



EPHESIANS



Lesson 7: Chapter 6 (6:10-24)

Our Desperate Warfare

The Bible makes it clear that we are currently engaged in a spiritual warfare. Did you realize that? Many Christians aren't aware and are sitting ducks. Are you equipped and prepared?

Finale Lesson Outline

- The Armor of God: Eph 6:10-18
 - Our Predicament
 - Strategic Assessment
 - Paul's Armament List
 - Girded with Truth
 - Breastplate of Righteousness
 - Preparation of the Gospel
 - The Shield of Faith
 - The Helmet of Salvation
 - The Sword of the Spirit
 - The Heavy Artillery
- Paul's closing comments Eph 6:19-24



"Reality" Reexamined

The underlying reality that ALL Christians need to grip is this:



*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. Ephesians 6:12*

Let's understand what this verse is really talking about. In the Greek, the Scripture tells us that we are fighting against ranks of (fallen) angels and demons. Yet, many, if not most, Christians deny this reality.

Background: Daniel Chapter 10 — A Glimpse of the Dark Side

Quantum non-locality is the idea that two tiny particles can be connected in such a deep way that whatever happens to one instantly affects the other — even if they are on opposite sides of the universe. It's like having two magic coins: flip one in your house, and the other one changes at the same time in another country, with no signal traveling between them. Scientists don't fully understand how this works, but they know it happens, and it shows that reality is more than what we can see or touch. Simply, this helps us imagine that unseen realms — like the spiritual world Daniel describes — can be real even if they don't operate by the rules of our everyday experience.

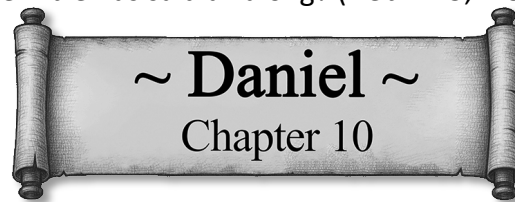
Quantum physics opens the door to what Scripture has taught us all along, when it speaks of angels, demons, spiritual warfare, and unseen battles; it is not allegory or fantasy.

One of the founders of quantum physics, Wolfgang Pauli, fell into deep philosophical despair because quantum theory showed that reality is not as simple or mechanical as people believed. It hinted at unseen layers of existence, connections that defy space and time, and a universe where observation affects reality. Pauli worried that science had stumbled into a realm that looked more spiritual than physical — a reminder that the unseen world the Bible describes is not as far-fetched as people think.



Pauli

Our three-dimensional reality is just a “*shadow of a larger reality*” (Scientific American, June 2005, p.57-63). Isn’t that what the Bible has said all along? (Heb 11:3; 1 Cor 15:44-49)



*In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. **Daniel 10:1,2***



These two verses introduce us to the beginning of Daniel’s 3rd vision.

This vision is in the third year of Cyrus. So, this is Daniel’s third year out of public life or retirement. Cyrus made a decree for the Israeli exiles to return home from Babylon and rebuild the temple two years earlier. Daniel is still in Persia because scholars believe he was over 80 years old. In this passage, Daniel is fasting and praying for three full weeks (21 days).



*I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel, **Daniel 10:3,4***

The river Hiddekel is believed to be the Tigris River.



*Then **I lifted up mine eyes**, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. **Daniel 10:5,6***

“*I lifted up mine eyes*,” is a phrase that we see throughout the Bible as a preamble to emphasis, i.e., drawing attention to something that was about to happen. The description here is not normal human imagery, inferring an Angel. This angel was a military messenger with formidable capabilities.



*And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. **Daniel 10:7,8***



*Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. **Daniel 10:9,10***



*And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. **Daniel 10:11,12***



But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. **Daniel 10:13,14**

Notice it says, “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days.” The angel is talking about the spiritual power behind the nation of Persia, not an actual mortal prince.

