



# The Unseen Christian Battle

A BIBLICAL STUDY OF THE  
UNSEEN WORLD WITH A  
FOCUS ON EPHESIANS 6:10-20

# Overview

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1. The Biblical Story (in 5 Episodes)
2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story
3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

What the Bible teaches  
about the unseen world —  
and why it matters

# SUPER NATURAL

Michael S. Heiser

# THE INVISIBLE WAR

What Every Believer Needs to Know about  
SATAN, DEMONS & SPIRITUAL WARFARE

CHIPINGRAM

# 1. The Biblical Story (in 5 Episodes)

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## 1.1 Episode 1: Genesis 1-11

(1) Created in God's Image: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15

- *The purpose of humanity is to function as God's representative in the created order and to reveal His glory to the ends of the earth.*

(2) Living in a Cursed World: Genesis 3:1-19

- *We live in a world that is cursed by God as a continual reminder of what sin does.*



# 1. The Biblical Story (in 5 Episodes)

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## 1.1 Episode 1: Genesis 1-11

Episode	God's Action	God's Mission	Result
(1) Genesis 1-11	God creates the universe	Representing God's kingdom / rule	Failure

# 1. The Biblical Story (in 5 Episodes)

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## 1.2 Episode 2: Genesis 12 – Malachi

(1) Created as God's kingdom of priests: Exodus 19:4-6

- *The purpose of Israel is to represent God and His rule among the nations.*

(2) Rebelling against God: Malachi 1:6-7

- *Even the priests rebel against God's rule.*

# 1. The Biblical Story (in 5 Episodes)

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## 1.2 Episode 2: Genesis 12 – Malachi

Episode	God's Action	God's Mission	Result
(2) Genesis 12 - Malachi	God creates a nation	Representing God's kingdom / rule	Failure



# 1. The Biblical Story (in 5 Episodes)

## 1.3 Episode 3: Gospels – Burial

(1) Representing God par excellence: Hebrews 1:3

- *Jesus was the perfect image of God, enabling those who believe in Him to become true imagers of God again.*

Episode	God's Action	God's Mission	Result
(3) Gospels – Burial	God sends the King	Representing God's kingdom / rule	Failure

# 1. The Biblical Story (in 5 Episodes)

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## 1.4 Episode 4: Resurrection – Revelation 3

(1) Created as God's kingdom of priests: 1 Peter 2:4-10

- *The purpose of the Church is to represent God and His rule in the world.*

Episode	God's Action	God's Mission	Result
(4) Resurrection – Revelation 3	God creates the Church	Representing God's kingdom / rule	Failure??

# 1. The Biblical Story (in 5 Episodes)

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## 1.5 Episode 5: Revelation 4-22

(1) Restoration and reversal: Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5

- *Restored humanity will do exactly for what God had created them originally: to rule as His representatives!*

