

Marshall Billingslea

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M.I.A.'s & P.O.W.'s

Book report on **"This present darkness"**

OUR VICTORY!

EPH 6:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATIONS

^{LK 14:31} "Or suppose a king is about to go to **war** against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?"

^{REV 19:11} I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes **war**....¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him,

^{REV 12:7} And there was **war** in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

2 Cor. 6:7... in the power of God; with **weapons** of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

2 Cor. 10:4 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The **weapons** we fight with are not the **weapons** of the world.

TOPICAL DEFINITIONS

WAR— armed conflict, hostile fighting between opposing governments involving a series of battles

PACIFIST— opposed to conflict or confrontation at any cost, a “conscientious objector”, willing to sacrifice anything for peace.

MILITARY— members of an armed force, soldiers of war, militant followers, combined group of warriors

CIVIL WAR— a separation and division within normal ranks declaring internal opposition

DECLARATION OF WAR— formal announcement of hostile opposition

INITIATIVE— ability to begin or introduce the first step. Inventiveness, resourcefulness and effectiveness in responding to challenges

OBJECTIVE— determined offense or defensive purposes. Focus of intent

STRATEGY— tactics used against the enemy

LOGISTICS— “how to” , proper use and allocation of resources

MOBILIZATION— deployment, put into action

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SOLDIERS... RECRUITED INTO ACTIVE DUTY

¹TI 1:18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight,

2 Tim. 2: ³ Endure hardship with us like a good **soldier** of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a **soldier** gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer.

^{PHM 1:1} Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow **soldier** and to the church that meets in your home:

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD SOLDIER:

1. Endures training (boot camp)
experiences a tearing down before building up
some want to be general overnight
2. Understands obedience to orders by authority
3. Willing to lay down their life
(foxes book of martyrs)

Other...

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Doctrine of War according to Encarta Encyclopedia

The goal of military training is to equip members of the services with the basic skills and discipline needed for appropriate action under the stress of combat.

Tactics— The term *guerrilla* (Spanish, "little war") originated in the early 19th century . Lacking the numerical strength and weapons to oppose a regular army in the field, guerrillas avoid pitched battles. The tactics of guerrillas are those of harassment. Striking swiftly and unexpectedly, they raid enemy supply depots and installations, ambush patrols and convoys, and cut communication lines, hoping thereby to disrupt enemy activities and to capture equipment and supplies for their own use. Consider this analogy:

1. supply = "the word"
2. Patrols / convoys = fellowship of believers
3. Communications = prayer, preaching, etc.

Guerrillas have an ability to disappear among the civilian population, and are extremely difficult to capture.

These sneaky, covert tactics are often the type used by demonic enemies !

Encyclopedia continued ...

The overall plan devised to defeat an enemy is called strategy. The actual techniques carried out against the enemy are tactics, which consist of the procedures for winning on the battlefield, in naval battle, and in aerial combat. Once the overall strategic plan has been approved, planning cycles at lower echelons are implemented. The execution of plans, making possible the attainment of military objectives, involves functions carried out by a field commander whose tactical judgment and leadership are critical. Logistics, which involves transporting troops and furnishing continuous supplies in support of military operations, is essential to the success of the mission.

Should the church have a strategy?

(mission statement)

Should the local church define its tactics?

(methods or channels to carry out its mission)

The Armor ...

.Eph. 6: [13] Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. [14] Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the **breastplate of righteousness** in place, [15] and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. [16] In addition to all this, take up **the shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17] Take the **helmet of salvation** and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

ar·mor 1. A defensive covering, worn to protect the body against weapons. **2.** A tough, protective covering, such as the bony scales covering certain animals or the metallic plates on tanks or warships. **3.** A safeguard or protection. **4.a.** The combat arm that deploys armored vehicles, such as tanks. _____

SWORD:

HEB 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

BREASTPLATE:

Rom.4[20] Yet he (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, [21] being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. [22] This is why **"it was credited to him as righteousness."** [23] The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, [24] but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him

Breastplate cont...