The last three chapters of Daniel are the final vision that Daniel receives. Chapter 10 (here) is the preamble where the Angelic messenger shows up and explains his delay. Chapters 11 & 12 are the actual substance of the visitation that Daniel receives from the angel. Obviously, Satan did not want this angel to give Daniel the vision, so this supernatural (demonic) prince, one of Satan’s emissaries, was trying to prevent this important message from getting to Daniel. Michael, one of the Archangels, was dispatched to help this angel reach Daniel. Note: There are three archangels mentioned in scripture: Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer.



Michael is mentioned in Eph 6:11, Dan 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev 12:7. Michael fights Satan himself (Jude 9).

Archangel Michael



*And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. **Daniel 10:15,16***



*For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, **Daniel 10:17,18***



*And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me. **Daniel 10:19***



*Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince. **Daniel 10:20,21***

Synopsis: Daniel fasts for 21 days, and an angelic messenger is sent to him, but is blocked the entire time by a fallen angel called “the Prince of the Kingdom of Persia.” The standoff continues until Michael, the Chief Prince, comes to help. After giving Daniel the vision in chapters 11 and 12, the angel must return to the battle with the Prince of Persia and later confront “the Prince of Greece.” Remarkably, in our timeline, the Greek empire would not replace the Persian empire for more than 200 years!

Takeaway: There is spiritual combat going on behind the world’s geopolitical scene.

Obviously, the ultimate combatant in all of this is Satan.

Satan: His origin, agenda, and destiny are something that every Christian needs to know about. We will briefly touch on it here for the purposes of our lesson.

He is usually addressed indirectly: Gen 3:14,15; Isa 14:12-20; Mt 16:23.

He is an accuser (Job 1—Satan had access!)

He is a tempter (Lk 4:1-13).

In Revelation 12, the story of the Woman and the Man-Child summarizes the drama.

- **Woman (Israel)**
 - She is described as a woman with sun, moon, and 12 stars at her feet (Idiom of Israel)
 - She is with a child (Christ).
- **Red Dragon (Serpent, Devil, Satan)**
 - The beast 7 heads, 10 horns, 7 crowns
 - His goal is to devour Man-child when born
- **Man-Child (Kinsman-Redeemer)**
 - To rule all nations with a rod of iron
 - Caught up to God and His throne
 - Woman flees into the wilderness for 1260 days (Tribulation)
- **Michael and His Angels**
 - Fights Dragon and his angels
- **Dragon cast to earth**
 - Persecutes the Woman for 3½ years (The Great Tribulation)

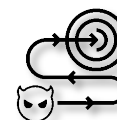


Satan's Whereabouts

- God expelled him from the mount of God (heaven—Ezek 28:16,14).
- Satan was cast from God's government in heaven (Lk 10:18)
 - but was still allowed access to God (Job 1:6-12; Zech 3:1-2).
- In the Tribulation, Satan will be cast from heaven and restricted to the earth (Rev 12:7-13).
- During the Millennium, he will be in the bottomless pit (Rev 20:1-3).
- After his brief release at the end of the Millennium (Rev 20:7-9), he will be cast into the lake of fire forever (Rev 20:10).



The Stratagems of Satan	
Old Testament Stratagems	New Testament Stratagems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption of Adam's line ~ Gen 6 • Abraham's seed ~ Gen 12, 20 • Famine ~ Gen 50 • Destruction of male line ~ Ex 1 • Pharaoh's pursuit ~ Ex 14 • The populating of Canaan ~ Gen 15 • Against David's line ~ 2 Sam 7 (below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph's fears ~ Mt 1 • Herod's attempts ~ Mt 2 • At Nazareth ~ Lk 4 • 2 storms on the Sea ~ Mk 4; Lk 8 • The Cross • Summary: Rev 12 <p><i>...and he's still not through!</i></p>



Throughout History, as God reveals His plan for mankind, Satan focuses his attack. For example:

