

## THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS ALONE! : PART 1

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Published On : June 21, 1998

Last Updated : July 11, 2018

Demonic Attacks Within USA, Replacing Our Christian Faith With False Belief Systems, Spiritual Vacuum And Inviting The Devil To Take A Seat, Spiritual Warfare Is Real, Leadership Attacked First, Propaganda Tools Used To Destroy One's Enemy, Jesus Is The Head Of The Church, The Weaknesses Of Organized Religion, The Roman Catholic Church's Claim Of Superiority, Unbiblical Doctrines Of The Cults, Are Some Churches Cults?, The Danger Of Placing Our Faith In Man Instead Of In God And His Word, Scandal-Ridden Modern Christianity, Offend One Of These Little Ones, Enter Heaven Maimed?, An Eye For An Eye?, Love Repentance & Forgiveness, Man Worship, Doctrines Of Men, Confirm Doctrines By Scriptures, Preach Jesus Only And Not Ourselves, False Brethren Teaching False Doctrine, God Is Our Refuge And Fortress, God's Mercy And Protection, King David Acknowledges God As His Only Protector, Satan Is The Fowler, Father Of Lies, Children Of The Devil, Like Father Like Son Unbelieving Jews Attempt To Catch Jesus, Satan Sifts Peter

Since a number of years ago, I have become aware of some of the negative spiritual incidents which have been experienced by a certain number of my Christian brethren. Personally, I have never experienced such things in my own life; so to say the least, it alarms me, and troubles me, to hear that some of my readers are having these experiences. From what I have been told, these incidents include actually seeing demons, or being threatened by a black cloud which is trying to settle on top of them, or having an evil entity try to pull them under their bed, or having Satan appear in person, and tell them that he has come to rightfully claim what is his. Again, I find all of these reports concerning demonic attacks very unsettling. What is going on? Why is it happening? Why is it occurring now? And why is it happening to Bible-believing Christians?

As I was pondering these dark reports, I was reminded of some of the information that I include in the series "Nature of the Alien". In that series, I mention how it seems that as a growing number of Americans have abandoned God and the faith of their Christian forefathers, they have created a spiritual vacuum in their lives. Perhaps this vacuum has grown so large now, that it has enveloped the entire United States. I really don't know, but it is indeed a sobering thought.

By surrendering their Christian heritage, and replacing it with New Age thought, oriental religions, deceptions from the alien and UFO cult, Wicca and nature worship, Native American shamanism, and other demonic lies, they have unknowingly left the door wide open for Satan and his evil minions to come in, in all of their power. Just as God's Spirit usually will not go where it is not wanted, in contrast, Satan and his demons will indeed go where they are not only wanted, but where they are also consciously invoked through all of these false belief systems. The personal stories that I have read certainly seem to indicate that what I wrote in that series may be true.

The fact that seemingly so many Americans -- Christians and non-Christians alike -- are having these attacks, is a very serious matter. We must all realize that we are involved in very real spiritual warfare. As I mention in other articles, the Apostle Paul wrote all about this topic in a number of his Epistles. For example, consider the following verses. It becomes quite evident from reading them, that Paul realized that the real war is occurring in the Spiritual Realm:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

Ephesians 6:12-17, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of

this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, KJV

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

1 Timothy 6:12, KJV

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

2 Timothy 2:3, KJV

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

1 Peter 5:8, KJV

While all Christians are important to the Lord because we are His children, it seems that those who hold more influential positions in the Body of Christ, such as people who are in leadership positions, or who engage in very public preaching ministries in one form or another, are more likely to become the target of one of Satan's more serious attacks.

Even in secular warfare, it is the leadership which an enemy will attempt to undermine, discredit and destroy first. The same holds true in modern politics. Quite often, the goal of destroying an opponent is accomplished through engaging in a negative political campaign. The tools of the trade which are usually used to disseminate the damaging propaganda include radio, television, shortwave radio, pamphlets, billboards, newspaper and magazine articles, etc. In this day and age, of course, there is also the power of the Internet, as recent events in some of the nations of North Africa and the Middle East most assuredly attest. Then, of course, there is the terrible mud-slinging which constantly occurs in the U.S.A. One of the most reliable means of destroying leadership is

through causing discontentment and civil unrest amongst the masses; and we have certainly seen plenty of this in recent times.

Once the head is destroyed by whatever means necessary, the body -- that is, the army or the general populace -- may continue to function for a short time in an unorganized fashion, but it too will soon fall apart and perish, unless new leadership is quickly selected in order to avoid total anarchy. In the case of us Christians, thank God that we only have one Real Leader, and He simply cannot be touched by anyone. Consider the following verses where we are told that Jesus is the head of the body; that is, the Church:

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

1 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,"

Ephesians 1:20-22, KJV

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

Ephesians 4:15, KJV

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

Ephesians 5:23, KJV

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son . . . And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:12-13, 18, KJV

"And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"

Colossians 2:10, KJV

"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"

1 Peter 2:7, KJV

This is in fact one of the weaknesses of organized religion and cults. Instead of pointing their followers directly to Jesus and the Bible as they should, some of them make their flocks dependent upon human leadership, and they teach them to trust in their church laws, traditions, interpretations of the Scriptures, etc., or in the cult's strange and unusual doctrines. As I point out in articles such as "Have You Read the New Scriptures Yet?", this is particularly true of the Roman Catholic Church, which for many years -- centuries in fact -- discouraged its members from even reading the Holy Scriptures on their own. Even today, the RCC still claims it is the only divinely-appointed authority which can correctly interpret the Scriptures. If one is an old school Catholic, there is very little room in his life for the Holy Spirit to operate effectively, because one is taught to accept only what the "Holy Mother Church" teaches.

Of course, some cults are even worse, because the followers become so heavily indoctrinated, and so mesmerized by the man or woman who originally founded the cult, or who still leads the cult, that everything outside of the cult becomes secondary to them. The member lives only to please the cult leader, and the cult leader's words become to them as the very word of God. In some instances, the cult's doctrines are said to even supersede the Bible. From my discussions and experiences with cults over the years, I know how true this really is. Oddly enough, there are some churches today which are simply large cults, yet a lot of people seem to be slow to recognize this fact, or maybe they just don't want to.

