

The Attackers: Paul's Uses the Athenian Army to Illustrate the Structure of the Satanic Army, Eph 6:12: *Árchōn*: Lucifer, General of the Army; *Archaí*: General Staff; *Exousía*: Commissioned Officers; *Kosmokrátōr*: Global Special Forces; *Pneumatikós*: Atmospheric and Extraterrestrial Special Forces; the Roman Legionary: Enlistment: Age, Background, Height, & Training

Ephesians 6:12 - For our struggle is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers [ἄρχή (*archē*)], against the powers [ἐξουσία (*exousía*)], against the world forces of this darkness [κοσμοκράτωρ (*kosmokrátōr*)], against the spiritual forces of wickedness [πνευματικός (*pneumatikós*)] in the heavenly places.

- (1) The General of the Armies was called the ἄρχων (*árchon*): “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 *árchōn* was given the title of βασιλεύς (*basileús*), which means “king” or “chief.”
- (3) The third ranking *árchōn* in Athens was called the πολεμάρχος (*polemárchos*): “chieftain” or “war-lord.” This was the title of high officers in several Greek states.
- (4) The remaining six ἀρχαί (*archai*) [pl.] in Athens were called θεσμοθέτης (*thesmothētēs*); or the six junior *archaí*.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 ἄρχή (*archē*). These are the general officers under the command of *Árchōn* Lucifer.
- (7) The next designation in verse 12 is ἐξουσία (*exousía*) and refers to commissioned officers: corps, divisional, brigade, battalion, company, and platoon commanders. These demon officers communicate the strategy and tactics from Lucifer and carry out the various operations he devises in his war against the church.
- (8) The next rank includes two categories of guerrillas mentioned in Ephesians 1:21: δύνามις (*dúnamis*), translated “special forces,” and κυριότης (*kuriótēs*), translated “fifth columns.”
- (9) The *Dúnamis* 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.
- (10) The *Kuriótēs* 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.

Eph 1:21 – Far above all rule [ἄρχή (*archē*)] and authority [ἐξουσία (*exousía*)] and power [δύνამις (*dúnamis*)] and dominion, [κυριότης (*kuriótēs*)] and every name that is named, not only in this (dispensation) but also in the one to come. (NASB)

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

- (11) Paul pulls these two units together in verse 12 with the term **κοσμοκράτωρ (kosmokrátōr)**. This is a compound made up of **κοσμο-** (*kosmo-*): “world” and **κρατέω (kratéō)**: “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 gives us 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 *kosmokrátoras* in Daniel 10:13-20a (in Persia) and 10:20b (in Greece).
- (14) Their description continues with the prepositional phrase, **τοῦ (toú)** plus **σκότος (skótos)**, translated “of this darkness.” This configuration is defined as “against the world rulers of this darkness.”
- (15) *Skótos* – darkness – indicates these units carry out policies for the Dark Side. The armies and governments of this world are infiltrated by *kosmokrátoras*, 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 with the phrase “against spirit forces of evil in the heavenly places.”
- (18) This phrase starts out with the preposition *prós* translated “against.” This is followed by the adjective **πνευματικός (pneumatikós)**: “spiritual” and the noun **πονηρία (ponēría)**: “evil.”
- (19) Where these armies operate is noted last by the prepositional phrase “in the heavenly places”: the noun is the plural in the locative of place of **ἐπουράνιος (epouránios)** 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 and outer space. (EXT & CTL)

37. This prepares us to move forward in the passage. The next section presents an item by item description of the believer’s *panoplía*: the “full armor” for doing battle in the angelic conflict.

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