

Angelic Hosts: Created To
Serve

Principalities and powers re-interpreted

1950's liberals embarrassed by: Bible's teaching about things supernatural and lack of addressing "social structures" as social problems in society

"Then suddenly a new theory is proposed which solves both problems simultaneously. We lose the demons and gain the structures, for the principalities and powers are structures in disguise!"

John Stott, *Ephesians*, p. 271

Principalities and powers re-interpreted

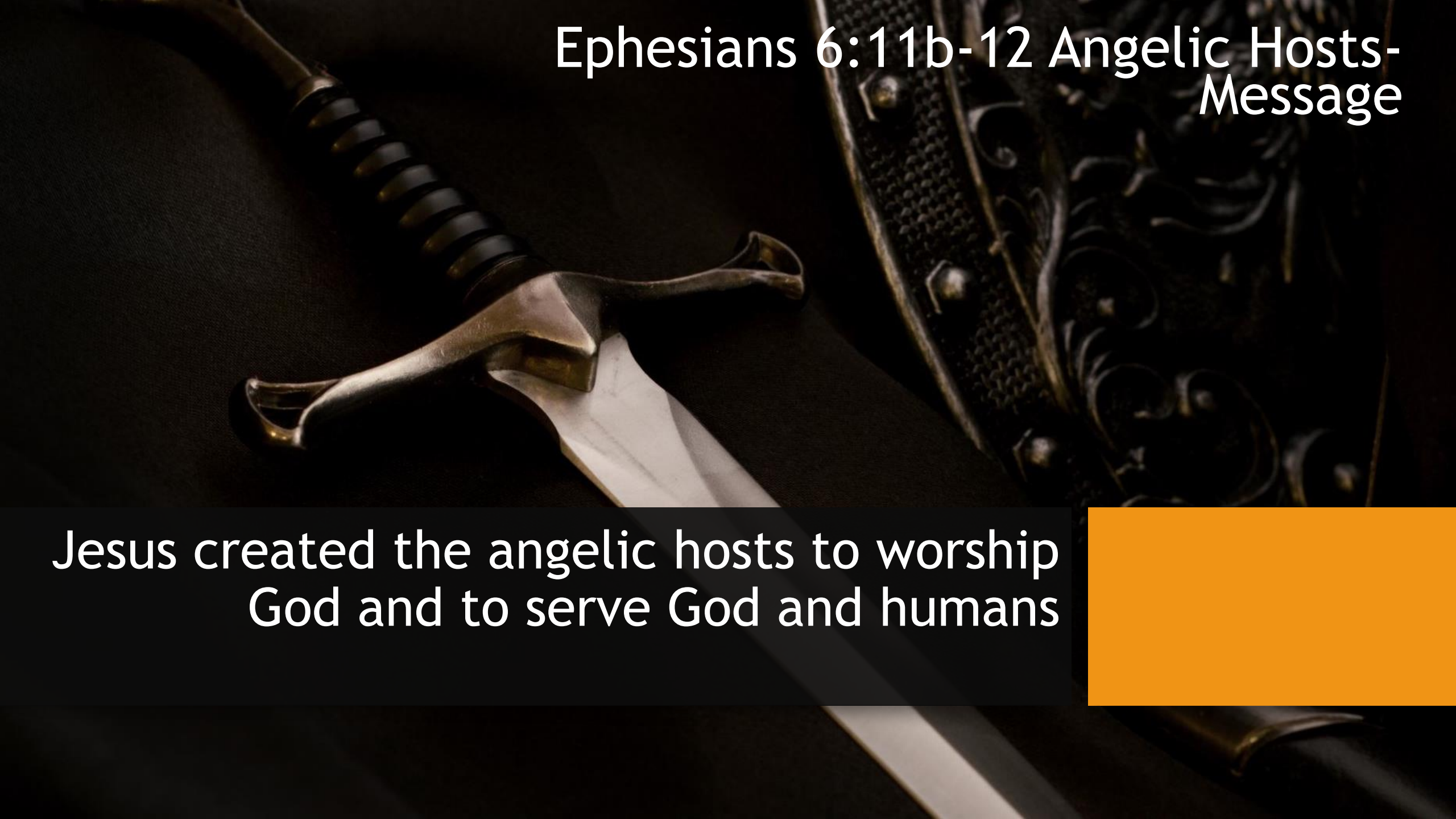
The evil spiritual forces in Eph 6:10ff were actually:

“structures of thought (tradition, convention, law, authority, even religion)” and
“economic, social and political forces”

Principalities and powers re-interpreted

Markus Barth (early 1970's) taught that Paul meant that evil spirits refer to:

“the state (political, judicial, ecclesiastical authorities), death, moral and ritual law, and economic structures including slavery...concrete historical, social or psychic structures or institutions”



Ephesians 6:11b-12 Angelic Hosts- Message

Jesus created the angelic hosts to worship
God and to serve God and humans

Holy Angels

Jesus created the angels (Heb 1:2; Jn 1:3; Col 1:16; 1 Cor 8:6; Ps 148:2-5)

Angels are spirit beings, having no flesh and bones (Lk 24:39)

All of the angelic host were created to serve God and believers (Heb 1:14)

Jesus is supreme Lord over all angelic beings (Heb 1:6-8)

Holy Angels

Leon Morris put it well, “He [Jesus] sits in royal state; they [angels], however, are no more than servants”

(Expositor's, Vol. 12, p. 19)

Demons



Demons are fallen angels (Rev 12:4)

Demons are more powerful than humans

Demons and Satan will be judged by Jesus
(Rev 20:10)

There is no hope of redemption for them
(Mt 25:41)

Can believers be possessed by demons?

“The Bible convincingly reveals that true believers cannot be inhabited by Satan or demons. However, they can be tormented, oppressed, and harassed externally”

(MacArthur & Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, p. 718)

Why does Satan keep fighting?

“The answer is that the essential weakness of the devil is that, despite all his cleverness and all his subtlety, he does not realize that he is a defeated foe. He has great knowledge and great power, but he is not aware of the fact that he is hopelessly outclassed”

“he still persists with his efforts. He is still trying to defeat God...The devil’s one consuming passion and ambition is to spoil and destroy the work of God”

(Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Christian Warfare*, p. 94)

The Devil

Satan is merely a fallen angel created by Jesus (Col 1:16)

He is the leader of the evil spirits

He is very powerful (2 Cor 4:4; Mt 12:24; Eph 2:2; Jn 12:31)

Satan presents himself as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14)

He is our adversary (1 Pet 5:8)

Satan is the Accuser (Zech 3:1-5; Rev 12:10-11)