Because of this widespread practice of discouraging personal Bible study, what happens is that the poor sheep unknowingly exchange their faith in the Lord and His Word, for faith in their pastor, priest, minister or elder. Many people blindly assume that because a church leader has attended a seminary,

or wears a robe or collar, surely they must know what they are talking about. Thus, people blow caution to the wind, and accept that what they are being taught is Biblical truth. As a result, whatever the church leader or cult leader claims to be the truth, is accepted without reservation, even if it is far removed from the actual truth of the Scriptures. This is very dangerous; because it can easily result in doctrinal error and deception creeping into a person's life.

Another problem arises when certain leaders fall from grace due to some public scandal occurring in their lives; and we have certainly seen a lot of this happening in recent years. If people have their eyes on the man, instead of on God and His Word as they should, such scandals may possibly result in them becoming so disillusioned and disappointed, that they may lose their faith and abandon Christianity altogether. In other cases, such a poor demonstration of our faith may cause some people to choose to never become Christians in the first place. Considering the ongoing scandals regarding pedophilia within the Roman Catholic Church, as well as sex and money scandals in other Christian denominations, it isn't difficult to understand why some people feel the way that they do. In thinking about the poor examples that some Christian leaders have been, I am reminded of the following verses which are found in the Synoptic Gospels; that is, Matthew, Mark and Luke:

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."  
Matthew 18:6-9, KJV

"And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to

enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another."

Mark 9:42-50, KJV

"Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."

Luke 17:1-4, KJV

The previous verse sets are rather strong, and will no doubt cause certain people a problem. Is Jesus really saying that we should physically maim ourselves by cutting off our hand or foot, or by plucking out our eyes? My personal opinion is this: If we consider the verses that I shared earlier where we are informed that Jesus is the head of the body, and that the body is actually the Church, then if we understand the previous verses from the Gospels in that context, then what Jesus may really be saying, is that unless they repent of their sins, we should cast any unrepentant members from the Church. This particular interpretation seems to be confirmed by the final sentences in the verses from the Gospel of Luke where Jesus speaks of repentance and forgiveness. In fact, the act of literally cutting off a hand or foot, or plucking out our eye is further deemed unnecessary by the Lord in the following verses:

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Matthew 5:38-48, KJV

So once again, we see that the Lord is actually emphasizing love, repentance and forgiveness over the harsh, cold letter of the law -- that is, the Mosaic Law -- which the Jewish Elders constantly used to keep the people under subjugation. I honestly do not believe that Heaven is full of people who possess only one eye, one hand, or one foot. Do you? If we consider that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" -- Romans 3:23 -- then millions of maimed Christians is what we would have to expect to see in Heaven if we take the Lord's words literally; because we would all be forced to conduct some level of "personal surgery" in order to make it through the Heavenly Gates. In contrast, as the Apostle James also wrote:

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16, KJV

For more information concerning this topic, please consider reading articles such as "Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement".



Returning to the previous topic, the dangers of man worship, and accepting the doctrines of men, becomes very clear. As a longtime writer and teacher of God's Word, this is something which I personally take very seriously. This is why I strive to always back up my opinions and conclusions with the Word of God. I don't wish to be found guilty of preaching another gospel, or another Jesus. The best way to safeguard against this is simply by confirming my teachings through the Bible. Does this mean that I am infallible, or that my writings are perfect in every way without any error? Of course not. As we are told in the Proverbs, as well as by the Apostle James:

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."

Proverbs 10:19, KJV

"My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

James 3:1, KJV

Note: In the previous verse, the word "masters" is derived from the Greek word "didaskalos", which means "teachers".

I discuss the topic of man worship at great length in articles such as "Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?". The main point that I wish to emphasize here is that we must make certain that we are only preaching Jesus Christ, and no one else. We must inspire people to place their faith in the Lord, and in no one else. We are not to preach ourselves, or set ourselves on a pedestal and glory in ourselves, or draw people to ourselves. We must simply lead people to He who is the only Way, the Truth and the Life. Consider the following verses:

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

John 12:32, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

2 Corinthians 4:5, KJV

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

John 3:30, KJV

"That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:31, KJV

"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

2 Corinthians 10:17, KJV

While the previous paragraphs may seem like a departure from our main topic concerning spiritual warfare, in reality, they are directly related to it. Because as I point out in a few other articles, infiltrating the Body of Christ with false teachers who propagate false doctrine is one of the weapons that Satan uses to confound, confuse, weaken and divide God's sheep, as is made clear by verses such as the following:

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way."

Matthew 13:24-25, KJV

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Romans 16:17, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him . . . For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15, KJV

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called

you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Galatians 1:6-9, KJV

"And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:"

Galatians 2:4, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

Titus 3:9-11, KJV

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

2 John 1:9-11, KJV

On a personal level, while I've known the Lord and His Word for many years now, I am by no means a spiritual giant; and I am most certainly not immune to experiencing spiritual battles. Like the rest of you, I have my share of personal sins and shortcomings that I have to contend with, not to

mention other more serious battles that the devil sometimes throws my way. However, for the most part, it seems that my personal battles center around discouragement, self-doubt, or feelings of inadequacy. To my recollection, I have never experienced such graphical spiritual onslaughts as some of my readers have experienced. I have never seen a demon, or been threatened by a demon, or seen a black hovering cloud, or anything else that some of them have described in their messages to me.

The only conclusion at which I can arrive at this time, is that perhaps in His Mercy, the Lord has me hallowed about with His mighty Angels, and under the wings of His loving protection, for the sake of this ministry. It certainly isn't something that I by any means deserve. Allow me to share a few verses with you concerning this topic:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

Psalms 91:1-4, KJV

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

Psalms 34:7, KJV

Notice King David's usage of particular words in the previous verses, such as refuge, fortress, snare, fowler, shield, and buckler. While David was indeed a man of war, I don't believe that he is just referring to physical warfare, but rather to spiritual warfare as well. The Scriptures indicate that David realized that no matter how strong he and his army may have been in the flesh, it was only the Lord who could provide the protection that the Israelites needed against their enemies. Sadly, this realization is something which many of the later kings failed to recognize, as I point out in other articles such as "The Fruits of Disobedience" and "The Children of God and Politics". It is because of this realization, that David also wrote other verses, such as the following, in which he fully acknowledges the Lord as his only Protector:

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

Psalms 20:7, KJV

"And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence."

