

5. When the Lord sounds the gavel, the universe detonates and is consumed by fire. This terminates the drama that began in Eden with Adam and Ishah and ends with the Great White Throne Judgment: 2 Peter 3:10–12 cf. Revelation 20:11.
6. What we may conclude from this retrospectives of the Divine Court of Appeals is the importance placed upon Church-Age believers becoming prime witnesses for the Prosecution.
7. In doing our duty in the hostile environment of the devil's world, we may be encouraged daily by the absolute truth found in Scripture.
8. Its collection of absolute truths retained and facilitated in our souls provides the courage to ignore the incoming flack, remain inside the divine power system, and grow in grace toward spiritual maturity.
9. Our temporal security is underwritten by our eternal security from God. This includes the assignment of guardian angels to guard us in our spiritual advance. These doctrines allow us, over time, to put on the full armor of God.

The soldier in the ranks cannot see all parts of the battlefield and cannot keep abreast of the changing tactical situation. Panoramic strategy is the responsibility of the soldier of Christ, so that the plan of the Supreme Commander might be executed. The greatest victory of submission resulted from the obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who was "obedient to the point of death" (Philippians 2:8b).

As a Christian warrior you *must* pick up, put on, and leave on the full complement of spiritual armor and weaponry in order to defend against your enemies. If your attitude toward the teaching of God's Word is negative, you will not pick up or put on the full armor.

If you rely on your own strength and human energy, if you operate apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit and cognition of Bible doctrine, you will be caught off-guard and unprepared, unable to resist the evil one. The spiritual battlefield lies strewn with casualties who disregarded God's mandates and provisions. You reap that which you sow.



Donning the *full* armor of God is the defensive attitude of the believer who is an effective witness for the Prosecution in the angelic conflict. This is the believer who persistently renovates his thinking to the mind of Christ. He is never off-balance or defenseless. He possesses the capacity to persevere in the face of overwhelming odds.

Consistently utilizing the assets God has provided for defense, he submits to the will of God through the filling of the Holy Spirit, he knows the will of God from the Bible doctrine in his soul, and he grows in the will of God by the advance to spiritual maturity. This is the Christian warrior who represents the Lord Jesus Christ to a fallen world and glorifies God to the maximum in both time and eternity. Follow the command!²

10. Following the Great White Throne judgments, the universe is destroyed by fire:

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord [**immediately following the Millennium**] will arrive as a thief in the night in which day the heavens shall completely disappear with a great noise, the structure of the universe and its elements shall dissolve with fervent heat [καυσόμοι (*kausóomai*): **fission or fusion**], and the earth and the works of human good in it shall be burned up.

v. 11 Since all of these things are to be destroyed, in this way, what sort of persons should we become in a lifestyle sanctified to God?

v. 12 You eagerly look forward with confidence to the day of God [**the eternal state**] and speed its coming. That day will bring about the detonation [**predictive future passive indicative of** λύω (*lúō*)] of the heavens by nuclear fission or fusion and the structure of the universe will melt with the intense heat of its conflagration.

v. 13 Nevertheless, we believers according to the standards of His promise [**Isaiah 65:17**], look in anticipation for the new heavens and a new earth, in which indwells God's righteousness. (EXT)

² R. B. Thieme, Jr. *The Angelic Conflict* (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2012), 148–49.



He Who turned some of His infinite energy into matter in the first creation, when the heavens and the earth were created, and who will reverse the process and return all matter to energy, will then repeat the creative miracle, as a result of which there will be a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness will be the rule.³

11. Human history is actually quite brief compared to the eternal state both prior to the creation of the universe and after its conflagration.
12. Ergo: *Sic transit gloria mundi*: Thus, passes away the glory of the world.

James 4:7 Subordinate yourselves under the authority of God. Stand fast and resist the devil and he will run away from you. (EXT)

13. In this verse, James references the ongoing arguments presented by witnesses for the defense and witnesses for the Prosecution before the Divine Court of Appeals of which we just studied.
14. We have now given some time to the study of events that will resolve the case before the Divine Court of Appeals. And the verse that took us there is James 4:7 cited above.