2 Cor.5: [21] God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

HELMET:

Rom. 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

1CO 2:16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But **we have the mind of Christ.**

SHEILD :

HEB 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. [2] This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command,

RO 10:16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [17] Consequently, **faith comes from hearing the message,** and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Many are defenseless:

Matt. 9: [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matt. 10: [16] I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.

1. Many don't study the Bible- they have no sword
2. They don't go to church enough to grow their faith -
they have no shield
3. They depend on their own good works -
they have no breastplate
4. They don't know the mind of Christ -
they have no helmet

VICTORY !!!-

RO 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

LK 10:18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

REV 12:11 They **overcame** him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;

Zech. 4:6 'Not by **might** nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

PS 44:3 It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them **victory**;

it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them. Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes. I do not trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me **victory**; but you give us **victory** over our enemies,

1 Cor. 15: 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

M.I.A.'S AND P.O.W.'S !?!!

An alarming number of Christians are now "Missing in Action". They begin a walk of faith and then soon disappear. No one sees them in services for worship, prayer, fellowship, or Bible study. They have forgotten that faith comes by hearing the word and we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. They have withdrawn from active service of any kind. They never look for opportunities to serve God or His people and are truly Missing in Action.

Others would be considered “Prisoners of War”. They are saved and belong to Christ but have let the enemy take them prisoner. They are held captive to all types of bondage in the flesh. This includes doubt, lust, pride, greed, over-indulgences, slothfulness, and the list goes on and on. Many are comfortable in their habits and refuse to grow or change. Even though the power of God is ready, willing and able to set them free, they choose to stay in bondage as prisoners of war!

SCRIPTURAL COMMAND TO FIGHT !

¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

^{EX 14:19} Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them.

²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Duet. 3 ²² Do not be afraid of them; the LORD your God himself will fight for you."

^{JOS 10:25} Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to **fight**."

Neh. 4:⁸ They all plotted together to come and **fight** against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought the good **fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

1 Tim. 6:¹² **Fight** the good **fight** of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

JOSHUA—

^{JOS 5:13} Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"⁴ "Neither," he replied, "but as **commander** of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The **commander** of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

GIDEON— ^{DG 6:11} The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son **Gideon** was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. ¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to **Gideon**, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

² The LORD said to **Gideon**, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel

may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, ³ announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.' " So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. But the LORD said to **Gideon**, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

^{JDG 8:4} **Gideon** and his three hundred men, exhausted yet keeping up the pursuit, came to the Jordan and crossed it

DAVID— ^{ISA 16:18} One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a **warrior**. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him."

^{ISA 17:38} Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of **armor** on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ³⁹ David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

^{ISA 55:4} See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and **commander** of the peoples.

WEAPONS OF DEFENSE !

^{Eph.6:18} And **pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

^{JUDE 1:20} But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and **pray** in the Holy Spirit.

^{1CO 16:13} Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be **strong**.

^{ISA 54:16} ; no weapon forged against you will prevail...
and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD.

^{JER 50:25} The LORD has opened his arsenal and brought out the weapons of his wrath, for the Sovereign LORD Almighty has work to do in the land

2 Cor. 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

^{JOB 1:9} "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has?

ARENA OF BATTLE -

^{LK 11:17} Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub. ¹⁹ Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your

followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

^{LK 11:21} "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils. ²³ "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters. "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' ²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

ARENA— a scene where forces contend or events unfold, an ancient Roman amphitheatre used for personal battle challenges.

Principalities—

Powers—

Rulers -

Spiritual hosts -

Heavenly places—

Major Battlegrounds— air, land, sea...

1. **The mind**—thoughts, lust, depression, suicide, etc.
movies, magazines, t.v.
 2. **The heart**— hurt feelings, offenses, unforgiveness
ungodly relationships,
 3. **The soul**— emotional abuses, dysfunctional behavior
physical body, sickness, disease.
alcohol, drugs, etc.
- we must renew our mind, guard our heart, and free our soul!

THE ENEMY'S TACTICS

^{1PE 5:8} Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

^{Acts 13:8} But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. ⁹ Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰ "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? ¹¹ Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun."

