

Understanding our Enemy in the Last of the Last-Days!---Part 1.

LESSON TEXT: Ephesians 6:10-13 NLT.

“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.”

The Passion Translation:

“Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the Lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force of his explosive power flowing in and through you. Put on God’s complete set of armor provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser! Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage. Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you’re protected as you confront the slanderer, for you are destined for all things and will rise victorious.”

I. LESSON POINT #1--- Who Are These Spirits Paul Is Talking About in Our Text?

- a. Paul categorizes the demonic spirits that, as Followers of Jesus, we must battle in this life! a ***hierarchical*** and ***territorial*** categorization of demonic spirits that we battle as Followers of Jesus!

- i. EVIL RULERS:
- ii. AUTHORITIES:
- iii. MIGHTY POWERS:
- iv. EVIL SPIRITS:

This is a ***HIERARCHICAL*** and ***STRUCTURAL*** demonic spirits of darkness that function in this world in which ALL Followers of Jesus must do Spiritual Warfare against!

<u>IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>GREEK WORD</u>	<u>GREEK DESCRIPTION</u>
Evil Rulers	<i>archas</i>	Chief rulers; beings of the first rank and order in their kingdom of darkness. these are the leading and ruling fallen angels that have been with satan since the beginning of his rebellion. and seem to be first both in rebellion and authority inside of Satan's fallen angelic hierarchy. They are Satan's top rulers, the top officers, the highest and most powerful angels under his command. They are the equivalent of the "archangels" in God's elect angel organization, so they are the counterfeit "archangels" of Satan's system. They assist Satan in his rulership of the entire world, but are not assigned to any one country or territory; rather they lead the rest of the demonic angelic forces.
Authorities	<i>exousias</i>	Authorities, right, power. Therefore, EXOUSIA is an authority to rule over a nation, one bearing such authority, and the sphere controlled by this authority. As such, these are Satan's ruling angels over the nations; fallen angels who have the right to rule nations from the spiritual realm. They are the "authorities" in the demonic realm of Satan in the lower atmosphere who constitute his kingdom in the air as Kings, Presidents, heads of state, etc., who have been given authority to exercise rulership over a nation. In this case, the authority has been delegated by Satan and his leading ARCHE.
Mighty Powers	<i>kosmokratoras</i>	It is made up of the words KOSMOS that means, "world," and KRATEO that means, "to take hold of (forcefully), get possession of, obtain, to take into one's possession, etc." The context in our passage confirms that Paul is not speaking about physical / human world rulers or powers, but of supernatural, spiritual forces which are opposed to the Church and to the redemptive work of God on earth. Therefore, we see this group as those below the EXOUSIA, below the demonic spiritual kings over nations and are more like governors of states or cities, lords of territories, or lower ranking military officers that personally lead troops into battle.
Evil Spirits (<i>spiritual forces of wickedness</i>)	<i>Pneumatikos ponērias</i>	Wickedness, depravity, sexual sins, sinfulness, evil nature, malice, etc. PONERIA is used for wickedness or willful ungodly action. It is the "intentionally practiced evil will." Used as a "catch all" phrase to identify the rest of Satan's demonic forces, the "rank and file" that he uses to deceive the world.

- a. Some ministries involved in global ministry will encounter and battle demonic forces on the “**authorities**” level.
- b. However, most Followers of Jesus, engaged in spiritual warfare, will battle demonic forces on the lower 2-levels (**the “mighty powers” and the spiritual forces of wickedness →evil spirits**).
 - a. The spiritual warfare that we have been most used to up until now, and that which we have fought, has been:
 - i. **Within the Church...**
 1. False Teachings
 2. Religiosity
 3. Dead formalism
 4. Church isolationism from the world
 5. Abandonment of gathering together
 6. Division between Brothers/Sisters
 7. Willful overlooking of sins and sinfulness
 8. Cultural Division → Racial, socio-economically, gender, and denominationally.
 - ii. **Within our communities...**
 1. Evil legislation such as abortion and Homosexual marriage
 2. Socialistic Leaders who are in opposition to Christians
 3. Unfair treatment of churches, seeking to silence them and close them → Politically and through Social Media
 4. Anti-God agendas within our schools that children are exposed to and indoctrinated in Transgenderism and Gender reassignment.
 5. Witchcraft, occult
 6. Magnified expressions of addictions, violence, crime, and sexual perversions and exploitation

iii. Within our Families...