Attacks on David's Line

- Jehoram kills his brother's ~ 2 Chr 21
- Arabians slew all (but Ahaziah)
- Athaliah kills all (but Joash ~ 2 Chr 22
- Hezekiah assaulted, etc. ~ Isa 36, 38
- Haman's attempts ~ Esther 3



Satan's Titles

- The Prince of This World ~ Jn 12:31
- The Prince of the Power of the Air ~ Eph 2:2
- Head of the World-Rulers of Darkness ~ Eph 6:1
- The God of This Age ~ 2 Cor 4:4

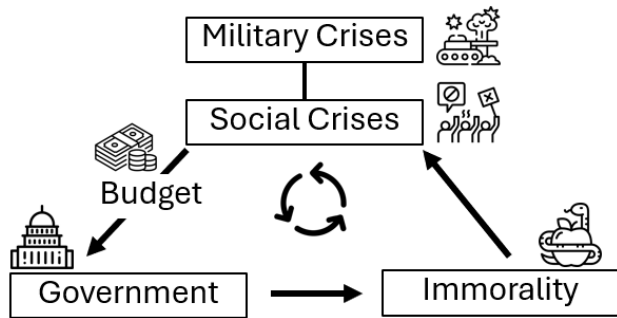


Our Present Predicament

America, like the world, is in moral free fall. The problems we see all around us in society are rooted in spiritual warfare. In the U.S., the media shapes opinions by masking truth, courts violate the separation of powers and distort justice, and schools intentionally "dumb down" our youth. Our traditional heritage has been replaced with multiculturalism, revisionism, and moral relativism. Our society cannot find truth because it is taught that truth is relative, and each person has their own truth. Even patriotism is increasingly relegated to a form of idolatry.

Governments have become promoters of immorality. Historically, Governments have always thrived on crises because they justify bigger budgets, expanding bureaucracies, and enable greater control over the population.

Throughout history, dictators have manufactured external crises to consolidate power. In America, social crises serve the same purpose. **And here is the missing link:** immorality always produces social crises. So it should not shock us that governments often have a strong incentive to promote immorality. All these things have been mathematically escalating over the last 50 years. As Christians, how do we prepare ourselves to live in the world today?




The Armor of God: Ephesians 6:10-18

Our Imperative:


 **Eph. 6:10]** *Finally, my brethren, **be strong** in the Lord, and in the **power** of his might.*

“...be strong” is in the imperative mood, meaning this is a command. It is in the present tense, meaning to be continually strong. Additionally, it is in the passive voice, which means you receive the action from God, in “...his might.”

Power is the Greek word ‘kratei’, which means “power that overcomes resistance,” (as used in Christ’s miracles). The issue is God’s inherent strength, not yours. We can rephrase this as “Allow yourself to be continually made strong by the Lord in the strength of His might.”


 **Eph. 6:11]** ***Put on** the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

The two words “...put on” are a Greek imperative that tells believers they are responsible for putting on God’s (not their) full armor. They are to be completely armed (also in v.13) before the battle begins because you are already on enemy turf. If you have a vulnerability or weakness, that is where Satan is going to focus.

 **Eph. 6:12]** *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.*

Paul is addressing the things that are behind all the wickedness and battles we encounter in today’s world. We get another glimpse of this from 2 Kings...



 *Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. **2 Kings 6:8, 9***

The Syrians are planning something naughty, but the prophet of God tips Israel off about what the Syrians are planning to do.



*And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. **2 Kings 6:10, 11, 12***

The King of Syria suspects he has a security leak and that someone inside his ranks is a mole. However, his servants tell him that Elisha can hear the words that he speaks in private and is tipping off the Israelites.



*And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. **2 Kings 6:13, 14***

The King of Syria found out that Elisha was in the city of Dothan, he sent his army to surround the city.



*And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. **2 Kings 6:15, 16***

Elisha's servant is worried when he sees the Syrian army surrounding the town.



*And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. **2 Kings 6:17***

Elisha, frustrated with his servants' lack of faith, prayed for his servants' eyes to be opened. His servant then could see God's army surrounding the area, protecting Elisha and his servant.