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

2 Cor.2:¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (ignorant of his devises)

^{2CO 11:13} For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder,

for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

^{MT 16:21} From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, **Satan!** You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

tactics cont....

1. ACCUSATION—

Rev. 12:10 For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

One who brings charges against you, to point out faults, failures and shortcomings. Often using slanderous words, intending to ruin your reputation by launching a character assassination as to discredit the gospel. (gossip and here-say)

2. DECEPTION—

John 8:⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he **lies**, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of **lies**.

Being misled or ensnared by the allurements of false appearance. A fake, hoax, counterfeit, phony, fraud, or imposture.

^{2JN 1:7} Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. (false teachers, religions, cults)

3. TEMPTATION—

^{MK 1:12} At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert,¹³ and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan.

Enticement to sin or violate conscience, especially by the promise of reward, seemingly inviting or attractive. ("just one drink wont hurt", "a little flirting is really harmless", "the pleasure will out way the consequences")

4. FEAR—

2 Tim. 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, (fear) but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (sound mind)

The feeling of dread and apprehension, panic, alarm, terror: the state of agitation and anxiety caused by the presence of immanent danger.

Who is your enemy?

One who intends injury toward you, or opposes your interests. A hostile force bent on hindering your progress.

Lucifer fell by his own pride and lost what we now have.

(relationship with God, blessing and promise) He's motivated by jealousy and resentment, He knows his destiny!

He will use anyone and anything to prevent Gods people from their purpose. Consider the example of a Father who sends his child to their room, puts them on restriction, and separates them from friends. Often this child will take it out on his siblings!

We often battle people when they are not the real problem. We fight with our Mother-in-law, our boss, or spouse. It is important to pin blame where it belongs. Some curse the devil when it is really a flesh issue they struggle with. For example, a person doesn't balance their checkbook and spends all day in prayer trying to rebuke the banker for charging overdraft fees. Others pray for healing in their body when they don't regulate their diet and exercise.

Jesus even experienced this with his closest disciples. Peter didn't have the mind of God but was motivated by self centered ambitions, and Christ knew where the root problem really came from. It is vital to distinguish the difference between sin, the flesh, and the devil.

MANY GIVE CREDIT TO THE DEVIL AND
REFUSE TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR
BEHAVIOR.

THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION...

ANGELS— invisible, immortal spiritual being. An agent of God, a guardian of Christians.

DEMONS— invisible evil supernatural being. A wicked, cruel, and tormenting spirit.

SATAN— ultimate evil, fallen Archangel Lucifer, Beelzebub, Lord of Hell, ruler of demons, the devil

GHOSTS— the unseen spirit of a dead person without a physical body, haunting memory or presence (demon)

HEAVEN— eternal firmament overshadowing the universe. A place of combined

celestial power, the abode of God, angels, and saved souls

HELL— place of eternal punishment for Satan, demons, and condemned souls. A place of misery, torture, anguish and separation from God.

ANGELS...

Order / Rank of power, importance

1. Seraphim—
2. Cherubim—
3. Archangels— (Gabriel, Michael)
4. Ministering Angels—

Col. 1:¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

EZE 10:³ Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. ⁴ Then the glory of the LORD rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the LORD. ⁵ The sound of the wings of the cherubim could be heard as far away as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.

ISA 6:¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

PS 103:²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.
Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. PS 91:¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| A. excel in strength | Heb. 1:14 |
| B. Perform His word | Acts 8:26 |
| C. Respond to his voice | Gen. 19:1 |
| D. Minister to God | Luke 1:26 |
| E. Protect the saints | |
| F. Messengers of God | |

* there are twice as many angels as demons

DEMONS ...

1/3 of the created angels fallen with Lucifer. Unclean, wicked, and at war with the saints, searching for an earthly dwelling place (a being to inhabit)

Structured in military fashion by legions. First principalities, then powers, rulers, and host of wickedness. Often manifested by deaf, mute, blind, mental disorders & disease.

Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home--these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

MT 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels

² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."

Oppression— To keep down by severe and unjust use of force or authority. To weigh heavily on. To overwhelm or crush.