2 Samuel 22:1-3, KJV

In a spiritual sense, the fowler who we find mentioned in the previous verses from Psalm Ninety-One, is none other than Satan himself. The word "fowler" is derived from the Hebrew word yaw-koosh'. A fowler is a trapper or bait-layer; and as some of you will know, this is exactly what that old serpent the Devil does in the subtle war that he wages against God's children. He uses his snare -- that is, his evil lies, doubts and deceptions -- to try to weaken us, and to entrap us in his web. You may recall that in the Gospel of John, the Lord told the unbelieving Jews that they were of their father the Devil, who Jesus plainly stated is the Father of Lies, as we see here:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:44, KJV

There is an old adage which says "Like father, like son". It should come as no surprise to us then, that if Satan -- who is the Father of Lies -- attempts to trap us in his web of deception, his children would use the very same tactics. As it turns out, two thousand years ago, Satan's children tried to do the very same thing with Jesus. Consider this verse:

"And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words."

Mark 12:13, KJV

That word "catch" is derived from the Greek word "agreuo",

which Thayer's Greek lexicon defines as "to hunt, to take by hunting, catch". In other words, the unbelieving, legalistic Jews were hoping to find something wrong in Jesus' doctrine, so that they could accuse Him. Furthermore, as I point out in the article "Peter: Faith Tried in the Fire", Jesus warned the Apostle Peter that Satan was after him as well. Consider this verse that is found in the Gospel of Luke:

"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

Luke 22:31-32, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS ALONE! : PART 2

Copyright 1994 - 2018 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : June 21, 1998

Last Updated : July 11, 2018

Satan Cast Into The Lake Of Fire, Satan's Army Of Children Of Darkness, Vast Web Of Deception, Fishers Of Men For The Lord, Children of Light And Our Great Commission, The Battle In Our Minds, Fainting In Our Minds, Persecution Of Early Christians By Mad Emperor Nero Caesar, Renewed With The Mind Of Christ, Cleansed And Strengthened By The Word, "Old Man" vs "New Man", Our Sinful Flesh, The Apostle Paul's Battles, Desperate Prayer, Dwelling In The Word, Confessing Our Sins, When God Removes His Protection, God's Loving Chastisements, When The Enemy Come In Like A Flood, Standard Of God's Word, Foolish Time Wasters And Distractions, Redeeming The Time, Satan's Subtle Intoxication, Carbon Monoxide Lulls You To Sleep And You're Dead, Comatose Unbelieving Jews, Endtime

Scoffers Ask "Where Is The Promise Of His Coming?", Put On The Helmet Of Salvation, The Lord Knoweth Them That Are His

Continuing our discussion from part one, if there is one thing that the Bible makes very clear, it is that Satan does not change. Neither does he repent. That is precisely why, when all is said and done, that wily serpent meets his final fate in the Lake of Fire, as we see by this verse:

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Revelation 20:10, KJV

What we all need to recognize is that the same tactics which were used two thousand years ago, in fact, since the very beginning of time, continue to be employed today as well. Furthermore, as we saw in part one, there exists an army of Children of Darkness -- that is to say, modern-day deceivers such as so-called New Age lightworkers, necromancers, palm readers, psychics, shamans, avatars, cult leaders, Wiccans, oriental holy men and gurus, UFO adherents, atheists, evolutionists, and even some people in the Body of Christ -- who present themselves as "angels of light", and attempt to deceive the world with their satanic deceptions and misguided doctrines. Sadly, some of them don't even realize that they are in Satan's snare and promoting lies.

Make no mistake. These Children of Darkness are the hunters, and you and I are the hunted. We are the prize which they seek to trap in their bag. Of course, we need to recognize that such people are only the physical vessels of actual demonic forces which control and deceive them, and use them as their mouthpieces. We also need to realize that in certain cases, some of these people do these things out of ignorance, and not because they are intentionally trying to be evil. It may very well be that certain of them were led into darkness by someone else, and they now find themselves trapped by that world of deception. Satan's deceptions can be very powerful, and as we saw in part one, that is why the Apostle Peter warned us with these words:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

1 Peter 5:8, KJV

It behooves us then to constantly be aware of their tactics, and the deceptive lies that they spread. This is precisely why I have written so many articles on this topic. That is, because I want my readers to be careful regarding what they read, hear, see and believe. Ironically, it seems that the biggest web that is used by the Children of Darkness is the web itself. That is, the Internet. Those of you who surf the web on a regular basis will know exactly what I am talking about. There are literally thousands, and probably millions, of sites which now propagate Satan's garbage. Not too long ago, I read some information which stated that currently, there are approximately seventy to eighty million active web sites. That figure allows for a vast web of deception. That does not even include all of the major social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+, YouTube, Tumblr, Pinterest, Instagram, LinkedIn, Blogger, and a number of others, where collectively-speaking, there are literally billions of people exchanging information, regardless of whether or not that information happens to be true.

While I've painted Christians as one of the intended targets and victims of this web of deception, let us not forget that in contrast, we are also commanded by Jesus to spread our own evangelical nets far and wide as well. Consider what the Lord told His Disciples almost two thousand years ago in the following verses:

". . . Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19, KJV

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

". . . Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15, KJV

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is



come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:8, KJV

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Matthew 24:14, KJV

As true Children of Light, this is our Great Commission. We are ambassadors for Christ, and it is our job to lead people down the path of Light to Eternal Life, by inspiring faith in the atoning Sacrifice of the Light of the World -- that is, Jesus Christ -- through whom we receive Forgiveness of sins, Redemption and Salvation.

But concerning the great war which is being waged for our very souls, exactly where are these battles being fought? Certainly not on a physical battlefield. After all, they are spiritual in nature, are they not? While some of you may be inclined to suggest that these battles occur in the Realm of the Spirit-- which is also true -- that is not the precise answer that I am seeking for.