1. Assault on the Traditional Family that God created of 1-biological Man and 1-biological Woman.
2. Divorces at record highs, and mirrored in the Church
3. Relationship baggage manifesting in the home because of unforgiveness, unhealed hurt, and past pains unresolved and carried into marriage, which create anger and unfair expectations of our spouses!
4. Generational sins passed onto Children, unless forgiveness is received; and given; and emotional/relational healing takes place!
 - a. **REMEMBER:** *“As the Family goes; so goes the Church; so goes the community; so goes the nation!”*

c. HOWEVER, in addition,there has also been reserved by the enemy, until these times; demonic spirits that are NOW being released upon the earth!

- v. Every warfare strategist keeps “**SURPRISE**” elements for the most intense heat of the WAR!

II. **LESSON POINT #2---Demonic Spirits Reserved and Now Released For This Time!**

- a. There are demonic spirits whose sole purpose has been to be “**ON-DECK**” in this cosmic spiritual war, until the LAST OF THE LAST-DAYS!
 - i. And they have **NOW** been released!
 - ii. Pastor, how do you know this?.....**2-ways:**
 1. **First**, the MANIFESTATION of their activities!
 2. **Second**, the **RHEMA** word of God through the Holy Spirit speaking to the Lord’s Body, and coinciding with the **LOGOS** Word of God!
 - a. **LOGOS** is the Written Word of God, the Bible!
 - b. **RHEMA** is the personally spoken Word of the Lord to us personally and in specific and personal situations, and might come as we are reading the Written Word of God!
 - i. The Rhema will **NEVER** contradict the **LOGOS**!

- b. Let's take a moment and identify SOME of the Last of the Last-Days demonic spirits that have **NOW** been released: (**Please NOTE.....this list does NOT mean that there will not be more!**):

i. THE ANTICHRIST SPIRIT!

1. The spirit of Antichrist manifests itself in violence, murder, and lawlessness within the community!
2. It strives to take the FOCUS off of Jesus and the Kingdom of God, and put it upon what is going on around us!
3. The name CHRIST, which is given to Jesus, means: "The ANOINTED ONE!"
 - a. Hence, "ANTICHRIST" = "ANTI-ANOINTING!"
 - b. It is purely "HUMANISTIC" in nature; with an emphasis upon the elevation of HUMANITY to the place reserved exclusively for JESUS!
 - i. It makes HUMANS their own gods!.....And the HIGHEST expression of that is the manifestation of the ANTICHRIST SPIRIT,.....Hence the term in Revelation of 666!
 - ii. 666 is then the HIGHEST expression of HUMANISM and the ANTICHRIST SPIRIT!
4. The ANTICHRIST SPIRIT manifests itself in.....Violence, murder, lawlessness, false worship, humanism, and the persecution of the True Church!
 - a. That's why the Apostle Paul refers to the "ANTICHRIST" as the MAN OF LAWLESSNESS!

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

"Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. ⁴ He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God."

ii. **THE DEMONIC SPIRIT OF JEZEBEL!**

1. What is the spirit of Jezebel?

- a. It is the spirit of CONTROL, manipulation, intimidation, and fear!
- b. This spirit tries to silence the Church and especially its PREACHERS by making them fearful (intimidate) to preach against the evil in our land and call sin,.....**SIN!**
 - i. This spirit whispers to Preachers, especially Pastors, that if you SAY THIS or DECLARE THAT, you will lose people and lose finances!
 - ii. This spirit cause **PREACHERS** to become **WEAK AND FEARFUL!**

ILLUSTRATION:

In her book, "Jezebel's Puppets" Jennifer LeClaire describes Jezebel as: "A wicked spirit that has roamed the earth for thousands of years seeking someone to entice into sin, Jezebel is more than a spirit of control and manipulation that many make it out to be. Jezebel is a spirit of seduction that works to woo people into immorality and idolatry...." Jezebel seduces your will through the lusts of the flesh to carry out her plan to kill, steal, and destroy.