A good analogy would be a word processor. Almost everyone has used a word processor before. Although we see the graphical typing taking place on the document, behind the scenes numerous codes, formatting, and commands are running to create the style of document that you want. Some word processors have a command or key you can press to see the unseen codes that are being inserted on the page to mark bold, italics, paragraphs, columns, etc. In a sense, Elisha asked God to 'reveal the codes' to his servant, behind the scenes so to speak. One of our problems as Christians is that we cannot see the spiritual realm and the warfare that rages all about us.





Eph. 6:13] *Wherefore take unto you the **whole armour** of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

Paul wants us to put on the “...*whole armour*”, in other words, be completely armed (also in v.13). This allows us to “...*withstand*” (anthistemnai), or “to withstand or stand against” (cf. James 4:7; 1 Pet 5:9).

Paul’s Armament List

Paul’s detailed description of the armor may stem from being chained to a Roman soldier while in prison awaiting trial (Acts 28:16, 20). Most assume that the chains were keeping Paul from escaping. From Paul’s point of view, it was so that the *soldier* could not get away! Can you imagine being chained to Paul for the entire shift? Paul won most of them to Christ! (Phil 4:21-22). Actually, the Holy Spirit is consistent in His use of idioms: these same elements are alluded to in the Old Testament (Cf. Isa 59:16,17).



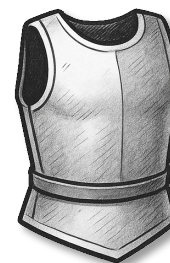
Eph. 6:14] *Stand therefore, **having your loins girt about with truth**, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

“...*having your loins girt about with truth*”: “What is Truth?” the famed Roman procurator Pilate asked cynically. Truth is our most precious treasure to be coveted. Truth is the key to success, fulfillment, victory, or achieving any worthwhile goal. The pursuit of truth is our greatest challenge in any of our endeavors. In a cultural war, truth is the first casualty. Yet, determining the nature of reality in our world is the cornerstone of our living. The Roman belt was 6-8 in wide; all the body armor and weapons were attached to it.



One definition of truth: when the Word and Deed become one. The ultimate truth is the fulfillment of God’s promises in His Messiah (Jn 14:6). It was prophesied of Christ that righteousness should be the girdle of his loins and faithfulness the girdle of his reins (Isa 11:5).

“...*having on the breastplate of righteousness*.” Whose righteousness? God’s righteousness. What is your most important stewardship? Your heart! The Roman breastplate was bronze, backed with leather. The breastplate secured the vitals. The breastplate covered the heart (Rom 6:13; 14:17; Isa 59:17; James 4:7). A blow through this was usually decisive or fatal.



Eph. 6:15] *And your **feet shod** with the **preparation of the gospel of peace**;*

“...*feet shod*”: Shoes, or greaves (often of brass or the like), were part of the military armor. The use of them was to defend the feet against the gall-traps and obstructions (Cf. 1 Sam 17:6). When you are fighting with swords, your first slip is usually your last! Anyone who has trained in boxing, wrestling, or hand-to-hand combat knows the need for a sure footing.



The phrase “...*preparation of the gospel of peace*” means that foundational preparation by the believer is the prerequisite to success in their spiritual endeavors.



Eph. 6:16] *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

“...the shield of faith”: The Roman shield was 4 ft. x 2½ ft., overlaid with linen and leather, to absorb fiery arrows. The integrity of the shield was essential. The time to plug any holes was before the battle. Between battles, the soldiers would repair their shields. Diligence was the key to proper maintenance. The time to plug any holes in one's faith is **NOW**. Any doubts, any serious questions, should be pursued with diligence. Diligence is the key to proper maintenance.



