**“Principalities and Powers” in Eph-Col**

**Eph.1:20-23**“… and seated Him at His right in the heavenlies, up above every ruler and authority and power and lordship and every name named, not only in this age but also in the one about to be. And He subordinated all things under His feet and appointed Him Head over all things to the church which is His body, the fulness of the One filling all these in all.”

“In the heavenlies” suggests the scope of dominion of these rulers and authorities. Just as Israel will be “up above” the nations (Deu.26:18-19; 28:1) when the Jews finally fulfill their divine purpose, Christ has been up above these heavenly rulers for almost two millennia. If seated, then He also rules over them in some fashion. But Christ will also rule the kings of nations as “Ruler of the kings of the earth” (Rev.1:5) – a situation that awaits fulfillment in the Millennium. During the Millennium sin and rebellion will still be possible (Isa.65:20; Zech.14:16-19). Similarly some heavenly rulers today are resisting the church, rather than learning from it – while Christ is seated over them. Although Jesus said after His resurrection, “Was given to Me every authority in heaven and upon earth” (Mat.28:18), it was also said of Him later, “You subordinated all things underneath His feet. For in the subordinating all these to Him, He left nothing unsubordinated to Him. But now we do not yet see all these having been subordinated to Him. (Heb.2:8)” It would seem that having the authority and exercising the authority are not the same – just like the difference between *dunamis* and *energeia*. Subordination or rule during this “dispensation of the grace of God” seems to be based on powers of persuasion, not coercion. And the means of Christ’s reign for the present are spiritual rather than physical.

**Eph.3:10** so that might be made known now to the rulers and to the authorities in the heavenlies through the church the multifarious wisdom of God.

“In the heavenlies” provides the scope of their dominion

**Eph.6:12** because to us the wrestling is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spirituals of the wickedness in the heavenlies.

“In the heavenlies” provides the scope of their dominion. Its nature is spiritual, not blood and flesh.

**Col.1:16** because by Him were created all these things: those in the heavens and those upon the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities, all these were created through Him and for Him.

Heavenly(the invisible)and Earthly (the visible).

**Col.2:10** and you are filled by Him Who is the Head of every ruler and authority

Ambiguous – immediate context does not resolve it.

**Col.2:15** having stripped the rulers and the authorities He made an example with boldness triumphing over them by it (the cross).

Heavenly – no record of His stripping Earthly powers.

**Ti.3:1** Remind them to be subordinate to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work…

Earthly– secular– we are nowhere told to be obedient or subordinate to angels. On the contrary, we are in a spiritual wrestling match with them (Eph.6:12 above). In the previous dispensation, Israelites were expected to obey the word of angels coming in the name of the Lord – or else! The example of Zachariah in Luke 1:18-20 is instructive.

But note:

**Eph.5:22-24** Let the wives be subordinated to their own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is Head of the church. And He is Saviour of the body. But as the church is subordinated to the Christ, so also the wives to their own husbands in all things.