iii. **THE DEMONIC SPIRIT OF RACIAL DIVISION!**

1. This spirit brings about unnatural Racial tension and division, that in and of itself, would not exist!
 - a. Have you not noticed that the division in this country among SOME concerning RACISM, has taken on an UNNATURAL element?
2. YOU HAD BETTER UNDERSTAND THAT AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS,.....**ALL LIFE MATTERS!**
 - a. But get beyond the OBVIOUS ATROCITY OF MURDER, and ask yourself the question: "**WHAT'S BEHIND THESE THINGS?.....WHAT'S MOTIVATING THIS EVIL?**"

Understanding our Enemy in the Last of the Last-Days!---Part 2

- iv. **UNDERSTAND THIS**.....Our Culture of VIOLENCE and MURDER is a manifestation of demonic spirits that have been released upon the world, in these Last of the Last-Days!
 1. Jesus is the **ONLY** one who can confront this, and overcome this,.....And He has ARMED and COMMISSIONED the Body of Christ to confront this!
- v. **THE DEMONIC SPIRIT OF PESTILENCE!**
 1. Pestilence is **DISEASE** which can lead to **FAMINE!**
 - a. This one is pretty self-explanatory as we live in 2020, 2021, and 2022!
- vi. **THE DEMONIC SPIRIT OF RELIGION!**
 1. ***OR***,**Spirituality!**---An unnatural and unusual interest in the occult!
 - a. I downloaded the App for Travel GO from the Travel Channel, and almost every show on there was occultic in nature!
- vii. **THE DEMONIC SPIRIT OF POLITICS!**
 1. Nothing wrong with politics, and Christians SHOULD be INFORMED and involved in politics!
 2. However, you KNOW a demonic spirit has been released when you see.....
 - a. **First**, when Politics are weaponized to destroy those who disagree with them!
 - b. **Second**, when People are MORE DEEPLY OFFENDED about political issues than issues about THE BIBLE and their CHRISTIAN FAITH!
 - i. Or, Creation instead of the Creator!
 - ii. You can disagree with them about how SANCTIFICATION happens in our lives, BUT if you disagree with their political position,.....THEY WILL TURN THEIR BACK ON YOU AND EVEN ABANDON YOU!

1. That my Brothers and Sisters is a spirit of Politics being manifested!
2. And **THIS IS HAPPENING NOW IN AMERICA!**

1. And since the Supreme Courts overturning of Roe Vs. Wade which legalized abortion in the U.S. there has been an UNGODLY demonic outcry about it!
2. **Understand the following.....**



→ You CANNOT legislate morality!
 → BUT, you can hold off demonic interference and influence within our Country through legislation!

→ This then gives the CHURCH the opportunity to INFLUENCE society through the Proclamation and Demonstration of the Gospel of Jesus!



3. ***Also***, baal worship always included perverse sexuality!
 - c. This is **WHY** we have been seeing **SO MUCH** of Children and Women Human Sex trafficking!
 - d. LGBTQ+ → Baal worship includes perverse sexuality, including multiple sex partners and homosexuality/lesbianism.

viii. THE DEMONIC SPIRIT OF MOLECH, BAAL, AND ASHTORETH WORSHIP!

1. Baal worship includes the SACRIFICING of our Children!
2. Understand THIS.....**THE DEVIL ALWAYS GOES AFTER THE GODLY SEED!**
 - a. Just like with Moses!
 - b. Just like with Jesus!

3. Abortion IS THE WORSHIP OF MOLECH and BAAL!
 - a. And Americans are GUILTY of worshipping the ancient demons of Molech and Baal!
 - b. Since 1973 when abortion was legalized in the United States, we have offered up to Baal over 63 million babies!
 - i. Over 10 times the number of Jews that were killed during the Nazi regime!
4. And that's WHY it is SO protected by demons through some of our politicians!

Understanding who these Politically “protected” demon-gods are.....

