

The Triumphal Procession

Colossians 2:15

Having taken care of the great challenge in the trial,
**“How can a perfectly righteous God,
not send all unrighteous creatures
to the eternal lake of fire.”**

He took care of this challenge by sending His Son to the cross and establishing forgiveness of all sins on the cross, then by removing the handwritten debt against all members of the human race by nailing it to the cross, leaving the only issue of the imputation of perfect righteousness to anyone, everyone who believes in His Son as their Savior.

Now God turns to the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**

Colossians 2:15

15 **When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.**

This verse starts off with the **AORIST PARTICIPLE** of the verb meaning to disarm or neutralize the enemy. Taking off their shining armor and leaving them helpless for display. Before we look at who exactly God has disarmed, I want you to see where this same verb is used of you, of every believer in **JESUS CHRIST.** Look at Colossians 3:9

- 9 **Do not lie to one another since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices.**

The translation **laid aside** is our word...to disarm.

When we believed in JESUS CHRIST and were buried with Him we disarmed our Inherited Sin Nature.

Every time we sin we have armed the Inherited Sin Nature.

Now who is it that God has disarmed? The angelic forces under Satan.

- (1) **Rulers** we have had this word describing JESUS CHRIST in Colossians 1:18 translated **the beginning** “because He is the efficient cause of creation”. This word has a wide variety of meanings. But here it refers to those of preeminence or rulership among the higher creatures –angels, those angels who followed Satan in the Angelic Conflict in the first world.

Where did Paul get this word, to describe the hierarchy among angels? In the study of **angelology** whether speaking of fallen angels (*those angels who followed Satan*) or elect angels (*those angels who did not follow Satan but chose to follow God*) there is Order of Rank among Angels.

Sometimes this rank is seen by the number of sets of wings—3 sets, 2 sets or just one set of wings.

Now to give these various ‘ranks’ of ANGELS names Paul drew from ancient Athens.

‘Archon’ is an old noun, you can look it up on ‘google’. The word refers to the highest ruler in Athens in the 5th century BC.

There was actually in the structure of the Athenian empire what was known as the college or **‘archons’**. Besides the educational use of the word **‘college’** it is used to define an organized group of professional people with particular aims, duties, and privileges.

The **Athenian archon** was broken down into 4 levels.

The highest was called **‘ho archon’** which means **pre-eminence** –or as we have it here: **‘rulers’** .

Archon is used in Scripture for the most powerful demons under Satan.

- (2) **Authorities:** This word refers to the next level of authority in Satan’s domain. In military terms you can think of these as commissioned officers.

World rulers of darkness not listed here in Colossians 2 but they are the third level in Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, not against One Another

but against the rulers, archon against the powers, authorities and now

against the world forces of this darkness this is not exactly correct:

it should be world **rulers of darkness** and, dear people, this one is important to us today.

We studied this in Daniel 10, where you will recall is in the midst of the history of Israel under Gentile rule and this is all through the Church Age.

This is vividly seen from Daniel 9:26 **...even to the end there will be war, desolations are determined.**

This is remarkable—this again proves that our God is the only God who can tell what is going to happen in history. This should give everyone the proof that the Bible is accurate and truthful and trustworthy, not only in regards to history but also creation, and, also, Salvation.

Daniel 10-11 gives a description of the war and desolation suffered by Israel under Gentile rule. Even today, while Israel is a recognized nation, they are still under the dictates of the United Nations and the United States and are at war every day with nations around them.

We learned from Daniel 10:13 that throughout all history Satan has appointed top ranked demons to interfere with Christianity in every nation on earth. That's right, every nation has a high-ranking demon and his organization working in that nation to keep the Word of God out of that nation; Keep the Gospel out of that nation.

As things continue to get worst in this country, from shootings in Las Vegas to Court decisions against prayer and against the Bible, you will also see a decline in the Restraining Ministry of the Holy Spirit in this country. As there are fewer Christians in comparison with the total population, and even fewer Christians taking the Word of God seriously and studying it and demanding that it be taught in Churches –you will see along with this moral collapse in this nation.

This is the importance of the first combat between Jesus and Satan. Because of the fall of man in the garden, God gave Satan rule of the world and in Matthew 4, Satan offered back to Jesus the rule of the world if Jesus would bow down and worship him.

So, by refusing this offer from Satan, Jesus recognized that Satan indeed had this authority to give to Him.

Here in Daniel 10, the angel informs Daniel and us of something of which most Christians are not aware and certainly cannot see with our eyes. That there is a chief ruling demon in charge of demons assigned to the Kingdom of Persia and to every nation on earth. And these demons actually engage in combat with Elect Angels commissioned by God to enter into the human realm as servants of God.

This is the Invisible Warfare.