In part one, the Apostle Paul made it perfectly clear where these battles are being waged when he said "take the helmet of salvation" and "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ". Thus we see that these battles are actually being fought in our minds. This is where the Devil lies to us. He is like a little imp who sits on our shoulder and whispers his deceptions into our ear. It is in our minds where he tells us that God doesn't love us anymore. It is in our minds where he tells us that we are not truly saved. It is in our minds where he tells us that we no longer belong to God. It is in our minds where he tells us that we have sinned too terribly this time to be forgiven. It all occurs in our minds.

The way that people become deceived is by first listening with their ears, and then believing the lies in their minds. As soon as we accept the lies as truth, and believe them in our minds, deception sets in. Once it does, it can be extremely difficult to root out. Once a person gives Satan an ear, he never shuts up. In the case of Christians, if we

listen to Satan's lies long enough, just like other people, we will eventually believe them, and we will grow weary in our minds. At some point, we will finally give up. We will throw in the towel, and abandon our faith. That is why the Apostle Paul admonishes us to contemplate the sufferings of Christ, and how much He was willing to endure for our sakes, so that we don't grow weary or faint in our minds, as we see by this verse:

"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Hebrews 12:3, KJV

Imagine how much more real that verse must have been to the Christians of the First Century, who were being hunted down, persecuted and killed by both Jewish and Roman authorities, in the most painful and grotesque manners imaginable. Maybe this is also why the Apostle Paul wrote in his famous love chapter -- 1 Corinthians 13 -- "and though I give my body to be burned". As I explain in the in-depth series "Lies and Deceptions of the Roman Catholic Church", in his "Annals", the Roman senator and historian Tacitus wrote the following concerning the terrible persecution that was initiated by Emperor Nero Caesar:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians [or Chrestians] by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to

serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired."

----- End Quote -----

By comparison, the afflictions of modern Christians in the West seem so trivial. I think that it is fair to say that our Christian brethren who live in Muslim and communist countries suffer much more than we do, and they certainly pay a much heavier price for their faith in Jesus.

But what causes a person to be willing to suffer so much for their faith? As I explain in other articles, the Bible tells us that when we come to Jesus Christ, we in fact undergo an amazing spiritual transformation. In a sense, our minds -- which have been filled with the ways of the world -- begin to undergo a type of rewiring process. They are spiritually renewed; and little by little, as the process continues, we gain a whole new perspective, and we begin to see things and understand things through the mind of Christ. In a word, our spiritual eyes are opened. Thus, the Apostle Paul wrote the following:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:2, KJV

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

So as you can see, we must be willing to forsake our old ways and our old thoughts, and put on the Mind of Christ. We must be totally transformed into an entirely new creature by the very Spirit of God. But once we have been spiritually washed

and transformed through the renewing of our minds, how do we continue in this state? What keeps us from falling back into our old ways, our old ideas and our old sins? What keeps us from growing weary and fainting in our minds? Again, God's Word provides us with a clear answer. The only way that we can maintain the victory that God has given us in our lives, is through the continual process of being washed, cleansed and renewed by His magnificent Word. Consider these verses:

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

John 15:3, KJV

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

Psalms 119:9, KJV

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Psalms 119:11, KJV

"NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalms 119:105, KJV

As it is in the physical realm, so it is in the Spiritual Realm as well. Just as you can't take a bath and then expect to remain clean for the remainder of your life, so too, it is only through continually imbibing God's Word into our minds and our hearts, through reading it, and even memorizing it, that we can acquire the spiritual strength that is necessary to maintain a wholesome Christian life. While we are indeed forgiven for our sins, and cleansed through the Blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, this does not mean that our lives will be a bed of roses from the point of Salvation forward. For as long as we remain in our flesh, we will continue to face our share of battles and temptations. While we may be tempted to blame all of our trials on Satan, the truth of the matter is that if we are honest with ourselves, we will recognize that many of our battles result from our "old man", and the same old sinful desires of the flesh.

As you may already know, even though God gave the Apostle Paul such a far-reaching public ministry which expanded over decades, Paul continued to battle with his "old man" and his

sinful flesh. Paul could have tried to blame the Devil, and used Satan as a scapegoat, but he didn't. To his credit, Paul plainly tells us that, as with us, the problem was the "old man" and his sinful flesh, and nothing else; as we see by the following verses:

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

Romans 7:14-25, KJV

Thus, Paul encourages us to put off the "old man", to resist our sinful flesh, to in fact let the "old man" be crucified with Christ, and to put on the "new man" of the Spirit; as we see by the following verses:

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

Romans 6:6, KJV

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts . . . And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Ephesians 4:22, 24 KJV

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is

renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

Colossians 3:9-10, KJV

Concerning those of you who have written to me regarding experiencing serious demonic attacks, it is imperative that you remain firmly grounded in God's Word. It is only through God's Word, and desperate prayer, that you will be able to resist and fight off whatever forces are trying to take hold of your life. If there is some unconfessed sin in your life, you must be willing to confess that before the Lord as well, because it may be an anchor for the demonic forces that are afflicting you at this current time. As the Apostle John was inspired to write:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9, KJV

I don't wish to judge or condemn anyone, because I am far from being a perfect human being myself. However, I simply do not believe that God would allow a Christian to be attacked in such a serious manner, unless something is going on in their life which is not pleasing to Him. As we saw in part one, King David was inspired to write the following:

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

Psalms 34:7, KJV

If God has chosen to remove His Protection from your life, and has allowed you to be attacked in such a serious way, it seems to me that you should ask Him why. That is, if you do not already know the answer. Sometimes we purposely choose to deceive ourselves, because we can't bear to learn the truth about ourselves. But this will only make matters worse. It is much better to let God shine His light on our lives, so that we can obtain the needed victories. Whatever happens, please remember this: Whatever God does, He does in love; because He knows that while it may be difficult for us to go through our trials, ultimately, it will be for our own good. Furthermore, in the end, He will embrace us in His loving arms once again; just as we learn in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Consider the following verses:

"Open rebuke is better than secret love."

Proverbs 27:5, KJV

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons . . . Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."

Hebrews 12:5-8, 11-13, KJV

"In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer."

Isaiah 54:8, KJV

". . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5, KJV

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

John 6:37, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

John 10:28, KJV

As I said earlier, when we are going through our trials, it is extremely important that we remain grounded in the Word. Not only will God's Word encourage us, but it also serves as a very necessary weapon in our battles against the enemy. In the Old Testament we find the following verse:

". . . When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."