Baal

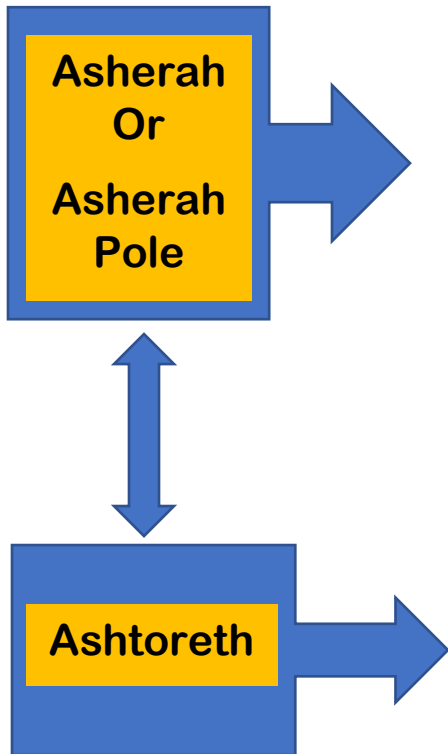


Baal was the name of the supreme god worshiped in ancient Canaan and Phoenicia. The practice of Baal worship infiltrated Jewish religious life during the time of the Judges (Judges 3:7), became widespread in Israel during the reign of Ahab (1 Kings 16:31-33) and also affected Judah (2 Chronicles 28:1-2). The word *baal* means “lord”; the plural is *baalim*. According to Canaanite mythology, Baal was the son of El, the chief god, and Asherah, the goddess of the sea. Baal was considered the most powerful of all gods. The Canaanites worshiped Baal as the sun god and as the storm god—he is usually depicted holding a lightning bolt—who defeated enemies and produced crops. They also worshiped him as a fertility god who provided children. Baal worship was rooted in sensuality and involved ritualistic prostitution in the temples, both male and female. At times, appeasing Baal required human sacrifice, usually the firstborn of the one making the sacrifice (Jeremiah 19:5). The priests of Baal appealed to their god in rites of wild abandon which included loud, ecstatic cries and self-inflicted injury (1 Kings 18:28).

Molech



The Phoenicians were a loosely gathered group of people who inhabited Canaan (modern-day Lebanon, Syria, and Israel) between 1550 BC and 300 BC. In addition to sexual rituals, Moloch worship included child sacrifice, or “passing children through the fire.” It is believed that idols of Moloch were giant metal statues of a man with a bull’s head. Each image had a hole in the abdomen and possibly outstretched forearms that made a kind of ramp to the hole. A fire was lit in or around the statue. Babies were placed in the statue’s arms or in the hole. When a couple sacrificed their firstborn, they believed that Moloch would ensure financial prosperity for the family and future children.

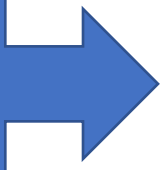


According to Canaanite myth, this mother goddess created several gods in the Canaanite pantheon with the other creator god, El. The Canaanites often worshipped her via trees (Asherah poles) because of her association with the tree of life. She gives life to 70 other gods in the Canaanite pantheon. She's most famously the mother of Baal, another god who shows up throughout the Old Testament when the Israelites stray after other idols. She also has ties to fertility, hence 70 gods emerging from her union with El. An Asherah pole, like the ones found here, often represented trees associated with this mother goddess, but some archeologists believe they used living trees for these objects of religion. In their mythology, the Canaanites (or Israelites of a certain Canaanite cult) sometimes paired Asherah with Yahweh, as though she was Yahweh's wife. Especially since El and Elohim have similar roots in name, it is suggested that maybe the Israelites formed a separate religion from a Canaanite one.


Asherah, or Ashtoreth, was the name of the chief female deity worshiped in ancient Syria, Phoenicia, and Canaan. The Phoenicians called her Astarte, the Assyrians worshiped her as Ishtar, and the Philistines had a temple of Asherah (1 Samuel 31:10). Because of Israel's incomplete conquest of the land of Canaan, Asherah-worship survived and plagued Israel, starting as soon as Joshua was dead (Judges 2:13). Asherah was represented by a limbless tree trunk planted in the ground. The trunk was usually carved into a symbolic representation of the goddess. Because of the association with carved trees, the places of Asherah worship were commonly called "groves," and the Hebrew word "asherah" (plural, "asherim") could refer either to the goddess or to a grove of trees. One of King Manasseh's evil deeds was that he "took the carved Asherah pole he had made and put it in the temple" (2 Kings 21:7). Another translation of "carved Asherah pole" is "graven image of the grove" (KJV). Considered the moon-goddess, Asherah was often presented as a consort of Baal, the sun-god (Judges 3:7, 6:28, 10:6; 1 Samuel 7:4, 12:10). Asherah was also worshiped as the goddess of love and war and was sometimes linked with Anath, another Canaanite goddess. Worship of Asherah was noted for its sensuality and involved ritual prostitution. The priests and priestesses of Asherah also practiced divination and fortune-telling.