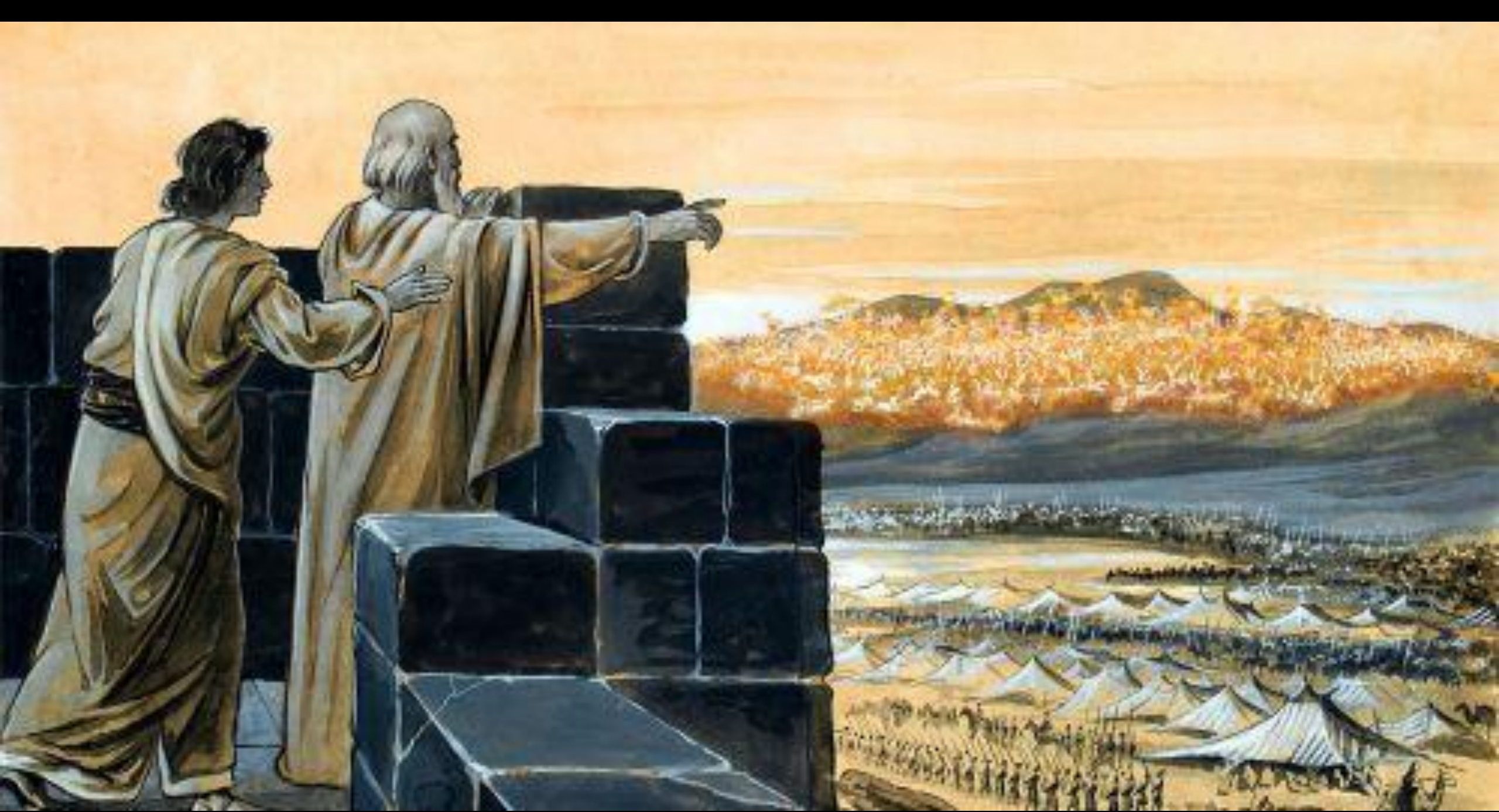
Episode	God's Action	God's Mission	Result
(5) Revelation 4-22	God creates a new heaven and a new earth	Representing God's kingdom / rule	Success is guaranteed!



## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

### 2.1 Introduction: Open Eyes





## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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### 2.1 Introduction: Open Eyes

- “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.” (C.S. Lewis)
- Questions for reflection:

How do we react to people who attribute their problems to spiritual warfare and demonic activity? Do we look for rational explanations? When would we believe such stories?

## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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### 2.1 Introduction: Open Eyes

- Activity of the unseen world in the Bible:
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:18
  - John 13:27
  - Ephesians 6:10-12
    - “...our struggle is against the *rulers*, against the *powers*, against the *world rulers of this darkness*, against the *spiritual forces of evil* in the heavens”



## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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### 2.2 Episode 1: Creation and Rebellion

#### (1) Creation of the Unseen World

- God through Christ created both the visible and the invisible world (Colossians 1:16)
  - Including the unseen powers – “rulers and authorities” – against whom we now fight (cf. Ephesians 6:12)
- God created the unseen world *before* the visible world (Job 38:4-7)

## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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### (2) Old Testament Language of the Unseen World

- “Sons of God” is a common term for angels/ angel-like beings (Job 1:6)
  - Jesus is like God in essence; He is a different kind of being than the “sons of God”; He is their Creator!
- The term “gods” (*elohim*) also refers to supernatural beings (Psalm 82:1)



## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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- “The word [god] refers to *any* inhabitant of the unseen spiritual world. That’s why you’ll find it used of God himself (Gen. 1:1), demons (Deut. 32:17), and the human dead in the afterlife (1 Sam. 28:13). For the Bible, any disembodied being whose home address is the spirit world is an *elohim*.” (Michael Heiser, Supernatural)
- The “sons of God” are to worship *the* God (Psalm 29:1)
- God is the King of all “gods” (Psalm 95:3)
- God alone is worthy of our worship (Psalm 89:5-7)



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### (3) God's Assembly of Angels

- God uses His divine assembly to rule over His creation (1 Kings 22:19-22)
- Why this matters:
  - Like his angels, God wants to use YOU in order to fulfill His purpose in the world!
  - People are God's method!

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### (4) The First Divine Rebellion

- Most likely, Satan rebelled against God *in* the Garden of Eden (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-16)
- Satan was cursed – and the hope of humankind is his destruction (Genesis 3:15)
- Why this matters:
  - Everyone who follows in Satan's footsteps and rebels against God – whether human or angel – belongs to the offspring of the serpent!
  - 1 John 3:10; Ephesians 2:1-3; Revelation 2:10; 1 Timothy 4:1-2

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### (5) Another Divine Rebellion

- More angelic beings join the ranks of the offspring of the serpent (Genesis 6:1-5)
  - Those “sons of God” seem to be angelic beings who rebelled against God (2 Peter 2:4-6; Jude 5-7)
- Why this matters:
  - Spiritual warfare – opposition to God and His plan with humanity – is real, taking on many different shapes!
  - The enemy will stop at nothing to oppose God!

## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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Episode	God's Action	God's Mission	The Enemy's Work
(1) Genesis 1-11	God creates the universe	Representing God's kingdom / rule	Creating human offspring for his opposition to God



## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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### 2.3 Episode 2: Opposition to God's Plan With Israel

#### (1) When the Nephilim Show Up Again

- Giants scare the Israelites from entering the promised land – to such an extent that Israel rebels against God (Numbers 13:32-33)
- Possibly, God had tasked Joshua specifically with the destruction of the Anakim (Joshua 11:21)
- The last giants to oppose God were Goliath (1 Samuel 17) and his four brothers (2 Samuel 21:15-22)

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- Why this matters:
  - Spiritual warfare – opposition to God and His plan with humanity – sometimes shows itself in an attempt to destroy God’s people (Revelation 2:10; 2:13)
  - Every attempt to oppose God’s will is “satanic” (Matthew 16:21-23)

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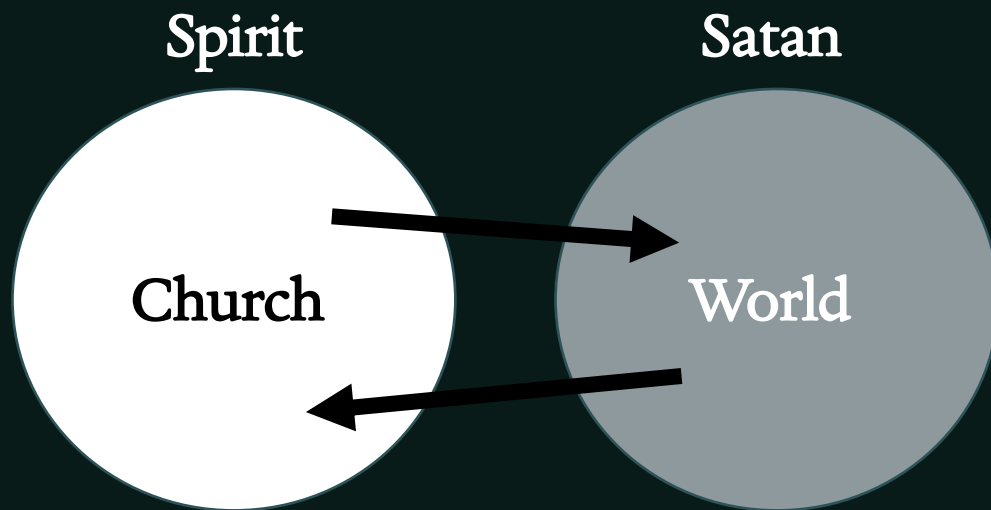
### (2) A Glimpse Into Israel's Worldview

