

# THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

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EPHESUS AND US

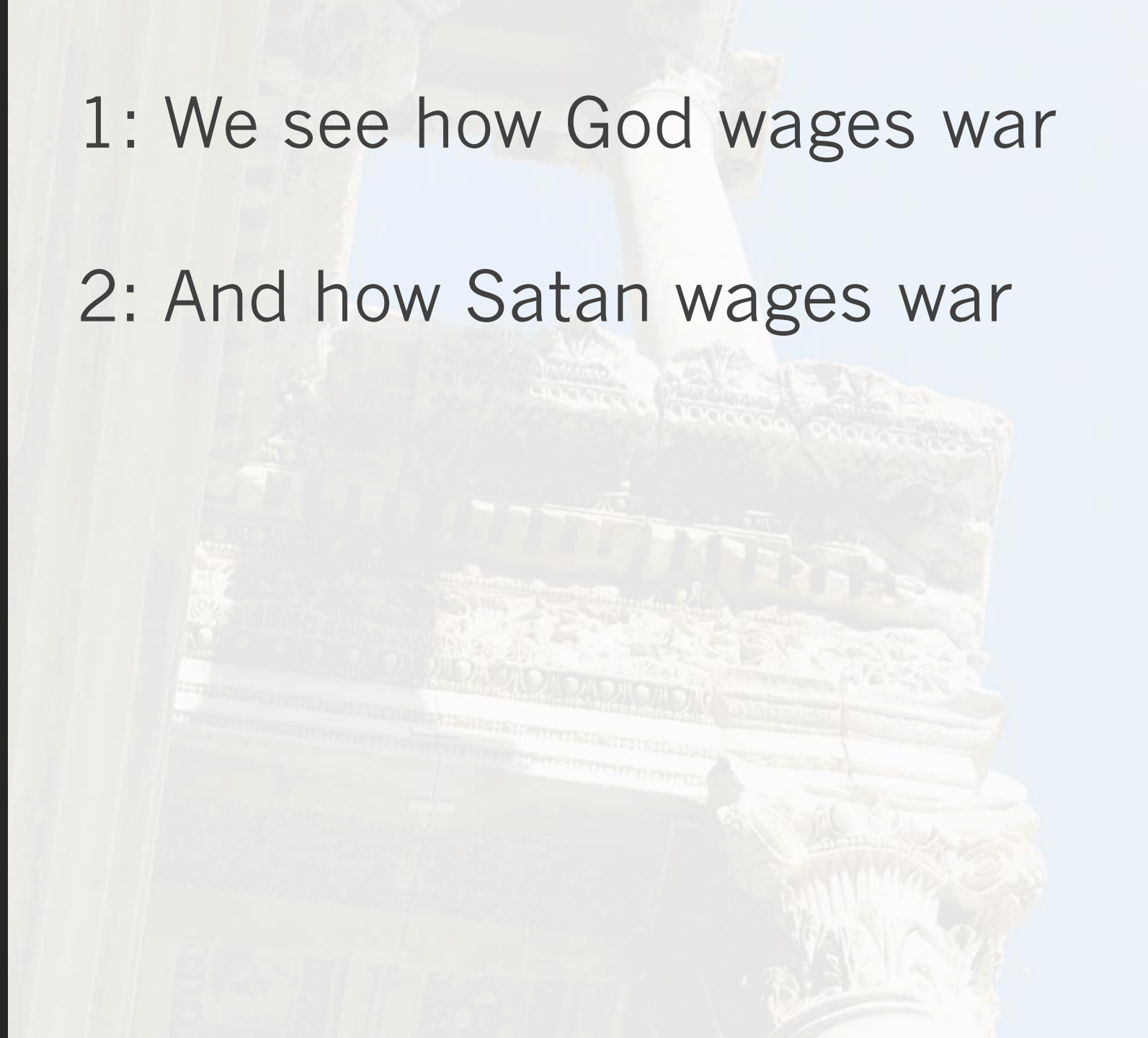
The session will start in a few minutes at 6pm