The Lord God, through Moses, forbade the worship of Asherah. The Law specified that a grove of trees was not to be near the altar of the Lord (Deuteronomy 16:21). Despite God's clear instructions, Asherah-worship was a perennial problem in Israel. As Solomon slipped into idolatry, one of the pagan deities he brought into the kingdom was Asherah, called "the goddess of the Sidonians" (1 Kings 11:5, 33). Later, Jezebel made Asherah-worship even more prevalent, with 400 prophets of Asherah on the royal payroll (1 Kings 18:19). At times, Israel experienced revival, and notable crusades against Asherah-worship were led by Gideon (Judges 6:25-30), King Asa (1 Kings 15:13), and King Josiah (2 Kings 23:1-7).

Jezebel and the Spirit of Jezebel



This was a Queen in Israel, who was married to Ahab. Queen Jezebel also worshiped Asherah and supported 400 Asherah prophets (1 Kings 18:19). “Jezebel” is a name synonymous with evil. Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, a priest of the cruel, sensuous, false god Baal. Ethbaal, the priest-king of Tyre who murdered his own brother to take over the throne, was hardly a good father figure. But Jezebel followed in her father’s footsteps and was herself a power-hungry murderess who stopped at nothing to get what she wanted. The king of Israel at the time was Ahab, a weak, self-pitying man who abdicated his authority to his bride, the princess Jezebel. In spite of God’s laws forbidding idolatry and the worship of any god but the Lord, Ahab married this princess who brought to Israel with her hundreds of priests of lewd Baal worship, a cult that tended to destroy manhood and drag womanhood into shame. As with all who defy the Lord, Jezebel’s end was not a pretty one, although it was more gruesome than most, perhaps as an object lesson to all who set themselves up against the one true God. Her doom was sure, having been prophesied by Elijah in 1 Kings 21:23. Even as she saw her death approaching, she remained defiant to the end, painting her face and adorning herself in queenly garments. She looked out the window and shouted her defiance to Jehu, the next king of Israel who came to take his throne (2 Kings 9:30-37). Jehu commanded her to be thrown out the window to her death, where she was trampled by the horses’ hooves and almost entirely consumed by dogs.



Without question, the nastiest, evil, most disgusting, cunning, and seductive spirit in Satan’s hierarchy has to be what many call the Jezebel spirit. While Jezebel was a real person (see above) the demonic spirit within her can manifest within people even today. We know that even Jesus referenced this spirit long after the “real person” was dead in Revelation 2:20-23, where the Lord is speaking to the Church at Thyatira: *“But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality. “Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve.”*

Simply put, a Jezebel spirit is one of Satan’s higher-ranking, more intelligent demons if not the smartest kind of demon he has in his kingdom. And with it being much more intelligent than many of the other lower-ranking demons will be, this makes this type of spirit much more evil, cunning, and harder to deal with once it moves in and attaches to a person. And with this kind of evil spirit being much more cunning, intelligent, and evil than some of the other lower-ranking demons will be, it will cause a lot more trouble and destruction if it is not quickly dealt with and cast out.

MANIFESTATIONS OF A JEZEBEL SPIRIT!

- 1) This demonic spirit can operate within both Men and Women.
- 2) This demonic spirit can manifest as a spirit of Control, Manipulation, & Domination (*This is a Form of Witchcraft*).
- 3) This demonic spirit causes people to flee from the church, It Causes Fear, Flight, Discouragement, and shame←Intimidation.
- 4) This demonic spirit Seduces and Provokes Sexual Immorality →Pornography→which though forgiveness is easy, it hinders the “free-flow” of the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit.
- 5) This demonic spirit Teaches False Doctrine →Jesus said this would manifest in the Last-Days in Matthew 24.
- 6) People who have this demonic spirit Love Leadership Positions.
- 7) This demonic spirit thrives Where Leadership is Weak →Reason why Lead Pastors are under attack→They MUST be sidelined for this spirit to succeed.
- 8) This demonic spirit is not repentant! People who have this demonic spirit will NOT repent, even when their sin is pointed out→They will blame everyone else and everything else→They often use the excuse when confronted...“The Lord is finished with me here and He is moving me on!” →This is a non-repentant manifestation of this spirit.