- The background: humanity's rebellion at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)
- God decided to have angelic beings “rule” over those nations, while He takes Israel as his own (Deuteronomy 32:8-9)
  - However, Israel began worshipping “gods” which were not “assigned to them” (Deuteronomy 29:26)
  - Divine beings have “jurisdiction” over nations (Daniel 10:13+21)

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- Why this matters:
  - The Church is holy ground, belonging to God's jurisdiction – while the world around belongs to Satan and his minions (1 Corinthians 5:4-5)



- Every believer is an outpost of God's kingdom in a hostile world!
- When Christ saved us, He transferred us from the kingdom of darkness to His kingdom!
- Every time we act like God's children, He is exalted!

## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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Episode	God's Action	God's Mission	The Enemy's Work
(2) Genesis 12 - Malachi	God creates a nation	Representing God's kingdom / rule	Attempt to destroy Israel physically and spiritually

## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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### 2.4 Episode 3: Opposition to God's Plan With Jesus

#### (1) God's Sneaky Plan

- The dark forces of this world did not understand God's plan for Jesus' death (1 Corinthians 2:7-8)





## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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### 2.4 Episode 3: Opposition to God's Plan With Jesus

#### (1) God's Sneaky Plan

- The dark forces of this world did not understand God's plan for Jesus' death (1 Corinthians 2:7-8)
- At Caesarea Philippi Jesus is "baiting" the forces of evil to kill Him (Matthew 16:13-19)
- In his death, Jesus fought against the powers of evil to liberate humanity (Psalm 22:7+12-14)

## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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- Why this matters:
  - Through His death and resurrection, Jesus defeated the powers of darkness (Colossians 2:13-15)
  - We do not fight *for* victory – we fight *from* victory (Ephesians 1:20-23)

## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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### (2) The Great Reversal

- Jesus sent out 70 (or 72) disciples to spread God's Kingdom, reversing God's curse over the nations (Luke 10:1+17; cf. Deuteronomy 32:8-9)
  - Now Jesus' disciples would fight the evil forces (Luke 10:18-19)
- At Pentecost, God "removed" the confusion of the languages and brought the Gospel to people from all nations of Genesis 10 (Acts 2:1-11)