# ACTS 19

**THIS  
IS A  
SNAPSHOT  
OF THE  
SPIRITUAL  
BATTLE**

- 1: We see how God wages war
- 2: And how Satan wages war



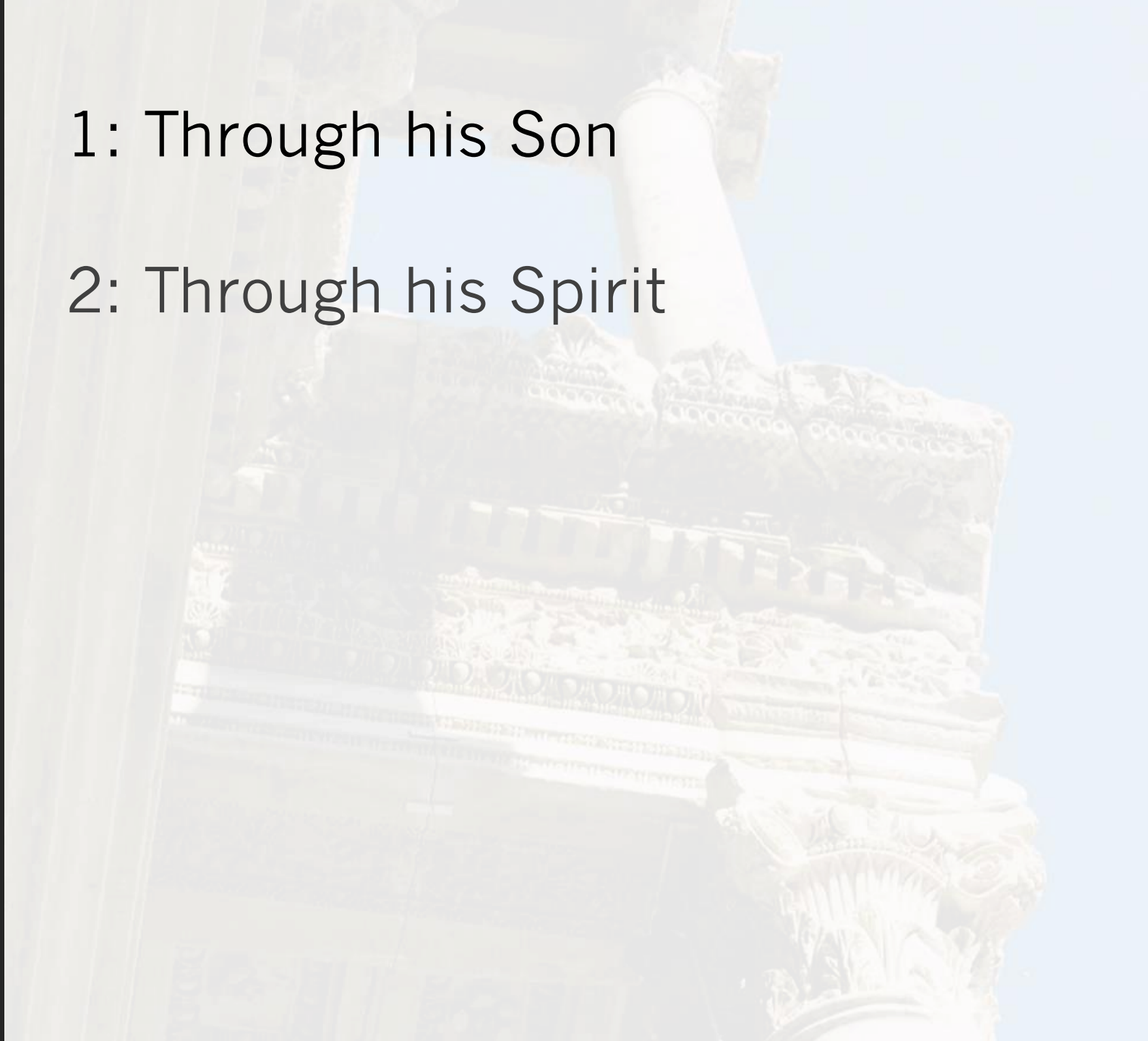
# HOW SATAN WAGES WAR

- 1: The roaring lion
- 2: The performing lion
- 3: The angel of light
- 4: The puppet master