Eph. 6:17] *And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the **Word of God**:*

“...the helmet of salvation”: The helmet protected the head. What is this? **It is the assurance of your salvation.** The believer knows ultimate victory is sure. His assurance is a critical blessing. Without it, you can be buffeted to and from. One of the most important aspects of our defense against Satan's most vicious attacks is our firm faith in eternal security—sealed and guaranteed by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:31-39). There are too many today (pastors, teachers, etc.) who create doubts about eternal security. We as believers are to have no doubt about that!



*...nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. **2 Timothy 1:12***



*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:38, 39***

“...sword of the spirit”: The Roman machira was only 24 in. long but sharpened on both sides. The more typical sword of that day was longer, sharpened on only one edge. It had to be used with cocked arm in a chopping motion. With the doubly sharpened short sword, the Roman legionnaire could duck, catch his enemy off balance, and thrust or cut from any position, winning the engagement at close quarters. With this revolutionary innovation, they achieved legendary victories. However, it required special training ...and extensive practice!



“...word of God”: Christ employed this Sword three times when tempted by the devil (Mt 4:1-11). Being hid in the heart (Ps 119:11), God's Word will preserve from sin and will take down and kill those lusts and corruptions which are hidden there.

The Heavy Artillery

One of the most important factors in a military engagement is proper ground support: interdiction, flanking fire, and direct assaults. This goes beyond personal armor. Now we focus on the heavy artillery—with action-at-a-distance—prayer!





Eph. 6:18] *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

“Praying always...” We all need to be supported by Prayer Warriors. In Greek, “all” occurs four times in this verse, meaning continual, not sporadic. Like reliable soldiers, we are to be keeping diligent, literally, “*in all persistence*.” Prayer should be a habitual practice in both public & private. It should be deliberate and spontaneous in supplication, intercession, confession, humiliation, praise, and thanksgiving. There are no formulas or procedures required.



Eph. 6:19] *And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, **that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,***



Eph. 6:20] *For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

Paul is asking for personal prayer “...*that I may open my mouth boldly*.” If Paul needs prayer, then we sure do. This also recalls Paul’s lengthy discussion of this “mystery of the gospel” (Eph 2:11-3:11). For this reason, Paul was “*an ambassador in bonds*” (Acts 28:16, 20; Eph. 3:1; 4:1; Phil 1:7, 13-14, 16; Col. 4:3, 18; Philemon 1, 9-10, 13).

Paul’s Concluding Remarks: Ephesians 6:19-24



Eph. 6:21] *But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, **Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:***



Eph. 6:22] *Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.*

Tychicus, delivered Ephesians for Paul, was mentioned in Colossians 4:7, where Paul called him by these same titles and added that he was a “fellow bondsman” (syndoulos). Tychicus is also mentioned in Acts 20:4; 2 Tim 4:12; and Titus 3:12.

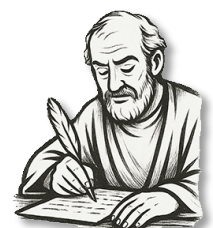


Eph. 6:23, 24] *Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen. <To the Ephesians written from Rome, by Tychicus.>***

Grace concludes the letter, just as it had introduced it (Eph 1:2). Remember, Paul warned the Ephesian elders that false teachers would rise within the flock. Their doctrinal diligence was commended in Christ’s Letter to the Ephesians; however, unfortunately, some believers did lose the fervency of their “*first love*” for Christ (Rev 2:4).

Paul’s Personal Mark

When one understands that there were apparently forgeries of Thessalonian letters being circulated, then several passages start to make more sense (2 Thess 2:2). At the end of that letter, Paul includes a sort of private mark, a personal token, to let people know it was really from him.



Note that Paul is emphasizing that he has signed the letter with his own hand. Most of his epistles were written by dictation by an amanuensis or secretary. He would then include 'private mark' to officially certify the document as real.

