

# Principalities and Powers

## 3 Greek words in 10 Bible Passages

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### Introduction

This is a Greek word study of three words used to convey the idea of "**principalities** and **powers**" a total of 10 times in the New Testament. The reason for 3 Greek words rather than 2 is because there are 2 different types of "power" in the Greek - 1) the **power** of **ability** and 2) the **power** of **authority**. Both of those words are used in the 10 passages we will look at in this study. Various English words have been used as translations for the 3 Greek words we will study. But, to be more clear, I will only use 3 descriptive, **color-coded English words to match the following 3 Greek words**:

#### 1. "**Ruler**" (principalities)

- **English**: this is a **ruling power**, such as the **rulers** of the synagogues, a nation, kingdom, country, province, city, etc...
- **Greek**: G746: ἀρχή *arché*, *ar-khay'*; (properly abstract) a commencement, or (concretely) **chief** (in various applications of order, time, place, or rank)
- **KJV Translation(s)**:-- beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), **magistrate**, power, **principality**, principle, **rule**.

#### 2. "**Authority**"

- **English**: this is a person or persons with a high level of knowledge or skill to enforce the rules of the "**Rulers**".
- **Greek**: G1849: ἐξουσία *exousía*, *ex-oo-see'-ah*; privilege, i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) **mastery** (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, **potentate**, token of control), **delegated influence**
- **KJV Translation(s)**:-- **authority**, **jurisdiction**, liberty, power, right, strength.

#### 3. "**Power**"

- **English**: this is generally a person or persons with **ability** to enforce the rules of the **Rulers** working under those who have "**Authority**" to enforce those rules.
- **Greek**: G1411 δύναμις *dýnamis*, *doon'-nam-is*; **force** (literally or figuratively); specially, **miraculous power** (usually by implication, a miracle itself)
- **KJV Translation(s)**:-- **ability**, abundance, meaning, **might**(-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle(-s), **power**, **strength**, violence, **mighty** (wonderful) work.

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### 10 Bible Passages - how the 3 words are used together in the new testament

[Luke 12:11](#) When they bring you before the synagogues, the **rulers**, and the **authorities**, don't be anxious how or what you will answer or what you will say;

- Civil governments

[Luke 20:20](#) They watched him and sent out spies, who pretended to be righteous, that they might trap him {Jesus} in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the [rule] and **authority** of the governor.

- Roman government

[Romans 8:38](#) For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor [rulers], nor things present, nor things to come, nor **powers**, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from God's love which is in

Messiah Jesus our Lord.

- Any rulers or powers

[1 Corinthians 15:24](#) Then the end comes, when he {Jesus} will deliver up the Kingdom to God the Father, when he will have abolished all **rule** and all **authority** and **power**.

- All rulers, authorities, and powers

[Ephesians 1:19-21](#) And what is the exceeding greatness of his {the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory (verse 17)} power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he {Father} raised him {Jesus} from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all **rule**, **authority**, **power**, dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come.

- All rulers, authorities, and powers

[Ephesians 3:9-11](#) and to make all men see what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in **God, who created all things through Jesus** the Messiah, 10 to the intent that now through the assembly the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to the [rulers] and the [authorities] in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which he accomplished in Messiah Jesus our Lord.

- Heavenly rulers and authorities

[Ephesians 6:12](#) For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the [rulers], against the [authorities], against the world's **rulers** {an epithet of Satan (G2888)} of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- Satan ruling through earthly rulers and authorities

[Colossians 1:15-17](#) **He {Jesus} is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.** 16 For by him all things were created in the heavens and on the earth, visible things and invisible things, whether thrones or dominions or [rulers] or [authorities]. All things have been created through him {Jesus} and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things are held together.

- Kingdoms, dominions, rulers, and authorities created by Jesus

[Colossians 2:9-10](#) For in him {Jesus} **all the fullness of the Deity** dwells bodily, 10 and in him you are made full, who is the head of all [rule] and [authority].

- Jesus is the head of all rulers and authorities
- Regarding "**all the fullness of the Deity**" in Jesus, this is what He said about that => [John 5:26](#) "For **as the Father hath life in himself, even so gave he to the Son** also to have life in himself:"
  - Father gave all things to His Son. See => <https://sidnash.org/t/AllThingsGivenSon.php>

[Colossians 2:13-15](#) You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 Having stripped the [ruler] and the [authorities], he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

- Likely satan through his evil angels - "**the accuser of our brethren**"
  - [Revelation 12:10](#) And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God** day and night.