Isaiah 59:19, KJV

In a spiritual sense, that standard is the Word of God. When you are spiritually down and depressed, that old serpent the Devil will indeed come in with his flood of lies, and try to totally defeat you. While he will tell you a lot of lies, he will also tell you a lot of horrible truths about yourself as well. At such times, you must stand firmly upon the promises of God's Word, and claim His Love for you, no matter what the enemy may choose to throw at you. Following are a few more verses concerning the power and importance of God's Word:

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

John 6:63, KJV

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12, KJV

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Psalms 138:2, KJV

So to reiterate, unless you are immersed in, and filled with God's Word, spiritually-speaking, you are going to be in big trouble. You will not have the spiritual fortitude or stamina to resist the attacks of the enemy. You simply cannot do it in your own strength. If you are experiencing these kinds of heavy spiritual attacks, then I strongly encourage you to read articles such as "The Lord Will Lift You Up", where I also emphasize the importance of dwelling in God's Word.

On the other hand, if you choose to spend most of your free time watching your favorite shows on the television set, or surfing the Internet for hours on end, or downloading piles of movies to watch on your computer, or doing mall shopping until your legs collapse, or cruising around in your car being cool, or having beer with the boys, or reading novels, or filling in crossword puzzles, or playing card games, or



doing whatever it is that you do to waste your time, instead of spending your time wisely with the Lord both studying and absorbing His Word, then you will have no one to blame but yourself for your spiritual weakness. I wrote all about this topic in an article entitled "Are You Redeeming the Time?", which is based on the following verses:

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Ephesians 5:16, KJV

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

Colossians 4:5, KJV

By wasting your time doing such things, you are unknowingly making yourself a target for Satan and his demons, because he knows that you are weak, and not filled with God's Word. Not only that, but Satan will use those very things that you do, to pollute your mind and heart with the worthless things of this world. Believe me; I speak from experience; and I am not too proud to admit that I have been guilty of doing some of the very same things in the past. The Apostles John and Paul -- who both had the Heavenly Vision -- were well aware of the worthlessness, as well as the dangers, of the things of this world. Thus they wrote the following:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:15-17, KJV

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,"

Philippians 3:8, KJV

So again, the Lord wants to spiritually empower you, but you must let Him do it by taking the time to tank up on His Word. Furthermore, you must constantly be on guard as the Apostle Peter admonishes us to do, because the enemy of our souls

never rests. That fiend is constantly running to and fro in the Earth seeking whom he may devour. Do you want to be his next meal?

Don't think for one minute that you can do it on your own. Don't think that you are so spiritual that you can drift away from the Lord, or neglect His Word, and not suffer the consequences as a result of it. Believe me; as some of us have already discovered through our own experiences, Satan is one very subtle entity. Furthermore, he is in no hurry. He will entice us, and cause us to drift away from the Lord, and fall asleep spiritually ever so slowly, so that we won't even realize or detect our true spiritual condition, or the danger that we are in, until it is too late. If you let him, Satan will intoxicate you with his lies and deceptions just like carbon monoxide. As many of you know, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, poisonous gas which slowly makes you drowsy, puts you to sleep, and then finally kills you dead. That is precisely how Satan operates.

I truly hope that you are getting the point, because this is serious business. Don't fall asleep spiritually like so many of the rebellious Jews and the rest of the world have done. Concerning the comatose Jews, both Jesus and the Apostle Paul quoted from the Old Testament Prophet, Isaiah, when they said the following:

"And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

Matthew 13:14-15, KJV

"(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day."

Romans 11:8, KJV

Tragically, the sad situation which exists in our own period was perfectly described by the Apostle Peter 2,000 years ago. The unbelieving people of the world are so fast asleep,

that as Peter writes, they mockingly say to us "Where is the promise of His coming?" The Apostle Paul likewise warned the Early Church to remain awake, and to not fall spiritually asleep. Consider the following verses:

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

2 Peter 3:3-4, KJV

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

1 Thessalonians 5:5-8, KJV

In the previous verses, Paul reiterates the importance of putting on the Helmet of Salvation. Why is this? As we saw earlier, the primary purpose of a helmet is to protect our head. Furthermore, it is in our minds where Satan and his demons attempt to convince us that we are no longer saved, that God no longer loves us, that all hope is lost because we have gone too far this time, and all of the other silly nonsense that he throws our way. Therefore, Paul wishes to remind them that once they have come to Christ, Satan has absolutely no right or claim over them, or over us for that matter. As we have seen, Satan is a liar and a deceiver. So rather than invite him to pull up a chair and listen to him, you need to rebuke him in the name of Jesus Christ. As Paul reminds us in the following verse, the Lord certainly knows those that are His, and no one can take us from Him, ever!:

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS ALONE! : PART 3

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Published On : June 21, 1998

Last Updated : July 11, 2018

Demonic Attacks Within Our Christian Fellowships, Satan's Freedom Within The Circle Of The Twelve, Judas's Possession And Betrayal, Peter's Mindless Blunder And Rebuke, Jewish Concept Of The Messiah, A Kingdom Not Of This World, Peter And The Sword In Gethsemane, Universal Messiah vs A Jewish Messiah, Moshiah ben David, Saved Christians Can Become Satan's Tools, The Danger Of Unyielded Areas In Our Lives, Sowing Discord Among Brethren, False Jewish Brethren And Grievous Wolves, Satan's All-Out War Against God's Children, Steps For Obtaining A Victory, Demonstrate True Repentance, Goats And Yabbutts, Be Desperate Before The Lord, Psalm 51, Break Down The Wall Of Pride, Total Humility And Submission, Parable Of The Unclean Spirits, Suit Up In Your Armour And Then Stand Firm, When The Lord Seems To Have Abandoned Us, Removal Of God's Spirit, God Is Married To The Backslider, His Yoke Is Easy, Psalm 23, Heavenly Host, A Great Cloud Of Witnesses, Forsake All, Run The Race With Patience, Don't Live In The Past, Cherubims Seraphims Angels Heavenly Host, Roman Historian Publius Tacitus's Account Of Heavenly Host

Continuing our discussion from part two, as I explain in the series entitled "Demonic Possession and Sickness: A Biblical Perspective", while a lot of demonic attacks can originate from without, such as clearly occurs in the case of demonic oppression, it is important that we realize that Satan also possesses the ability to launch attacks from within our very own Christian fellowships as well. Such would certainly seem

to be the case with Judas Iscariot, the Lord's betrayer. By God's preordained design, Satan apparently had some level of freedom within the circle of the Twelve Apostles. Even Jesus acknowledged this when He said the following:

"Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve."

