

Ranks of Spirit Beings in the Greek New Testament

Chart & Translations by G. H. Shinn

Col. 1:16*	Col 2:10	Col 2:15	Eph. 1:21**	Eph. 2:2	Eph. 3:10	Eph 6:12	Ro. 8:38	1 Pet. 3:22
θρόνοι (Thronoi) Thrones			ἀρχῆς (arches) Ruler				ἀρχαὶ (archai) Rulers	ἐξουσίαι (exousiai) Authorities
κυριότητες (kuriotetes) Lordships			ἐξουσίας (exousias) Authority				δυνάμεις (dunameis) Powers; <i>equivalent to thrones in Col. 1:16</i>	δυνάμεων (dunameon) Powers; <i>equivalent to thrones in Col. 1:16</i>
ἀρχαὶ (archai) Rulers	ἀρχαὶ (archai) Rulers	ἀρχαὶ (archai) Rulers	δυνάμειος (dunameos) Power; <i>equivalent to thrones in Col. 1:16</i>		ἀρχαὶ (archai) Rulers	ἀρχαὶ (archai) Rulers	The above passages list rulers, authorities with powers without reference to their order.	
ἐξουσίαι (exousiai) Authorities	ἐξουσίαι (exousiai) Authorities	ἐξουσίαι (exousiai) Authorities	κυριότητος (kuriotetos) Lordship	ἐξουσίαι (exousiai) Authorities	ἐξουσίαι (exousiai) Authorities	ἐξουσίαι (exousiai) Authorities		

*The correct ranking seems to be found in this passage, as the Greek words used seemed to have those relationships in the political realm. A different order of words occurs in Ephesians 1:21, which is the only other passage where four terms are used in a similar manner. Note, however *Thronoi* in Colossians and *Dunameos* in Ephesians. These seem to refer to the same rank.

**For emphatic reasons Paul places *Arche* and *Exousias* first. Paul's discussion of Satanic attack in 6:12 relates only *rulers* and *authorities* to spiritual warfare. Also, in this list the words are singular rather than the normal plural, since Paul is including both humans and spirit beings in the list as a collective group.