

## Combatants for the Dark Side, Eph 6:12; Biblical Examples of Demonic Deception from Matthew to Revelation: An Overview of New Testament Satanology

The various combatants who populate the Dark Side are revealed in verse 12:

**Ephesians 6:12** - 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. (NASB)

This verse begins with the causal conjunction **ὅτι, hoti** and instead of “for,” it should be translated “because.”

The following phrase, “our struggle is not” includes the possessive pronoun **ἡμῶν, hēmin**, translated “our,” followed by the subject **πάλη, palē**. This word’s history goes as far back as Homer and originally meant “wrestling” and this is how the King James translates it.

The NIV and NASB translate it “struggle,” but Greek tragedies gave it a more general sense of “conflict.”

**πάλη, palē**. A wrestling, struggle, or hand-to-hand combat. It was used of the wrestling of athletes and of the hand-to-hand combat of soldiers both of which required deftness and speed. It denoted the struggle between individual combatants in distinction from an entire military campaign.<sup>1</sup>

In the Invisible War, Church Age believers, like it or not or aware or not, are combatants. They are engaged in daily combat against the Dark Side and it is not hand-to-hand but “thought-to-thought.” They must be able to think divine viewpoint or they will be seized as P.O.W.s by the chains of cosmic thought. Some biblical examples of cosmic deception amplify this critical truth:

**Matthew 10:16** - “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be **shrewd** [ **φρόνιμος, phronimos: a prudent and wise mindset in dealing with unbelievers** ] as serpents and innocent as doves.”

**Colossians 2:8** - See to it that **no one takes you captive [ P.O.W. ]** through philosophy and empty **deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

**1 Timothy 4:1** - The Holy Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons**,

**v. 2** - by means of the **hypocrisy of liars** seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.

<sup>1</sup> Spiros Zodhiates, gen ed., “πάλη,” *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1992), 1091.

**Romans 16:17** - Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

**v. 18** - For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

**v. 19** - For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

**Ephesians 5:6** - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

**v. 7** - Therefore do not be partakers with them;

**v. 8** - for you were formerly darkness, but now are Light in the Lord; walk as children of the Light.

**2 Peter 2:1** - False prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

**v. 2** - Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned;

**v. 3** - and in their greed they will exploit you with false words ...

**1 Corinthians 15:33** - Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

**2 Corinthians 11:3** - I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

**v. 13** - For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves [ μετασχηματίζω, *metaschēmatizō*<sup>2</sup> ] themselves as apostles of Christ.

**v. 14** - No wonder, for even Satan disguises [ *metaschēmatizō* ] himself as an angel of light.

**v. 15** - Therefore it is not surprising if [ **1CC** ] his servants also disguise [ *metaschēmatizō* ] themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

**2 Timothy 3:13** - Evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

**Titus 1:10a** - For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers ...

**1 Peter 5:8** - Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

<sup>2</sup> A change of outward appearance but not of internal essence

**2 Peter 1:16a** - We did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ...

**2 Corinthians 4:3** - Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

**v. 4** - in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**2 Peter 3:3** - Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers [ἐμπαίκτης, *empaiktēs*: **scoffers showing disrespect and derision**] will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

**v. 4** - and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming [ **the Rapture** ]? For ever since the fathers fell asleep [ **Old Testament writers now dead** ], all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation [ **uniformitarianism<sup>3</sup>** ].

**v. 5a** - For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago ...

**2 John 7** - For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

**Matthew 22:29** - “You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.

**Revelation 12:7** - And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

**v. 8** - and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

**v. 9** - And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth; and his angels were thrown down with him.

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<sup>3</sup> A theory developed by Scottish geologist Sir Charles Lyell asserting that all features of the earth’s surface, including even its mountains, are produced by natural processes operating over a long period of time. In 1830 he published *Principles of Geology* as a polemic to the writings of French paleontologist Georges Cuvier \kūv'-yā\ that claimed the normal operations of nature have been repeatedly suspended by direct intervention of a superhuman agency. In 1827 Cuvier published *Discourse on the Revolutionary Upheavals on the Surface of the Globe and on the Changes which They Have Produced in the Animal Kingdom* in which he documented the oddity of opposing strata found in mountains. His discovery of ancient strata tilted up in oblique layers and overlain with more recent horizontal layers of sand loaded with sea shells, the remains of marine animals, led him to conclude that the earth’s surface had gone through cataclysmic upheavals he called “revolutions.” Both scientists and theologians then concluded that the global deluge of the Genesis flood was among them. Cuvier’s theory later became known as catastrophism and is currently opposed by proponents of the theory of evolution. Their uniformitarian claims are nothing new, having been clearly held by those who Peter referred to as “mockers” in verse 3 and whom he quotes in verse 4.

**Revelation 20:3** - Then the seraph threw Lucifer into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer ...

16. This collection of passages defines the strategy and the tactics of the unseen enemy. The target is your soul and your biblical worldview –if you have one.