# HOW GOD WAGES WAR

1: Through his Son

2: Through his Spirit





# 3. THROUGH HIS WORD

SEE IT  
IN BOTH  
APOLLOS  
AND PAUL

*They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. Acts 18:19*

SEE IT  
IN BOTH  
APOLLOS  
AND PAUL

*Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervour and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.*

*Acts 18:24-25*



SEE IT  
IN BOTH  
APOLLOS  
AND PAUL

*When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. Acts 18:27-28*

SEE IT  
IN BOTH  
APOLLOS  
AND PAUL

*Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. Acts 19:8-10*

# AMAZING STATEMENT IN 19.20

*In this way the word of the Lord  
spread widely and grew in power.  
Acts 19:20*

There's a typo in the Bible!

Should say 'work', says 'Word'

But it is not a typo – crucial piece  
of theology

ALWAYS  
HOW ACTS  
DESCRIBES  
PROGRESS

*So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. (Act 6:7)*

*But the word of God continued to increase and spread. (Act 12:24)*

*The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. (Act 13:49)*



# MARTIN LUTHER

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*I opposed indulgences . . . but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philipp and Amsdorf, . . . the Word did everything.*



# MARTIN LUTHER

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*Had I desired to foment trouble, I could have brought great bloodshed upon Germany; indeed, I could have started such a game that even the emperor would not have been safe. But what would it have been? Mere fool's play. I did nothing; I let the Word do its work.*



# MARTIN LUTHER

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*What do you suppose is Satan's thought when one tries to do the thing by kicking up a row? He sits back in hell and thinks: Oh, what a fine game the poor fools are up to now!*



# MARTIN LUTHER

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*But when we spread the Word alone and let it alone do the work, that distresses him. For it is almighty, and takes captive the hearts, and when the hearts are captured the work will fall of itself.*





**'FOR IT IS ALMIGHTY'**

# CREATION

*By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. (Psalms 33:6)*

*Long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water . . . By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (2Peter 3:5-7)*

# UPHOLDING

*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3)*

# SEARCHING

*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. (Hebrews 4:12)*

# NEW BIRTH

*He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.*

*(James 1:18)*

*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. (1 Peter 1:23)*

*I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. (1 John 2:14)*

# SALVATION

*Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.*

*(James 1:21)*

*And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.*

*(1 Thess 2:13)*

# HOLINESS

*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)*

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (Ephesians 5:25-27)*

# SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

*Were not our hearts burning within us  
while he talked with us on the road  
and opened the Scriptures to us?  
(Luke 24:32)*



# SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

*Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation." (Exodus 34:5-8)*

# WORSHIP AND CHURCH LIFE

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16)*

# WORSHIP AND CHURCH LIFE

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ.*

# WORSHIP AND CHURCH LIFE

*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.(Eph 4:11-15)*



**THE WORD IS CRUCIAL IN BATTLE**

# GENESIS 3

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"<sup>4</sup> "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.<sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen 3:1-5)*

# MATTHEW 4

*The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: `Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*  
(Matthew 4:1-11)

# EPHESIANS 6

*Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17)*



# JUDE

*Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a licence for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.  
(Jude 1:3-4)*

## 2TIM 3-4

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

## 2TIM 3-4

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction.*

## 2TIM 3-4

*For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (2 Timothy 3:16 - 4:5)*




**THE LAST WORD FOR TONIGHT**

# HOW GOD WAGES WAR

- 1: Through his Son
- 2: Through his Spirit
- 3: Through his Word

At the same time!



# THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

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EPHESUS AND US