Possession— To acquire mastery of, To gain or exert influence or control over; dominate. To cause to be influenced or controlled, as by an idea or emotion.

Exorcism— To expel (an evil spirit) by or as if by incantation, command, or prayer. To free from evil spirits or malign influences.

Mark 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons;

SATAN ...

His demise—

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. I will ascend to... | 1. Steal |
| 2. I will ascend above... | 2. Kill |
| 3. I will raise... | 3. Destroy |
| 4. I will sit... | 4. deceive |
| 5. I will be like... | 5. tempt |
| | 6. accuse |

His purpose—

ISA 14:11 All your pomp has been brought down to the grave,
along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you. How you have fallen from heaven,

O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!
You said in your heart,

"I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

John 10:¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;

Rev. 12:⁹ The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or **Satan**, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Rev. 20:² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or **Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years.
³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore

HEAVEN ...

3 levels or references in scripture—

1. earths atmosphere, 600 miles through the clouds
2. Through the planets, milky way and the galaxy (firmament)
3. Beyond the stars, where we find... The city of God!

2 Cor. 12: ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. ³ And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- ⁴ was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

REV 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne
Rev.21,&22

1. About the size of the U.S.A., 1400 square miles
2. With great mansions and houses built by a Jewish carpenter!
3. Great jasper walls 216 ft high filled with 12 jewels
4. 12 pearl gates
5. Foundation and streets of gold
6. Illuminated by the glory of God
7. A pure crystal river of the water of life
8. The tree of life with twelve fruits (one every month)
9. 24 thrones of elders (govt. order)
10. A beautiful rainbow surrounding Gods throne
11. Multitudes of worshippers, to many to number
12. Clothed in robes and crowns

a place of serving, learning, worshipping, & rewards

HELL ...

Grave—a burial or resting place for the physical body.
the soul and spirit continue existence for eternity.
Num.16:32,33 / Matt.25:41,46 / Mark 9:43-48

Sheol—Hebrew word for Abrahams bosom, O.T. dead
before Christ

LK 16:22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

Hades— Greek word in N.T. for Hell

Rev. 20: ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Tartaros— bottomless pit, prepared for the devil and fallen angels (final)

Gahanna—lake of fire, prepared for the wicked dead

A place of :

1. Punishment
2. Torment
3. Separation from God
4. Darkness
5. Fire, heat, and smoke
6. No relief
7. Confinement behind gates, below the earth
8. Sorrow, weeping
9. Eternal decay

STRONGHOLDS

A stronghold is more than an occasional battle in life. It is more of an ongoing habit, or addiction. It is where the enemy has set up camp. It is often associated with bondage or oppression. There is a difference in oppression and possession of demons. A born again Christian has the spirit of God in him and Satan can not co-mingle in the same body or soul. Jesus said that we can not serve two masters, One of them has to go! Demons will, however, attack relentlessly as often as God permits. (Remember that God will not put on us more than we can bear). They will take over if we permit it to happen.

The dictionary says that a stronghold is a fortified place or a fortress. It is a place of survival or refuge. An area dominated or occupied by a special group or distinguished by a special quality, or entity.

The following scripture explains how a stronghold is created:

JAS 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

If a stronghold is not dealt with, it will eventually rob a person of his relationship with God

DELIVERENCE

To free from bondage or restraint. To liberate, redeem or rescue.

PS 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

2 Peter 2:9— the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials

John 8: 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin

Steps and / or process:

1. On rare occasions it may be an instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit during prayer. This must be followed up by filling yourself with Gods word.
(memorizing and meditating)
2. Pray for wisdom to see the root of the problem.
3. Take responsibility and stop blaming others.
4. Repent and confess the sin openly
5. Forgive anyone who has hurt or offended you.
6. Cleanse your closet, your cabinet, your desk drawer, or any place that might harbor temptation for sin
(booze, magazines, etc.)
7. Be accountable to a spiritual authority or friend.

^{MT 6:13} And lead us not into temptation, but **deliver** us from the evil one. '