And it is all over YOU... to keep you from being saved and since you have slipped by and have believed in JESUS CHRIST to keep you from growing in His Word, from increasing in the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and of God the Father.

This is why Ephesians 6—**our struggle** (in the spiritual realm of our lives) **is not against flesh and blood** (not against family members or church acquaintances, etc.), **but against rulers against authorities against rulers of darkness** (demons assigned over every nation.)

And what is really interesting... we learned from Daniel is that these demons actually engage in combat with Elect Angels commissioned by God to enter into the human realm as servants of God.

We certainly cannot see this combat but rest assured it is going on! It is unknown in human history of the effect of the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** on nations. We can certainly see the results in our own country.

We can only image **the invisible warfare** while our early fathers were forging a new nation; against Thomas Jefferson as he was writing the constitution and Declaration of Independence.

This explains some of the most unbelievable events that have arisen in history of the world.

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- > Success of Alexander the Great;

 - > How a corporal named Adolf Hitler became one of the most powerful men in history.

 - > How one man can enter history out of nowhere and win total leadership over a nation.

But if you did a study on the influence of the Church, of the teaching of the Word of God at this time in Germany's history, it is no surprise with what happens when The Restrainer (Holy Spirit) is removed.

As powerful as angels are God has given to every believer of the Church Age everything necessary for our part in this battle.

- 1 He has given to everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- 2 He has given us the completed canon of Scripture to learn.
- 3 He has given us an Armor, the **"Whole Armour of God!"**
Ephesians 6:10-17

**Note carefully how twice we are
instructed to stand firm.**

**We are not to take them on in battle—but
TRUST GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT
and
GOD THE FATHER
and
JESUS CHRIST
To Fight our Battles for Us.**

One more vital point about the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**.
It is allowed by God.

If God did not want the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** to continue, it would be over. But God allows demons to operate, just as God allows your volition to choose against Him. So, we are learning so much about the Invisible Conflict and about God Himself.

We learn so much about God Himself as we study **The Invisible Warfare**.

God has a plan and He temporally sets aside His Sovereignty over all the decisions of His creatures.

(**ANGELIC CONFLICT**; **human sins**; and **evil**).

God has a plan for the history of angelic beings and humans. It is He who allows the forces of Darkness to work. Luke 22:53

And we learn about ourselves
are you going to trust Him?

Luke 22:53 While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours.”

Are we going to continue to grow in the learning of His Word?
Though you do not understand nor know,
are you going to trust Him?

The **ANGELIC CONFLICT** is about God,
Angels, Mankind... and ourselves.

How are prayers transmitted?
Have you thought about that?

Not by radio signals nor by light beams—take forever!
Our prayers are heard in heaven *as we think them!*

This is how close God is to each of us.

“Stand still and watch the deliverance of the Lord”

The Order of Angelic Forces under Satan

- I **Rulers**
- II **Authorities**
- III **Rulers of Darkness**
- IV **Spiritual Forces of Wickedness**

This is the fourth category mentioned in Ephesians 6:12. Actually, this should be translated **spirits of evil** and this is where you and I come under direct attack. These are the demons that directly attack believers and non-believers.

For example, they might go inside of unbelievers to perform any number of assignments. We know that Mary Magdalene was possessed by no less than seven of these demons. Luke 8:2. Why seven in this Mary?

We do not know with certainty but most likely Satan knew she would respond to the loving message of JESUS CHRIST and he set out to prevent her from even hearing the gospel. Then there are those demons who control the vocal cords of unbelievers. These demons work in lawlessness that we studied in 2 Thessalonians 2.

And these demons attack believers. While believers cannot be demon-possessed, believers can be highly affected by demons,

influenced by demons, led away from the Word of God by demons.

Throughout all human history from Adam onward, Satan and his legions of demons have battled in warfare. But the day is coming when God will **make a public display of Satan and all these demons who chose Satan over God.**

Having disarmed the angelic command of Satan
He made a public display of them

This is the main verb –after they were captured and disarmed;
This is in keeping with the military motif of this passage.

This was a military practice, a military reward –They would march the captives for a public display-for all to see these have been conquered. And this is an excellent translation **He made a public display of them having triumphed over them through Him**

**While God the Father was cancelling our debt on the cross;
While God was forgiving all sins of the human race...
the whole Satanic system of fallen angels,
superior to man,
were being disarmed and neutralized at the cross.**

**The cross brought forgiveness of sins
The cross cancelled the debt we owed
The cross removed the decrees against us
and
The cross disarmed and neutralized the power of Satan**

He made a public display of them having triumphed over them through Him

This is yet another **AORIST PARTICIPLE** and now you are familiar with the fact that the action of the **AORIST PARTICIPLE** precedes the action of the main verb—**made a public display.**

So, we know from this verse in all the Bible what else happened on the cross:

JESUS CHRIST was triumphed over Satan and all his forces.
Then after the Resurrection,
JESUS CHRIST went to Tartarus and
made a Victorious Proclamation.

