you ignorant, misinformed and fearful
- **John 8:31-32** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "**If** you continue in My word, **then** you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
- Freed from: sin; being a child of the devil

SIN'S MANIFESTATION

- **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is **death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 8:6-8** For the mind set on the flesh is **death**, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is **hostile** toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- **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.
- **Galatians 5:19-21** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

SANCTIFICATION MANIFESTATION

- **Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- We need to have appropriate and correct information about warfare; we should not have excessive curiosity about Satan
- **Ephesians 4:26-27** BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.
- Opportunity: *topos*: a place i.e. a place to take a foothold
- Truth 1: we don't struggle against flesh and blood
- Truth 2: Satan is a liar and deceiver
- Truth 3: the whole world is under Satan's influence
- Truth 4: Satan cannot change your position in Christ
- Truth 5: Jesus' death and resurrection triumphed over and disarmed the rulers and authorities of the kingdom of darkness