

The background of the image is a dramatic, high-contrast photograph of dark, swirling storm clouds. The clouds are dense and textured, with some lighter areas where light breaks through, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall tone is somber and intense.

THE INVISIBLE WAR AGAINST SATAN



Part 5: The Unrelenting War with Satan's Malevolent Operatives



Introduction

Donald Grey Barnhouse, noted scholar, author, and pastor of the Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia from 1927 to 1960, carefully studied the teachings of the entire Bible on spiritual warfare and warned that “there are certain phases of the invisible war that can be understood only if we first have a knowledge of some of the opposing forces and the nature of their organization. The Word of God is the revelation of truth, and it contains the revelation of truth concerning the vast host of adversaries in this war that are invisible to our eyes, but which play a definite part in our history and in our lives.” Calvin maintained that “the number of enemies with whom we have to war is almost infinite.” C.S. Lewis noted the same in *The Screwtape Letters*:

The Screwtape Letters: No. 5



C.S. Lewis
1898-1963

“Of course war is entertaining. The immediate fear and suffering of the humans is a legitimate and pleasing refreshment for our **myriads of toiling workers**. But what permanent good does it do us unless we make use of it for bringing souls to Our Father Below?”



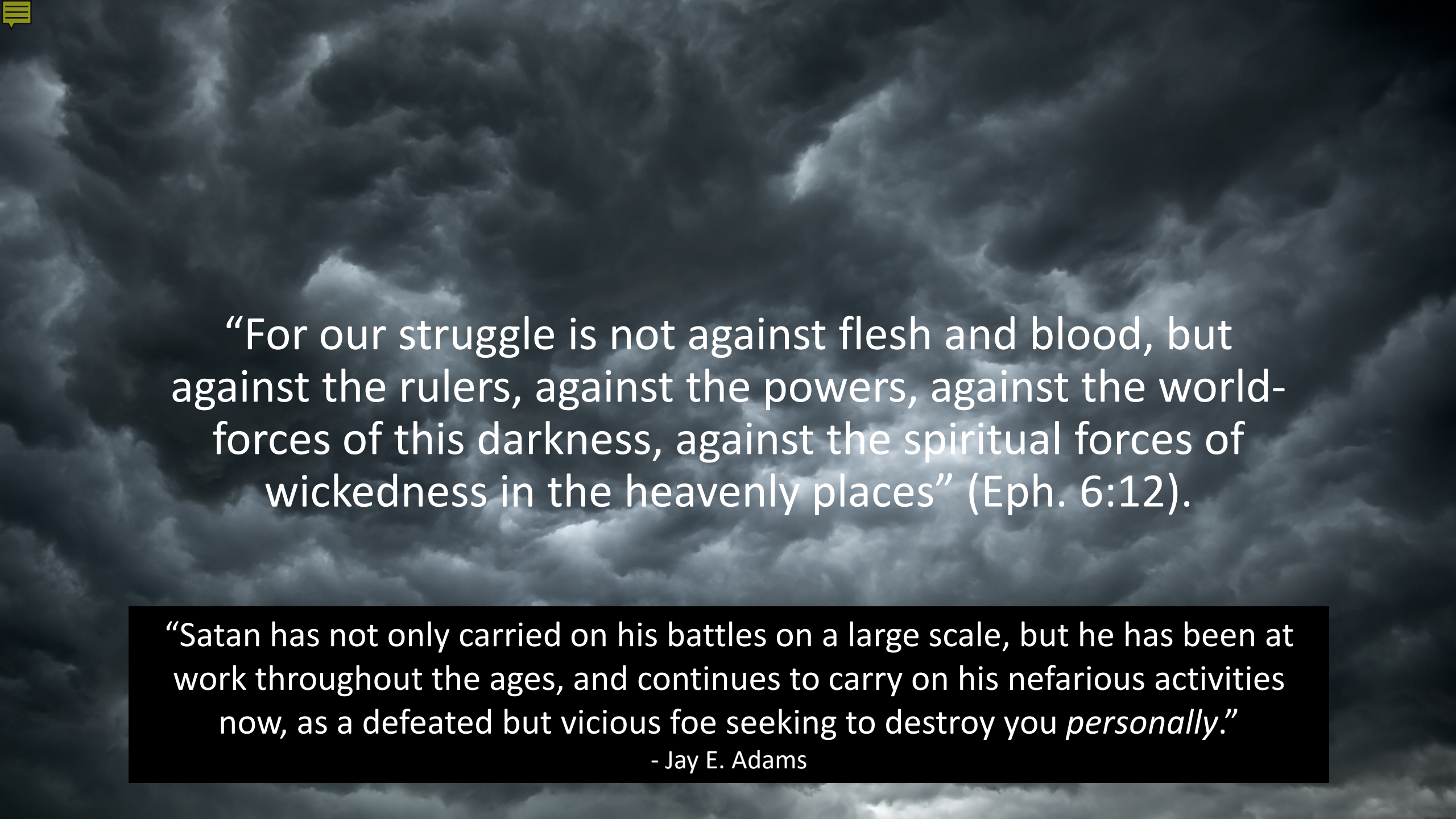
**“The Scripture declares that the enemies
who war against us are not one or two,
or few in number, but a great host.”**