Rome

Asia

Pontus

Phrygia

Cappadocia

Pamphylia

Crete

Libya/  
Cyrene

Egypt

Arabia

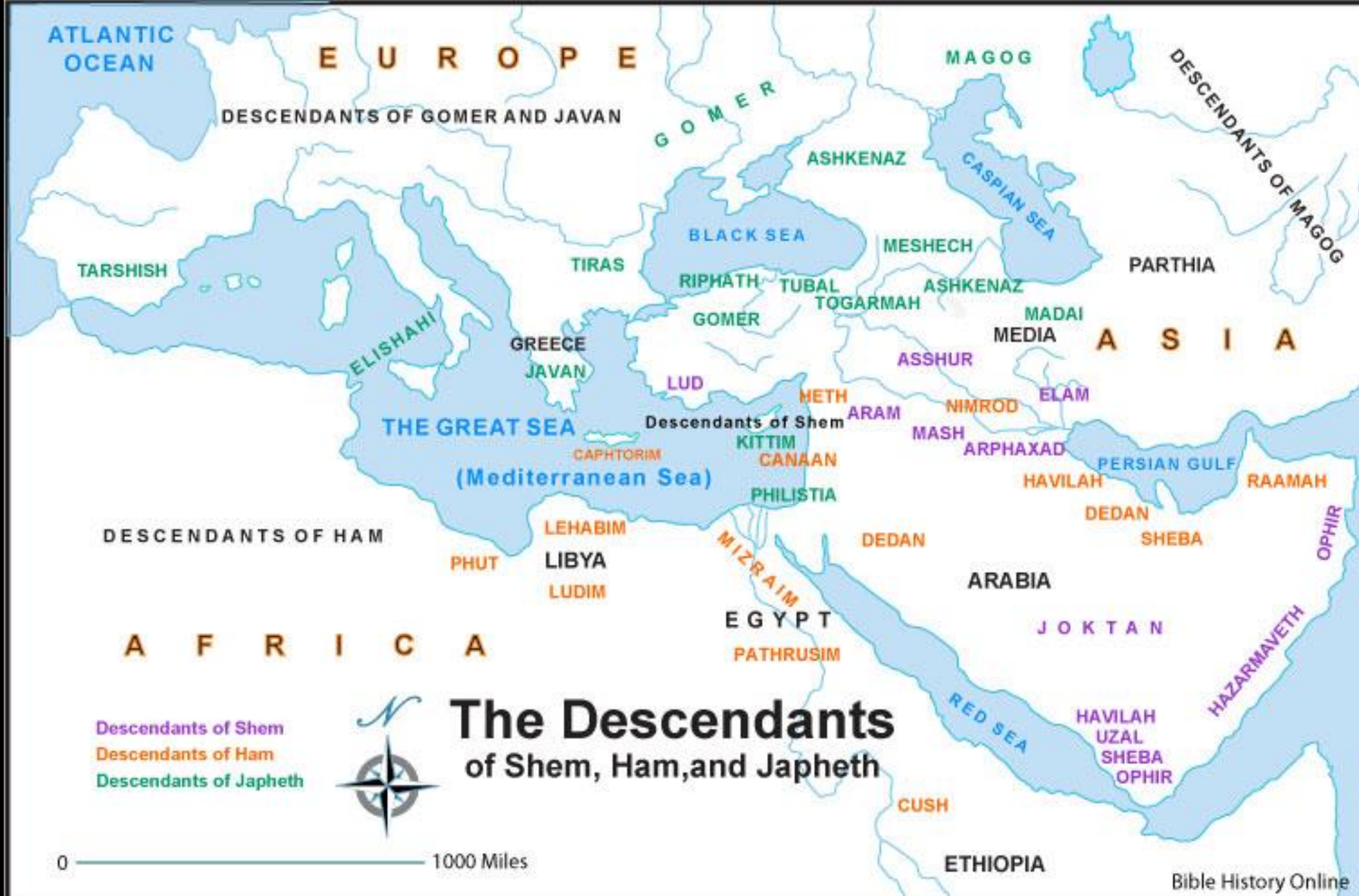
Mesopotamia

Elamites

Parthians

Medes





## 2. The Unseen World Within the Biblical Story

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- Why this matters:
  - Spiritual warfare means spreading the Kingdom of God through the Gospel to all people who are under the influence of supernatural, evil forces

# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## 3.1 Our Enemy Is Formidable

### (1) The Devil's Lethal Intent

- “Satan and his forces have a plan to terrorize your soul, to render you impotent as a believer, to make you worthless to the cause of Christ, and to make your life one of misery and spiritual defeat!” (Chip Ingram)
  - 1 Peter 5:8
  - John 8:44





### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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#### (2) Satan's Names – Revealing His Tactics

- “Satan” = “adversary” (Job 1:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:18) → Satan opposes God’s plans and purpose
- “Devil” = “slanderer” (1 Peter 5:8) → Satan likes to say false things about people
- “Lucifer” = “son of the morning” / “shining one” (Isaiah 14:12) → Satan will come dressed in beauty (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- “The evil one” (1 John 5:19) → Satan will influence anything to corrupt it

### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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- “Prince of this world” (John 12:31) → Satan crafts powerful false systems that are oppose to God
  - Why this matters: We are not home to a “neutral” environment! Almost everything around seeks to oppose us in following after Christ!
- “Tempter” (1 Thessalonians 3:5) → Satan will exploit our good desires



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- Satan's attacks against God's program:
  - Satan takes us captive through false philosophies (Colossians 2:8)
  - Satan is the mastermind behind false religions (1 Corinthians 10:20)
  - Satan is the source of false doctrine (1 John 2:18)
  - Satan influences people into false morals (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12)
  - "According to the Bible, the source of all falsehood, all misguided worldviews, all counterfeit religions and philosophies, and all teachers of any belief other than [...] the Gospel are instigated, inspired, and influenced by the father of lies." (Chip Ingram)

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- Questions for reflection:
  - Where do you see the devil's influence in our society?
  - Do you tend to attribute too much or too little to Satan's influence?  
How can you get a healthy perspective?
  - Where do you see Christians believing satanic half-truths? Are there lies in your life – about your work, your marriage and relationships, your plans for the future – that you personally struggle with?
  - How can your neighbor pray for you current battle? Pray briefly for each other!