*"The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write. **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**" 2 Thessalonians 3:17, 18*

This is the signature or style item that is included in every letter that is his private mark [Rom 16:24; 1 Cor 16:23-24; 2 Cor 13:14; Gal 6:18; Eph 6:24; Phil 4:23; Col 4:18; 1 Thess 5:28; 2 Thess 3:18; 1 Tim 6:21; 2 Tim 4:22; Titus 3:15; Philemon 25].

Why is this so impressive of Paul's style? Because the word "Grace" does not even appear in any of the other epistles! (Except once by Peter, where it is used as an exhortation and not as a salutation or blessing as here; cf. 2 Peter 3:18).

Even the one book, Hebrews, that some scholars say was not written by Paul, ends with "Grace be with you all. Amen" (Heb. 13:25) <Written to the Hebrews from Italy, by Timothy.>

This is one of several details that I believe prove that Hebrews was written by Paul.

We are engaged in a war, and by now, all those who are paying attention have seen that warfare spill out into all aspects of society, especially over the last several years

Over the years, I have pored over the work of the great empire thinkers, the men who mapped the rise and fall of nations with almost clinical precision. Ibn Khaldun, Giambattista Vico, Oswald Spengler, Arnold Toynbee, **Alexander Tytler**, Christopher Dawson, Sir John Glubb, Carroll Quigley, David Wilkinson, David Harvey, Immanuel Wallerstein, William Strauss, Neil Howe, Alexandre Deulofeu, Michel Foucault, Joseph Tainter, **Jim Nelson Black**, Niall Ferguson, Peter Turchin, and Jared Diamond. I sometimes refer to them as the secular prophets of history. Each approached the human story from a different angle, yet all arrived at the same uncomfortable truth. Civilizations rise by virtue, unity, and sacrifice. They fall through excess, division, and neglect. Their warnings have echoed for centuries. **The tragedy is that humans rarely listen.**

When Nations Die ~ 1994 (Jim Nelson Black):

- Social Decay
 - Crisis of Lawlessness
 - Loss of Economic Discipline
 - Rising Bureaucracy
- Cultural Decay
 - Decline of Education
 - Weakening of Cultural Foundations
 - Loss of Respect for Traditional Values
- Moral Decay
 - Rise of Immorality
 - Decay of Religious Belief
 - Devaluing of Human Life

Alexander Tytler's (1747-1813) Cycle of Nations:

- ✓ from bondage to spiritual faith
- ✓ from spiritual faith to great courage
- ✓ from courage to liberty
- ✓ from liberty to abundance
- ✓ from abundance to complacency
- ✓ from complacency to apathy
- ✓ from apathy to dependency
- ✓ from dependence back again into bondage

All of us grew up in what will be coined as “the golden age of the United States”, from the late 40s through the 60s-ish. Because of the fallout of this luxury, many, many suffer from what is called ‘Normalcy Bias’. This is the psychological tendency for people to assume that life will continue as it always has — that tomorrow will look just like today, and major disruptions, crises, or collapses are unlikely or impossible. It explains why people often ignore warnings, underestimate danger, or fail to prepare for big changes. It masks the underlying moral, economic, and spiritual decline that is happening at near-exponential rates.



But here is the warning....

For the first time in human history, the world's great powers are reaching the same stage of decline simultaneously. In every previous age, one empire collapsed while another rose to take its place. Now, America, Europe, China, Japan, and nearly every major economy are burdened with the same unsustainable debts, the same demographic pressures, and the same political paralysis at the same moment. This is what makes our time dangerous and unprecedented. There is nothing in place to anchor the system once the current pillars fail. When the system breaks, it will not be regional. It will be global, fast, and systemic. The world is entering a convergence, and the rules that once bought nations time no longer apply. What is happening is truly spiritual.

However, a contender for global savior is waiting in the wings.

Our Action Plan

- Guard our reactions: Be a witness!
- Repair our illiteracy Biblically and about what is going on in the world (Islam, geopolitics, etc.)
- Realign our personal priorities.
- Remember to *Pray!*
- *It's time to get serious about our faith!*

The End

Next Lesson: The book of Titus.

