

Paul's Breakdown of the Demonic Army's Table of Organization, Eph 6:12; Christian Soldiers Must Defend Their Souls by Putting on the Full Armor of God

25. Paul uses the structure of the Athenian military to define the ranks in Satan's armies:
 - 1) The Commander-in-Chief was called the ἄρχων, *archōn*: "ruler, commander, chief." This obviously applies to Lucifer who heads up the armies and is equivalent to a five-star general.
 - 2) This title actually described one of nine senior magistrates at Athens, elected each year for a one-year term. The second senior *archōn* was given the title of βασιλεύς, *basileus*, which means "king" or "chief."
 - 3) The third ranking *archōn* in Athens was called the πολεμάρχος, *polemarchos*: "chieftain" or "war-lord." This was the title of high officers in several Greek states.
 - 4) The remaining six ἄρχαί, *archai* (pl.) in Athens were called θεσμοθέτης, *thesmothetēs*; or the six junior *archai*.¹
 - 5) It is from this Greek format that Paul illustrates the demonic forces that confront the New Testament believer in the Invisible War.
 - 6) The general staff is the first mentioned in verse 12 by the term ἀρχή, *archē*. These are the general officers under the command of Archōn Lucifer.
 - 7) The next designation in verse 12 is ἐξουσία, *exousia* and refers to commissioned officers: corps, divisional, brigade, battalion, company, and platoon commanders. These demon generals communicate the strategy and tactics from Lucifer and carry out the various operations he devises in his war against the church.
 - 8) The next group lumps two categories of guerrillas mentioned in Ephesians 1:21: δύναμις, *dunamis*, translated "special forces," and κυριότης, *kuriotēs*, translated "fifth columns."
 - 9) The *Dunamis* Team carries out assignments that might be imagined as a cosmic Delta Force or SEAL Team Six, i.e., operations that are off the official radar and therefore sometimes violate the rules of engagement for which the Lord intervenes with punishment.

¹ Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott, *A Greek-English Lexicon*, rev. Henry Stuart Jones (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968), s.v.: ἄρχων, βασιλεύς, πολεμάρχος, and θεσμοθέτης.

- 10) The *Kuriotē* Team carries out assignments that might be imagined as a cosmic CIA whose spies infiltrate governments in order to gather information or influence decisions, i.e., a fifth column.
- 11) Paul pulls these two units together in verse 12 with the term **κοσμοκράτωρ, kosmokratōr**. This is a compound made up of **κοσμο-, kosmo-**: “world” and **κρατέω, krateō**: “a strong, powerful ruler.”
- 12) The concept has to do with guerrillas that attack believers, or spies that infiltrate governments. This is introduced by the preposition **πρός, pros** which means “against.” This results in the translation: “against the world rulers.”
- 13) The mission of these demons is to influence the decision making in a particular government. We have seen the activities of the *kosmokratoras* in Daniel 10:13-20a (in Persia) and 10:20b (in Greece).
- 14) Their description continues with the prepositional phrase, **τοῦ, του** plus **σκότος, skotos**, translated “of this darkness.” This configuration is defined as “against the world rulers of this darkness.”
- 15) *Skotos* — darkness — indicates these units carry out policies for the Dark Side. The armies and governments of this world are infiltrated by *kosmokratoras*, fallen angels whose impact is demon influence at best and demon possession at worst.
- 16) Their major missions include attacking world leaders, their administrations, their ambassadors, envoys, and their chargés d’affaires.
- 17) The largest portion of the demonic armies is the rank and file, described by Paul by the phrase “against spirit forces of evil in the heavenlies.”
- 18) This phrase starts out with the preposition *pros* translated “against.” This is followed by the adjective **πνευματικός, pneumatikos**: “spiritual” and the noun **πονηρία, ponēria**: “evil.”
- 19) Where these armies operate is noted last by the prepositional phrase “in the heavenlies”: the noun is the plural in the locative of place of **ἐπουράνιος, epouranios** and it refers to the atmosphere around the earth and the universe.
- 20) The “spirit forces” make up the rank and file of the demonic armies and their fields of battle are not only on planet earth but the locative of place indicates they also reside in the world’s atmosphere in which they are able to freely move about.
- 21) The corrected and expanded translation reads like this:

Ephesians 6:12 - Because our combat is not against blood and flesh, but against general officers, against commissioned officers, against special-forces guerrillas and fifth-column spies of the Dark Side, against the demonic rank-and-file warriors of evil who populate the atmosphere.

26. In order for the believer to successfully confront such supernatural opposition he must put his soul in battle dress. The clothing of the soul is a process that is accomplished by spiritual growth and no believer can endure against the wiles of the devil without being properly attired.
27. In Ephesians 6:13-18 Paul outlines the various elements of the believer's uniform for the soul. As we continue in our study of *The Church of the Living God*, and as we observe the downtrends in our society, it become imperative that we prepare our souls for the onslaught of challenges we will all too soon face.
28. In order to accomplish this we need to continue in this passage until the subject is covered. It will be new to some and a review for others, but the times demand our attention to it.
29. We will call this section of our study *The Full Armor of God*. This spiritual panoply is to be worn as a protector of the believer's soul as he encounters the challenges, difficulties, and exigencies of life and the personal suffering, grief, and pain that inevitably accompany life's journey.
30. Our study has two parts. Part I is an overview of the organization of the Roman military, the legionaries's panoply, and awards and decorations. In Part II we will use these historical references to define the Christian warrior's panoply and the awards and decorations that are bestowed on winners.