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## Exercise

- Make 30 observations in Ephesians 6:10-12
- In a small group, discuss Ephesians 6:13-17. What does it mean to wear God's armor? What does that look like in everyday life? How do we do that?

# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## 3.2 The Basics of Our Struggle: Ephesians 6:10-12

### (1) The General Command: “Be Strong In the Lord”

- The same power that raised Christ from the dead, is available to us and at work in us (Ephesians 1:19)
- To “be strong in the Lord” is a command – not a suggestion!
- The meaning of the command: “Allow yourselves to be continually strengthened in the Lord”

### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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#### (2) The Specific Command: “Put On the Full Armor of God”

- How we are to be strengthened in the Lord: by putting on God’s full armor!
- The attacks (“schemes”) of the enemy are strategic!



### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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(3) The Reason For the Commands: “Our Struggle Is Not Against Flesh and Blood”

- We are involved in an intense “wrestling match”











# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## 3.3 Our (Extra)Ordinary Battle: Putting On the Armor of God

### (1) Understanding the Armor of God

- The armor of God is a picture from the prophet Isaiah, where God as a warrior wears this armor to fight for justice (Isaiah 11:4-5; 59:17)
- The armor of God is a visual tool for how to live out a Spirit-filled relationship with God
- The armor of God is not a checklist – it is a lifestyle!
- The purpose of the armor is to STAND your ground on the evil day!



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# How to Gird Up Your Loins

*The Art of*  
**MANLINESS**  
REV. 8008



1. The tunic wouldn't allow you to do heavy labor or fight in battle, necessitating the "girding" of one's loins.



2. First, hoist the tunic up so that all the fabric is above your knees. This will give you mobility.



3. Gather all the extra material in front of you, so that the back of the tunic is snug against your backside.



4. Once the excess fabric is gathered in front, pull it underneath and between your legs to your rear. This feels much like a diaper.



5. Gather half of the material in each hand, bringing it back around to the front.



6. Finally, tie your two handfuls of material together, and you're all set for both battle and some hard labor. Go forth, be ye men, and gird up your loins!

# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## (2) The Belt of Truth

- Our invisible battle began with a lie! (Genesis 3:4-5)
- How are we tempted to react when God convicts us?
  - Hiding, denial, and blame-shifting (Genesis 3:8+12)
- What does it mean to put on the belt of truth?
  - We must continually come before God to let him search out hearts! (Psalm 32:3-5; 139:23-24)

### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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- Questions for reflection:
  - Where do we as a church act and think like our society today?
  - What lies have you already fallen for? How have you recognized them to be lies?
  - How can you *specifically* practice the “belt of truth” as a lifestyle?





# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## (3) The Breastplate of Righteousness

- “Righteousness” (in this context) means uprightness, right living, integrity in one’s lifestyle and character (cf. Isaiah 59:17-18)
- An urgent warning: “Do not give a foothold to the devil” (Ephesians 4:27)
- Malfunctions of the breastplate of righteousness:
  - Example 1: King Saul (1 Samuel 13:1-15; 15:1-33)
    - Consequence: Saul becomes jealous, angry, and plagued by an evil spirit

### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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- Example 2: Apostle Peter (Matthew 16:13-23)
  - Consequence: Peter tempts Jesus the same way the devil had tempted Jesus!

### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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- So what? Let's put things into practice:
  - Is there anything God has shown you to do that you are currently not doing? Or is there anything He has shown you not to do that you are currently doing?
  - Where is your malfunction of the breastplate of righteousness?
  - Be specific: Write down a couple of steps of action how to tackle this issue!





### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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#### (4) Feet Fitted With Readiness of the Gospel

- “Preparedness”
  - (i) Knowing the Gospel inside and out
  - (ii) Readiness to share the Gospel
- “Wear on your feet what will prepare you to tell the good news of peace” (NIRV)

# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## (5) When the Enemy Attacks

- Spiritual growth
- Invading enemy territory
- Exposing the enemy
- Breaking with the world
- Preparation for future tasks







### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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#### (6) The Shield of Faith

- Two flaming arrows – and how to defend against them with the shield of faith:
  - (i) Hateful thoughts
    - Solution: forgiving others as Christ forgave us (Ephesians 4:32)
  - (ii) Doubts
    - Solution: trusting God's good character (Romans 8:32)

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#### (7) The Helmet of Salvation

- The difference between legitimate “questions” and deceitful doubts about my salvation:
  - If those questions lead to despair, they are most likely not from God (2 Corinthians 7:10)

# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## (8) The Sword of the Spirit

- What is the sword of the Spirit – the *rhema* (“word”) of God?
  - A targeted use from the arsenal of Scripture; the specific application of God’s truth to a situation
- God’s Spirit and His Word are inseparable (cf. Ephesians 5:18ff.; Colossians 3:16ff.)

# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## 3.4 The Greatest Weapon of All

### (1) Prayerless Spiritual Warfare Is a Lost Battle

- Prayer – an expression of faith – is the key to spiritual warfare (Mark 9:29; cf. Matthew 17:20)
- (Intercessory) prayer is the key to remain in the faith (Luke 22:31-32)
- Prayer is the key for God to empower the church for her mission (cf. Acts 1:14; 2:42; 3:1; 4:24-31)

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## (2) Powerful Prayer In Our Unseen Battle

- Consistent Prayer
  - We need regular times of prayer (cf. Psalm 55:17)
  - We need spontaneous prayer throughout the day
  - We need different types of prayer: ACTS (Adoration – Confession – Thanksgiving – Supplication)
- Intense Prayer

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- “People who ski, I suppose, are people who happen to like skiing, who have time for skiing, who can afford to ski, and who are good at skiing. Recently I found that I often treat prayer as though it were a sport like skiing – something you do in your spare time, something you do if you can afford the trouble, something you do if you’re good at it.”  
(Elisabeth Elliot)



### 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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- Strategic Prayer
  - We must make God's program our prayer request! (Ephesians 6:19; Acts 4:29-30)
- “The great people of the earth today are people who pray. I do not mean people who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important. Very important, and pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer.”

# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## 3.5 Code Red: Demonization

### (1) What Does the Bible Say?

- ¼ of Jesus' ministry had to do with deliverance from demonic powers (Mark 1:38-39)
- Deliverance was a common practice among the Apostles (Luke 10:19; Acts 8:9-13+18-24; 16:16-18)

# 3. The Unseen Battle Within Our Story

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## (2) The Causes of Demonic Influence

- There are degrees of demonic influence:

Opposition → Influence → Oppression → Obsession → Control → Possession → Death

- Can a believer be possessed by a demon?
  - NT-language: “having an unclean spirit” (cf. Mark 5:2); “having a demon” (cf. Luke 8:27); “demonized” (cf. Matthew 4:24)

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- A believer cannot be “possessed” by a demon (Acts 20:28; Romans 8,9-11; Ephesians 1:18; Colossians 1:13; 1:27; 1 John 5:18)
- Yet, believers can be demonized in the sense that they are plagued by a demon or subject to demonic influences
- What can lead to demonic influence?
  - Active Seeking (Deuteronomy 18:9-11)
  - Sin (John 8:34+41-44)
  - Unresolved anger and bitterness (Ephesians 4:26-27; 1 John 3:12)

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## (3) Biblical Steps to Finding Deliverance

1. Begin with Christ's victory (Colossians 2:15)
2. Accept Christ as Savior (John 1:12)
3. Repent of known sin (1 John 1:9)
4. Destroy occult objects (Acts 19:17-20)
5. Break unholy friendships (2 Corinthians 6:14-16)
6. Resist the devil (James 4:1-10)



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- 7. Renew your mind (Ephesians 6:17)
- 8. Pray with others (James 5:16-17)
- 9. If necessary, exorcise (Acts 16:16-18)