Why Tartarus?

This was the compartment of the underworld where all the demons who co-habited with the women on earth in Genesis 6 were sentenced to stay until after the Great White Throne Judgment. These demons had no way of knowing what was going on in the Conflict on earth. So, JESUS CHRIST went there in His Resurrected Body and told them of His victory on the cross and of the Triumphal Procession.

So, the question arises
when was this Triumphal Procession
spoken of here in Colossians 2:15?

There is a great, splendorous event that has already taken place and not that many Christians know about it or think much of it.

That is **the Ascension and Session of JESUS CHRIST.**

His Ascension from earth 40 days after His resurrection
to the throne of God
where He sat down at the right hand of God.

When JESUS CHRIST arrived in heaven at the throne of God,
He arrived as a conquering general.

It was quiet on earth—why?

Because Satan and all his demons were in the **Triumphal Procession** as captives. And all the Elect angels were there singing praises to JESUS CHRIST. It was a heavenly coordination with trumpets sounding and angels singing and Satan and his angels of darkness in shame.

It is no wonder why during the Church Age Satan's lust is to get rid of Jews and any Gentiles who dared to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior-King. For He conquered all the forces of Satan at the Cross.

This is why Satan is so furious, so jealous that JESUS CHRIST... born of a woman, sits at the right hand of God, where he (Satan) lusts to sit.

But Satan's end is not yet, there is the Church Age,
the last 7 years God promised to Israel, called the Tribulation,

then... JESUS CHRIST Returns to Planet earth
to set up His Kingdom on earth for a brief 1000 years.

Then... –Satan and his fallen angels and every member of the human race who chose not to believe in JESUS CHRIST will be cast into the Eternal Lake of Fire, while the King, JESUS CHRIST and all those who believed in Him throughout all history will rejoice with Him for all eternity.

Then...

–Satan and his fallen angels and every member of the human race who chose not to believe in JESUS CHRIST will be cast into the Eternal Lake of Fire,

while the King, JESUS CHRIST and all those who believed in Him throughout all history will Rejoice with Him for all Eternity.

Here is your future...give thanks to God for His wonderous plan.

He made a **TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION**

• TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION

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“A formal procession in celebration of victory over an enemy.

The Greek word *thri·am·beu'o*, meaning “lead in a triumphal procession,” occurs only twice in the Scriptures, each time in a somewhat different illustrative setting. – 2 Corinthians 2: 14; Colossians 2: 15.

Triumphal Processions Among the Nations.

Egypt, Assyria, and other nations commemorated their military victories with **triumphal processions**. In the days of the Roman republic, one of the highest honors the Senate could bestow on a conquering general was to allow him to celebrate his victory with a formal and costly procession of triumph in which no detail of pomp and glory was overlooked.

The Roman procession moved slowly along *Via Triumphalis* and up the winding ascent to the temple of Jupiter atop the Capitoline Hill. Musicians playing and singing songs of victory were at the front, followed by young men leading the sacrificial cattle. Then came open carts loaded with booty, and tremendous floats illustrating battle scenes or the destruction of cities and temples, and perhaps topped with a figure of the vanquished commander. The captive kings, princes, and generals taken in the war, with their children and attendants, were

led along in chains, often stripped naked, to their humiliation and shame.

Next, came the general's chariot, decorated in ivory and gold, wreathed with laurel, and drawn by four white horses or, on occasion, by elephants, lions, tigers, or deer. The conqueror's children sat at his feet or rode in a separate chariot behind him. Roman consuls and magistrates followed on foot, then the lieutenants and military tribunes with the victorious army—all bedecked with garlands of laurel and gifts, and singing songs of praise to their leader. In the vanguard were the priests and their attendants bringing along the chief victim for sacrifice, a white ox.

As the procession passed through the city, the populace threw flowers before the victor's chariot, and burning incense on temple altars perfumed the way. This sweet odor signified honors, promotion, wealth, and a more secure life for the victorious soldiers, but it signified death to the unpardoned captives who would be executed at the end of the procession. This fact throws light on Paul's spiritual application of the illustration at 2 Corinthians 2: 14-16.

**We see from this passage that we will be led
in a Triumph Procession.**

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

- 14 **But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.**
- 15 **For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;**
- 16 **to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?**

Colossians 2:15-17

- 15 **Having disarmed the rulers and the authorities He made a public display of them having triumphed over them through Him**
- 16 **Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—**
- 17 **things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.**