

Spiritual wickedness in high places

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.(EPH 6:12) A principality is the territory of a prince. Principalities are ruling devil spirits possessing executive authority rule in the world. There are evil angels ruling the kingdoms of the world that oppose the truth of God, of which Satan is the chief prince or ruler of the world system. In Mat. 12:24, the devil is called "Beelzebub" meaning "the prince of demons" in which wicked spirits are subject to and operate under Satan's dominion. The idea of prince devil spirits ruling or controlling a region is supported in Daniel 10:12-13;20-21. An angel, who was sent by God to answer Daniel's prayer, was delayed for 21 days because of a battle that took place between God's angel Michael and "a prince of the kingdom of Persia." and "the prince of Greece." They are rulers of the darkness of this world. This is the kingdom of darkness that is the whole realm of satanic rule. It is Satan's purpose to deceive these nations and to keep them from obtaining a knowledge of God's truth and salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. Satan is depicted as a deceiver of nations.(REV12:9) Satan's success, in deceiving a nation, is due to a lack of discernment on the part of the people. The people are blind to the invisible forces of supernatural evil that are operating and influencing their visible human agents of political, social, religious and cultural programs. Satan's greatest victory would be to convince the world that he just doesn't exist. However, God signifies the devil as the author of sin, sickness and death and warns us to be alert and vigilant.(1PE5:8)

Our Spiritual Warfare is Against "Powers and world rulers of Darkness" Rulers to indicate top level of evil spiritual forces. Authorities refer to general forces of evil attacking believers. Powers to refer to the worldwide nature of this spiritual battle. Or powers to do something or delegated influences of control. This would include all evil powers and the power of sin and evil in operation in the world. This type of evil can be seen in drug lobbies, epidemics, terrorism, pornography and crimes. Darkness means blindness, ignorance that leads to unrighteousness and ungodliness. Rulers of the darkness of this world are lords and princes that control ignorance, blindness and ungodliness over regions as the abominations of the nations.(JOH3:19)

Our Spiritual Warfare is Against "Spiritual Wickedness in Heavenly Places" The word wickedness means depravity and particularly in the sense of malice and mischief, plots, sins, and iniquity. Since Satan is the prince of the power of the air, these wicked spirits, in high places, are often understood to be the collective organization of all of Satan's devil spirits. These malevolent spirits work evil and mischief and operate in our atmosphere. All kinds of spiritual filth are propagated, in these realms, for the purpose of humanity's deception and subsequent destruction. Prior to becoming a Christian we too walked according to the prince of the power of the air.(EPH2:2-3) As Christians we are delivered from the power of the prince of the air, and from the sinful nature that once ruled our path in life. When we received Holy Spirit, at the moment of our conversion to Christ, we were translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of God's light, in which we now have God in Christ in us. We are continually delivered and empowered by God as we walk according to His Word and Spirit that He has given us. As we do this, we take our seat in the heavenlies with Christ,(EPH2:5-7) Jesus is also called the Prince of Peace and of Life.(ISA9:6) Whose kingdom plays no part in this present world system of darkness. "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight,"(JOH18:36) Gods' provision of escape from Satan's kingdom of darkness through faith in Christ, the mystery of salvation is revealed to us.(1Co 2:7-10)

"Spiritual wickedness in heavenly places" emphasizes a battle beyond this world. It is referring to wicked spirits who have infiltrated the religious systems of the world. They have even crept into congregations of the righteous. Satan has organized his evil forces to imitate the true church of God. He has set up a form of worship in the spiritual high places. Satan has also prompted the organization of many cults. Cults are those who are part of the occult, those who hide and conceal evil behind the cloak of religion.(Jude 4)Satan aims for total adherence of man. He uses cults and infiltration into the Body of Christ to accomplish this purpose. From earliest times men have chosen high places for worship. These high places became scenes of evil orgies and human sacrifice connected with the worship of false gods and idols. God told Israel when they entered the Promised Land to drive out all the inhabitants of the land and destroy their high places:(NUM52)In the book of Judges, Israel's failure to drive the people out of the land. As a result, they fell into idolatrous worship in the high places. After the period of the judges, some kings of Israel destroyed the high places. King Manasseh was one who rebuilt the high places. After he had been punished and repented for this sin, he was restored to his throne and resumed worship of the true God. *People continued to offer sacrifices at the high places, but only to the LORD their God.*(2CH33) When Gideon was called of God to be a mighty warrior, the Lord told him to destroy the altar and cut down the wooden image. Then Gideon was to build an altar to God. A burnt offering could be made only after the high places were torn down. It was then that deliverance came! *"The Lord is with you, Mighty Warrior."* God still calls today for the evil in high places to be torn down by warriors of God.

The devil controls the kingdoms of the world and we should not underestimate his influence and power, God is telling us to stand against these evil forces by equipping ourselves with the power of God, and looking unto Christ as our example. *And the devil, taking him(Jesus) up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world.*(LUK4:5-7) Jesus resists each temptation with a quote from Scripture, refusing to rebel against the plans of God the Father. Finally, Jesus refuses to worship the devil in exchange for the kingdoms of the earth. He tells the devil to leave and holy angels come minister to Him. Christians anticipate the rapture but also Christ's earthly kingdom. When He rules the world, there will be no more crime, warfare, corruption, poverty, injustice. *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign for ever and ever*(REV11:15)