Here are some principles that warrant repetition before we continue into verse 8:

1. Verse 7 begins with the aorist middle imperative of the verb, **ὑποτάσσω** (*hupotássō*): “Submit; subordinate yourself to divine authority.”
2. Following the general chaos of the first six verses, James wants the believer to focus his attention on the conflicts those verses demonstrate and the sources of them.
3. The one to whom the believer is to submit is God and great emphasis is intended since it is an imperative mood.
4. God is The One the believer is to serve. He is The One for Whom we are witnesses. Those folk in verses 1–6 are witnesses for the defense.
5. They have betrayed the God who bought them. They are of the same ilk as are those dressed down by Peter in:

³ Randolph O. Yeager, “2 Peter 3:12,” in *The Renaissance New Testament* (Gretna: Pelican Publishing Co., 1985), 17:284–85.



2 Peter 2:1 But there came into existence false prophets [**human evangelists for the Dark Side**] among the people, even as there shall always be false teachers among you, who insidiously bring in destructive deviations from doctrine, repeatedly denying the Lord who purchased them from the slave market of sin, bringing themselves swift destruction. (EXT)

6. When Jesus Christ died spiritual death on the cross, He was being judged for the sins of the entire human race. Some would believe, but some would not, which includes those in this verse.

2 Peter 2:2 And many shall follow the authority of their licentious ways [ἀσέλγεια (*asélgeia*): **common to those involved in the phallic cult**] because of whom, the way of truth will be blasphemed. (EXT)

7. When reversionism dominates, those who are believers, but living in the cosmic system, are vulnerable to the propaganda that is disseminated by Lucifer's agents.
8. The satanic strategy is not strictly motivated by their own perversions. What they are doing is selling sensual pleasures while taking their victims into a place where they can no longer be witnesses for the Prosecution.
9. The leader of the defense is cited as, **διάβολος (*diábolos*): "devil."**
10. His ongoing strategy is multifaceted. He knows he is the commander-in-chief of the fallen angels and they follow his strategies and tactics.
11. He has learned the weaknesses of human volition which mankind has historically demonstrated. The sin nature has lust patterns and for each individual some of them are favored over others.
12. It does not really matter to him which ones we favor, for he will provide the necessary temptations to solicit them into action.
13. His primary intent is not really to enjoy the show, but rather to "quench the Holy Spirit":

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit!

14. The word "quench" is the aorist active imperative of the verb, **σβέννυμι (*sbénnumi*): "to hinder, repress, bring to an end, to extinguish."**
16. This mandate is a warning against committing sins that result in "quenching the Spirit." This results in the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit being removed. The believer is out of fellowship. His volition can function only on human viewpoint since recall from his doctrinal inventory is muted.



17. While being out of fellowship, the believer is at the mercy of his lust patterns. Prolonged periods of being out of fellowship causes one's doctrinal inventory to be inhibited.
18. The longer this quenching remains as a believer's status quo, then the more facilitated become his wheel-tracks of wickedness. When this inversion of thought remains unabated, then the believer ultimately experiences the loss of thought.
19. The inversion of thought when combined with the loss of thought describes the believer's decline through the eight stages of reversionism.
20. As we learned in our study of 1 Kings 17-20, the Lord decided to intervene in the Northern Kingdom's situation under the rulership of Ahab and Jezebel.
21. It was a monarchy and we noted the rulership situation among the several kings that had previously held the throne in that priest nation.
22. But it got to the point that the spiritual influence in the nation had been so negatively impacted by the ruling couple that the Lord was nearing the point of applying advanced cycles of national discipline upon it.
23. Interestingly, the members of the royal family were able to enforce their will by the deployment of two terrorist organizations.
24. Ahab's organization was the 450 prophets of Baal while Jezebel's was the 400 prophets of Asherah. With these two groups possessing delegated power from Ahab and Jezebel, they were able to control the population by religious tyranny.
25. Priest and Client Nations describe a national entity under the patronage of God and are assigned the responsibility for the revelation, preservation, communication, and defense of the Word of God.
26. Peter may be called upon to share his commentary on the importance, function, and preservation of a client nation:

1 Peter 2:9 But you are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (NASB)

27. It was during the years the books of the New Testament were being written that priest nation Judea was withdrawn as a priest nation to be replaced by the first client nation: *Senatus Populusque Romanus*: se-nēt-us po-pu-loosk ro-mán-us: "The Senate and the People of Rome," or "SPQR."