John 6:70-71, KJV

Furthermore, based on the evidence that is found within the Scriptures, it would seem that Judas was not only demonically oppressed, he was also at least temporarily fully possessed by none other than Satan himself. Consider this verse:

"And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly."

John 13:27, KJV

Not only was Judas possessed, which led to his betrayal of the Lord, but as you may also recall, there was one occasion where the Lord even had to openly rebuke Peter, because Peter unknowingly became the Devil's mouthpiece; as we see by the following verses:

"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Matthew 16:21-23, KJV

Obviously, there was no evil intent on Peter's part. Jesus was his friend, and he simply didn't want the Lord to die. As I explain in other articles, Peter's problem at that time was that he did not yet fully understand God's Plan of Salvation. Like so many other Jews of that era, he erroneously assumed that in the role of the Messiah, Jesus would defeat Rome, and restore Israel and Jerusalem to its former glory. That is why Jesus said to Peter "thou savourest not the things that be of

God, but those that be of men". In Peter's mind, how could a physical kingdom be established, if its leader, the Messiah, was dead? But, as Jesus made very plain to Pontius Pilate, His Kingdom is not of this world, as we see by this verse:

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

Even on the night of the Lord's betrayal, apparently, Peter still didn't get it; which is why he pulled out a sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the High Priest. He still wanted to protect Jesus so that a physical kingdom could be established, as we see here:

"And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"

Matthew 26:51-54, KJV

"Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

John 18:10-11, KJV

So based on Peter's actions, it seems that he still had not grasped the idea that Jesus's sole mission was to die for the sins of the world as a Universal Messiah. It was not a part of Jesus' plan to stay alive, so that He could become an Earth-based Jewish Messiah who would defeat the enemies of Israel -- namely Rome -- and rule over a restored Kingdom of David. As I already said, this misconception was probably embraced by most of His followers at that time. In fact, as I explain in articles such as "To Tell the Truth: Moshiach, Mahdi or the Messiah?" and "The Kings of the North and the

South", that continues to be the concept of "messiah" which is embraced by many religious Jews to this very day. To be more specific, the Orthodox Jews continue to wait for the arrival of Moshiach ben David -- or Messiah, son of David. So this understanding of the word "messiah" was the root of Peter's well-meaning blunder.

Based on the previous Scriptural evidence concerning Judas and Peter, it is my personal belief that even though a person believes in Jesus and may be saved, as the Apostle Peter most certainly was, he can still become a tool of Satan if he is not totally submitted to the Lord. If there are any unyielded areas in a Christian's life, they can serve as a crack in his spiritual armor; and Satan will most certainly seek to take advantage of that weakness, in order to try to sow dissension and discord among brethren. This is precisely what we're told in the Book of Proverbs, and it is an abomination to the Lord, as we see here:

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Proverbs 6:16-19, KJV

As we saw earlier in this series and as I more amply explain in other articles, the First Century Church was plagued by such spiritual attacks. The leaders of the Early Church had to constantly contend with certain legalistic Jews who would secretly infiltrate their fellowships, and feign to be true brethren, for the sole purpose of attempting to ensnare the Disciples under the weight of the Mosaic Law. These deceivers used issues such as dietary laws, the observance of certain holy days and circumcision as tools in their efforts to trap and divide the brethren. The Apostle Paul was particularly vociferous about this problem in his Epistles, and referred to these troublemakers as false apostles, deceitful workers, false angels of light, false brethren, grievous wolves, evil workers and dogs. Consider again the following verses:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own

blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Acts 20:28-30, KJV

"And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:"

Galatians 2:4, KJV

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works . . . In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;"

2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 26, KJV

"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision."

Philippians 3:2, KJV

Thus we see that Satan doesn't limit his attacks to one area or method alone. He and his demons have launched an all-out war against the Lord and His children. Our spiritual enemy can and will attack anywhere and at anytime if we allow him to. Sadly, we do allow him, if we have areas in our lives that are not totally yielded to the Lord. As I suggested earlier, perhaps this is one of the reasons why some of you have been experiencing such serious demonic attacks. I honestly do not know. You must personally seek the Lord and find out for yourselves. As I explained before, personally, I have never experienced such things, or witnessed such things occurring to others, so the advice that I can offer you is limited to what I have learned from the Scriptures.

At this point in our discussion, allow me to reiterate some of the key points that we have covered, in order to help some of you to obtain a victory over these dark experiences which have been occurring in your lives.



As I stated a moment ago, one of the very first things that you need to do -- if you haven't done it already -- is to come spiritually clean before the Lord, and before anyone else against whom you may have sinned. The Lord is indeed willing, and eager, to forgive you for your transgressions. But as I explain in the article "Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement", that forgiveness will not be forthcoming, unless you first demonstrate true unconditional repentance, without any manner of justification on your part.

In other words, you can't say "I am sorry . . . but"; or "I know that I was wrong . . . but". You can't be a goat who is always butting. Neither can you be a "yabbut" who is always "Yeah . . . but". That just won't work with the Lord. You must demonstrate full and total humility before the Lord, and you must be desperate about your situation as well. As King David cried out in his own moment of desperation after terribly sinning against the Lord:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Psalms 51:10, KJV

I encourage you to read the entire Psalm, as it is a most wonderful and heartfelt prayer of repentance by King David.

Once you have humbled yourself and sought forgiveness, that wall of sin which you've constructed around your heart will begin to break down. The bricks of pride and self-righteous ego which have separated you from the Lord, and perhaps even from your brethren, will begin to dissolve, as you begin to immerse yourself once again in God's wonderful Word. As you endeavor to submit yourself to His Will, the cloud which has enveloped your life will lift, and you will see the Son once again. From that point forward, you must endeavor to keep a clean house, and continually be on the lookout for future pitfalls, lest you suddenly find yourself in an even worse condition. Consider the following verses:

"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts,

ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

James 4:6-10, KJV

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

1 Peter 5:5-6, KJV

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation."