- John Calvin



Introduction

Barnhouse does not exaggerate the scope of the battle when he writes: “There are hundreds of millions of battles being fought every day in the invisible war. The field of each battle is the heart of man” – yours and mine. The Apostle Paul reminds us that “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” (Eph. 6:12). He is warning the Ephesian believers that there is a full-scale, deadly war taking place in the heavens. Therefore, they must shift their eyes from looking at other human beings (“flesh and blood”) as the source of conflict and turn them upwards to the battles taking place in the heavens.

The background of the entire image is a dramatic, high-contrast photograph of dark, swirling storm clouds. The clouds are dense and textured, with some lighter patches where light breaks through, creating a sense of depth and intensity. In the top-left corner, there is a small, yellow icon consisting of three horizontal lines with a small triangle pointing downwards from the left side, resembling a speech bubble or a list icon.

“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” (Eph. 6:12).

“Satan has not only carried on his battles on a large scale, but he has been at work throughout the ages, and continues to carry on his nefarious activities now, as a defeated but vicious foe seeking to destroy you *personally*.”

- Jay E. Adams

The background is a dark, charcoal-colored surface with a rough, cracked, and weathered texture. On the left side, there is a vertical strip of a red brick wall, showing several courses of bricks with light-colored mortar. The dark surface appears to be peeling or chipped away from the bricks in some areas, particularly on the left. The overall mood is gritty and somber.

Exposing the Unholy Alliance



Four Terms Applying to Demons: *Rulers*

- **Arche**, *n.*, “ruler, authority” [the verbal form means “to rule”]. The word always signifies “primacy” – whether in time (beginning) or in rank (power, dominion, office). Cf. *archangel*, *archenemy*, etc.
- They are spiritual beings, related to angels according to Romans 8:38.
- It is thought that these *rulers* have a political organization.
- “The devil is not a solitary power. He has his agents and his agencies...What is emphasized concerning them is their great power and authority. They have a governmental position and they have real authority and power in an executive sense.” (Lloyd-Jones).



Four Terms Applying to Demons: *Powers*

- **Powers**, *n.*, “rulers and functionaries of the spirit world.”
- “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” (Eph. 6:12).
- When Jesus appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, He told him He was sending him “to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the *dominion* (power) of Satan to God...” (Acts 26:18).
- Satan is called the “prince of the *power* of the air” (Eph. 2:2).
- God “delivered us from the domain (power) of darkness...” (Col. 1:13).



Four Terms Applying to Demons: *World-Forces*

- **World-Forces**, *n.*, “world-rulers.”
- This word is used only one time in the New Testament.
- It is used of wicked spirit beings who have parts of the cosmos under their control, i.e., “the world-forces of this darkness.”
- Calvin: “He means that the devil reigns in the world, because the world is nothing but darkness. Hence it follows that the corruption of the world gives a place to the kingdom of the devil....As the whole world is covered with darkness, the devil is the prince of this world.”
- The term ‘world-rulers’ “is a very powerful word which conjures up the notion of power to govern and to rule the whole world” (Lloyd-Jones).

Four Terms Applying to Demons: *Spirits of Evil*

- **Evil**, *n.*, “wickedness, baseness, maliciousness, sinfulness.”
- In the very next verse, Ephesians 6:13, the Apostle Paul exhorts the believers to “take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the **evil** day...”
- “The ‘evil day’ is the ‘evil,’ ‘dangerous,’ ‘critical,’ day, the day of distress, no matter whether it be regarded as a day in the present life, the day of death, the day of judgment, a day of conflict and peril, or the day when the devil has special power.”



Terms Applying to Demons in Ephesians 1

“The terms ‘rule – authority – power – lordship – name’ do not signify five ranks so that ‘rule’ is one rank, ‘authority’ another rank, etc. Moreover, the five are found on earth as well as in heaven. Nor have we an ascending or a descending scale of rank. There are ranks, lower and higher; the five terms apply to each rank both in this and the next world. What the ranks are, and how many there are, is not stated, but all of them are included. Each one has a certain ‘rule’ or domain, greater or smaller, an emperor, a king, this and that minister, this and that official, other men in their various stations. With that rule there naturally goes the corresponding ‘authority,’ ‘power,’ ‘lordship,’ ‘name,’ or title” (See Ephesians 1:21).