Matthew 12:43-45, KJV

Having done all of these things, and having suited up in your spiritual armor once again, you must then do as the Apostle Paul admonishes us to do. What is that? It is to stand firm, and not allow Satan to take advantage of you again. Paul tells us the following:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

Ephesians 6:10-17, KJV

But don't think for a minute that you must stand alone, or that the battle is yours alone, for it most certainly is not.

As I explain in articles such as "Beholding the Evil and the Good", sometimes the Lord purposely chooses to step back for a while, so that we can experience what it is like to have to battle on without His help. He is obviously still there. But as He has done throughout history with His children, He knows when we sometimes need to experience Satan's big guns in order to get us back on track again. If we remain adamant in our rebellion against the Lord, then we shouldn't be too surprised if at some point He decides to remove His Spirit from us as well. After King David sinned against the Lord by first committing adultery with Bathsheba, and then having Bathsheba's husband, Uriah the Hittite, slain in battle, he was concerned that the Lord might do this very thing. Thus, in Psalm Fifty-One, David also wrote this line:

"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."

Psalm 51:11, KJV

Why would David pray such a thing unless he knew that it was possible for him to lose the Lord's Spirit? Thus again we see that in certain situations, the Lord will indeed abandon us temporarily, in order to allow us to learn the lesson that He is trying to teach us. As the old saying goes, "If you feel far from the Lord, who moved?". So, the battle is not yours alone. The Lord has been there fighting along your side the entire time. As with the Patriarch Job, He may allow Satan to occasionally buffet you if you are being particularly rebellious, but as we have already seen, He will never leave you or forsake you entirely. In fact, God's Word informs us that He is married to the backslider, as we see by this verse:

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:"

Jeremiah 3:14, KJV

Furthermore, if at times you do grow weary in battle, please remember that the Lord is always there to lift you up. Jesus

Himself offers us His spiritual rest when He tells us the following in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30, KJV

Please also consider reading one of the longtime favorite Psalms of many generations: Psalm 23. In spite of being a man of war, even King David knew how to find rest in the Lord, as is demonstrated by this beautiful Psalm.

While the Lord is always at the forefront of the battle, He is by no means alone. God's Word informs us that the entire Heavenly Host is at His disposal and command. Not only that, but it seems that they may likewise be at our disposal as well, and they are ready to assist us when we face demonic attacks, if we have the faith to believe. It only seems natural that if Satan has a dark, oppressive, demonic cloud as some of my readers have described it to me, then the Lord must have His very own "cloud" as well. We find a brief description of this "cloud" at the beginning of Hebrews chapter twelve, as we see by this verse:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"

Hebrews 12:1, KJV

When I read the previous verse, I can just imagine each of the Lord's children running in a marathon with Eternal Life as the prize. Very much unlike the ungodly crowds who filled the Circus of Nero and who craved the blood of the Christian martyrs, while we are each running, we are surrounded on all sides by Christian Saints and Martyrs of past generations, who are excitedly cheering us on, and encouraging each of us to finish the race. No doubt this great cloud of witnesses includes the heroes of faith that Paul mentions in Hebrews chapter eleven, and much more. This is not the only place where the Apostle Paul mentions this great race of faith. He also penned the following verses where he describes his own

personal race:

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown: but we an incorruptible: I therefore so run, not as uncertainly: so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, KJV

"Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

Philippians 2:16, KJV

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13-14, KJV

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

2 Timothy 4:6-8, KJV

Please notice that in the verses from Hebrews and Philippians, Paul offers us some clear guidelines regarding exactly how to win the race. First he states "let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us". Now, wouldn't you be a bit shocked if you attended a particular marathon, and upon looking down at the course, you noticed that all of the runners had huge weights strapped to their ankles, so that they could barely even lift up their legs to run? You would certainly say to yourself, "Well, they are never going to win the race that way!". Surprisingly, that is precisely how a lot of Christians are today. We allow our personal sins and shortcomings, and the "old man" of the flesh, to weight us

down so heavily, that we couldn't run a successful race even if we tried.

The simple truth of the matter is that if we truly expect to be able to outrun, outpace and outmaneuver the enemy of our souls who is nipping at our heels, and win the race, then we must follow Jesus' wise advice when He said the following.

"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:33, KJV

So as the Apostle Paul states, we each need to cast off the dead weights which drag us down -- meaning our own sins -- so that we can fight together against our common enemy, and run the race together as well. We need to forsake all, as Jesus says. Maybe we think that we have forsaken all because we've given up family members and certain friends who don't accept our faith. Perhaps we have even obtained the victory over a few bad habits as well. But until we have forsaken our pride, and our self-righteous attitude, or whatever other sins are holding us back from serving the Lord with our whole heart, then we truly have not forsaken all, and it may yet hinder us in the future.

In his Epistle to the Philippians, Paul also says "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before". We can't continue to dwell on past sins and past mistakes, or we will never get anywhere. Satan would just love to see us spend the rest of our mortal lives living in remorse over our past failures. However, we must resist the temptation to do this. In fact, we shouldn't even dwell on past victories either. Gloating about the past is just as futile as having remorse over the past. The past is the past, and there is nothing that we can do to change it, whether it was bad or good. So let's do as Paul advises us to do, and be forward-thinking Christians. Let's keep our eyes on the prize that is ahead.

Earlier, we discussed the great cloud of witnesses. I wonder. Is it possible that in addition to cheering us on, this great cloud of witnesses wishes to assist during our time of need? They obviously realize that we could use their help, and that it is difficult for us to fight the battle alone here in the physical realm. As it turns out, and as the Bible makes very

clear, the Spirit World isn't just populated by all of God's Saints of the past. We are told that it is also in that place where Archangels, Cherubims, Seraphims, lower Angels and other magnificent creatures dwell. Furthermore, it is likewise the headquarters of God's Heavenly Host. As I point out in other articles, in the Bible, the word "host" is often used to mean an army, and that's precisely what it means in this particular case. Having said that, please enjoy the following wonderful verses which describe a few Divine Interventions in the past, where the Heavenly Host has assisted humanity:

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."  
Joshua 5:13-15, KJV

"And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."  
2 Kings 6:17, KJV

"Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my

hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me. Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."

Daniel 10:5-21, KJV

While all of the previous verses are derived from the King James Version of the Bible, there is one additional excerpt that I would like to share with you concerning the Heavenly Host. What makes this excerpt so unusual -- at least to me -- is that it isn't found in a Christian source. Rather, its author is the Roman senator and historian Publius Cornelius Tacitus. One of Tacitus's surviving works is the five-volume "The Histories". This work deals in part with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by Roman forces under the command of General Titus, who was the son of Emperor Vespasian. In the last chapter of Book V -- chapter thirteen -- Tacitus notes



the following very unusual events that occurred in the skies over the doomed city. Please read very carefully, and be amazed:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Prodigies had occurred, which this nation, prone to superstition, but hating all religious rites, did not deem it lawful to expiate by offering and sacrifice. There had been seen hosts joining battle in the skies, the fiery gleam of arms, the temple illuminated by a sudden radiance from the clouds. The doors of the inner shrine were suddenly thrown open, and a voice of more than mortal tone was heard to cry that the Gods were departing. At the same instant there was a mighty stir as of departure."

----- End Quote -----

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS ALONE! : PART 4

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Published On : June 21, 1998

Last Updated : July 11, 2018

Roman Historian Publius Tacitus, The Heavenly Host Engage In Battle In The Skies Over Jerusalem, Our Light Affliction, Our Coming Resurrected Bodies, Satan's Defeat Two Thousand Years Ago, Satan Cast Out Of Heaven, The Devil's Final Fate In The Lake Of Fire, Go On The Offense And Fight The Good Fight Of Faith, Concluding Remarks, Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part three, to my knowledge, the Roman historian Tacitus was not a Christian. Yet for some unknown reason, he thought it important enough to include this amazing description of events in the skies overlooking Jerusalem in his account. Due to the variety of sources that he utilized, I am not certain from where he obtained this particular information. Considering that he and Roman Jewish historian Flavius Josephus were contemporaries and friends, I have pondered the possibility that Josephus may have been the original source of the account. After all, Josephus does tell us that he was an eyewitness to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. At any rate, some scholars regard Tacitus as the greatest of Roman historians, and he is viewed as being both scrupulous and meticulous in his work. This would seem to add a great deal of reliability to his account concerning what is apparently the Heavenly Host engaging in Celestial Battle over Jerusalem in 70 AD. Personally, I am amazed by this; particularly because it is coming from a non-believer.

It is plain to see then that we are certainly not alone. Not only is Jesus symbolically right by our side and fighting our battles with us, but He also has the entire Heavenly Host at His royal command. While by God's Design these mighty Angelic Forces may remain invisible to our human eyes at this current time, we must indeed believe that they are there, simply because God's Word says they are there.

Having now understood the great power that is at the command of God the Father and Jesus His Son, it seems rather silly for us to worry about Satan's futile attempts to defeat us. Clearly, he is no match for the Heavenly Pair, and the great Celestial Army who do their bidding. In fact, you may recall that the Apostle Paul referred to our current tribulations in this life as "our light affliction". This is a person who not only suffered all manner of threats and persecutions at the hands of his enemies, but who also -- according to some sources -- was ultimately beheaded by the Roman authorities. Yet, in spite of his personal tribulations, Paul stood firm until the end and wrote the following words, because he had the Heavenly Vision, and the hope of Salvation, burning in his heart:

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a

far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:4, KJV

Please understand that when Paul uses the words "tabernacle" and "house", he is actually talking about our body of flesh, and not about a physical building or tent. He is saying that even though our flesh body shall someday perish -- either by way of persecution or natural death -- when that happens, we will be clothed in our immortal body of the Spirit; exactly as we find discussed in the following verses as well:

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."  
Philippians 3:21, KJV

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

1 John 3:2, KJV

"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

1 Corinthians 15:40-52, KJV

Having this knowledge regarding Satan's defeat, and realizing what a glorious future lies ahead for us, should encourage us all, and motivate us to go on the defense. Have no doubt; his doom is sure. Furthermore, as I explain in a number of other articles, in reality, Satan was defeated two thousand years ago when Jesus was victorious over death and hell. Not only that, the Scriptures indicate that Satan is permanently cast out of Heaven. Ultimately, we know that Satan meets his final fate when he is cast into the Lake of Fire, as we can see by the following verses:

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"

Isaiah 14:12, KJV

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

Luke 10:18, KJV

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 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. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Revelation 12:7-12, KJV

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season . . . And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Revelation 20:1-3, 10, KJV

"Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished . . . Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 16:5, 18, KJV

Thus we see why Satan is described as being so full of rage in the Book of Revelation. He knows that his time is short, and so he wants to wreak as much death and destruction on the Earth as he possibly can, before his time runs out. So again, when you feel that you are under demonic attack, you need to go on the offense, instead of allowing those dark forces to put you on the defense. Rebuke those lying spirits which try to deceive you. Rebuke that black cloud that tries to envelop you. Quote the Word, just as Jesus did with the Devil in Matthew chapter four. If you do this by the Power of God's Spirit, those dark forces, whatever they are, and wherever they come from, will be forced to retreat from the battle. Consider the following verses:

". . . and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18, KJV

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

1 Corinthians 16:13, KJV

"Neither give place to the devil."

Ephesians 4:27, KJV

". . . Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

James 4:7, KJV

With these thoughts I will bring this series to a close. I trust that you have enjoyed it, learned something from it, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Google+ or any other social network, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thank you so very much! May God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this series. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics website:

Are You Redeeming the Time?

Beholding the Evil and the Good

Demonic Possession and Sickness: A Biblical Perspective

Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?

Have You Read the New Scriptures Yet?

Lies and Deceptions of the Roman Catholic Church

Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement

Nature of the Alien: ETs, Demons or a Government Plot?

Peter: Faith Tried in the Fire

The Children of God and Politics

The Fruits of Disobedience

The Kings of the North and the South

The Lord Will Lift You Up

To Tell the Truth: Moshiah, Mahdi or the Messiah?

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