Related Texts

- “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 things, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39).
- “Then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all **rule** and all **authority** and power” (I Cor. 15:24).
- “...and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all **rule** and **authority** and power and dominion...” (Eph. 1:21).

Related Texts

- “...God, who created all things; in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the **rulers** and the **authorities** in the heavenly places” (Eph. 3:9-10).
- “For in 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” (Col. 1:16).
- “And in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all **rule** and **authority**” (Col. 2:10).
- “When He had disarmed the **rulers** and **authorities**, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him” (Col. 2:15).



Different Spheres of Influence

- “The Scriptures give us definite warrant for the teaching that there is a gradation of power and intelligence, and that some beings of every rank have remained faithful to God and that some of every rank have followed Satan in his rebellion.”
- “For His own reasons, God has not been pleased to give us an etched portrait with every line finely drawn. But there are enough details that the picture need not be dull and hazy to the spiritual mind.”
- “We cannot say what functions the ‘rulers’ have in distinction from the ‘authorities’ and ‘powers.’ We may gather from Ephesians 6:12 that different spheres of influence are allotted to them, probably by their over-lord (Eph. 2:2).”

The Screwtape Letters: No. 7

“I wonder you should ask me whether it is essential to keep the patient in ignorance of your own existence. That question, at least for the present phase of the struggle, has been answered for us by the **High Command**. Our policy, for the moment, is to conceal ourselves.”



C.S. Lewis

Unceasing War in the Heavens

“It would appear that angels of every rank in both camps are constantly at war with each other in the invisible realm, and that, since there is no question of putting one of these spirit beings to death, the victory or the defeat is gained by the application of power and the withdrawal of the inferior force.”



Donald Grey Barnhouse

Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia
1895-1960



The Abode of Dark Angels

- “Their abode is now the heavens (‘the heavenly places,’ Eph. 3:10), which is obviously the lowest of the different heavenly spheres (cf. II Cor. 12:2) from which darkness comes into this world (Eph. 6:12). The powers of the air, i.e., of the lowest heavenly sphere, have, somewhat schematically, separated God and man until the coming of Christ” (Kittel).
- “The Bible uses the word or idea for heaven in four different senses: (1) that of the immediate atmosphere of earth, including the clouds; (2) that of our solar system and the heaven of the stars; (3) that of the lower heavens, presently occupied by the forces of Satan and the scene of his spiritual activity; (4) that of the far above heavens of the throne of God” (Barnhouse).

The Case of Daniel

“Then he said to me, ‘Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come’” (Dan. 10:12-14).

Daniel's Case: An Overview

- Daniel was mourning and fasting for three weeks (Dan. 10:2-3), seeking to understand the future.
- The Lord heard his prayers. “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard...” (vs. 12).
- In answer to Daniel's prayers, an angel was immediately sent by God to convey to him revelations (vs. 12).
- The angel was not able to come to Daniel immediately. “The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days” (vs. 13), i.e., he had to gain victory over the prince of the kingdom first.



Daniel's Case: An Overview

- “Daniel had, without doubt, prayed for the accomplishment of the salvation promised to his people, and for the removal of all the hindrances that stood in the way of that accomplishment” (Keil and Delitzsch).
- While Daniel was praying....“at the same time as implying that on the side of God, steps were taken for the removal of these hindrances” (Keil and Delitzsch).
- The 21 days of hindrance are those during which Daniel was fasting and praying.
- The angel came to bring a comforting answer to Daniel. “I have come because of your words” (vs. 12).



Daniel's Case: An Overview

- Before the angel could come, he had to enter into war with the **spirit** of the king of Persia and overcome it. “The verse speaks of a war in the kingdom of supernatural spirits.” This is “the guardian spirit or the protecting genius of the Persian kingdom...For the angel that appeared to Daniel did not fight with the kings of Persia, but with a spiritual intelligence of a like nature.” (Keil and Delitzsch).
- The demon of the Persian kingdom is “the supernatural spiritual power standing behind the national gods, which we may properly call the guardian spirit of this kingdom” (K & D). The intent of this demon was to incite Persia against Israel.

Power Over Nations



John M. Frame

American Philosopher and Theologian

1939 -

“The fallen angels support Satan’s activity in the world, which is always to fight against God’s kingdom. Like the ‘prince of the kingdom of Persia’ in Daniel 10:13, they take power over nations – hence the names ‘principalities’ and ‘powers’ referring to them.” According to Daniel 12:1, the good angel, Michael, is the prince of Israel.