STAR WARS : THE REAL BATTLE WAGES ON! : PART 1

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Importance Of God's Word, Consequences Of Neglecting God's Word, Lost And Confused Without God's Word, Strangers And Foreigners To God, We Are Symbolic Stars For God, Father Of Lights, Bright And Morning Star, Venus Or The Sun, Warning Regarding Bible And Lexicon Translations, Jesus The Light Of The World, Spiritual Darkness Returns, Joint Heirs Through Jesus Christ, A False Morning Star, Satan's Fall From Grace

If there is one main point which I have repeatedly emphasized throughout my many articles over the years, it is surely the importance of maintaining God's Word as the central axis and the primary pivot around which our lives revolve. In knowing and being familiar with God's Word, we can know God Himself; because He manifests Himself -- both His Will and His Ways -to us, through His Word; which we come to understand through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Through the Word, we learn how God operates to some degree. Thus, we come to recognize what is of Him, and what is not of Him. But that is not all. The Word of God is our spiritual food which strengthens our faith, cleanses our hearts, and refreshes and renews our spirits. Reading it helps us to maintain the Heavenly Vision as well. In fact, God's Word is so important to Him, that He even magnifies it above His very Name. Please consider the following group of verses which emphasize these important points:

". . . for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." Psalms 138:2, KJV

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path . . . Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word . . . Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalms 119:105, 9, 11, KJV

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." John 15:3, KJV "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17, KJV "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12, KJV "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. KJV "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26, KJV

So if we neglect feasting upon God's wonderful Word, if we do not read it and absorb it on a regular basis, and if we foolishly fail to maintain it as the center of our lives, we will weaken and lose our spiritual stamina. We will lose our fire and the Heavenly Vision which we once embraced. We will faint in our minds. We will grow weary in well-doing, and we will give up the fight. Consider the following verses:

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Proverbs 29:18, KJV

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Hebrews 12:2-3, KJV "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not . . . For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." 2 Corinthians 4:1, 16, KJV

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9, KJV

"But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing." 2 Thessalonians 3:13, KJV

Sadly, that is not all. If we choose to neglect the light of God's Word, sooner or later, we will fall back into our old lives of dangerous compromise and sin. We will once again become spiritually blind. We will become alienated from God. We will become lost and confused in our minds. We will become spiritual paupers and foreigners to God. We will in a sense become like planets which go spinning away from our "Central Sun", and become lost in space. We will become like stars which have lost their course, and thus they wander about in spiritual darkness. These points are clearly supported by Scriptures such as the following:

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:" Ephesians 4:17-18, KJV

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:" Colossians 1:21-22, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;" Ephesians 2:19, KJV

"These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; WANDERING STARS, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." Jude 1:12-13, KJV

"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" Job 38:7, KJV

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Daniel 12:3, KJV

Please notice the constant reference to stars in that set of verses. As I also mention in "The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?", symbolically-speaking, we, the children of God, are indeed stars. So as I said, we can either be obedient stars who shine brightly for the Lord, or we can choose to be rebellious, wandering stars who are strangers and foreigners and alienated from God. Neglect God's Word, and you will end up lost in the darkness of Outer Space. The choice is yours. In addition to the previous verses, the Scriptures inform us that God Himself is the Father of Lights. He is the Star of stars so-to-speak; and Jesus is the bright and morning star. Consider these verses as well:

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17, KJV

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." Revelation 22:16, KJV

What exactly is meant by the term "Father of lights"? In my view, it can only be referring to one thing. That is, to the Sun itself. Not only because God is indeed the Father of all creation -- that is, of the morning stars, or sons of God, who are mentioned by Job -- but also because the Sun is the brightest of all stars from our Earthly perspective. Notice

also that the Apostle James specifically tells us that there is "no variableness, neither shadow of turning". In other words, unlike planets and moons which pass through different phases, God, and His Word, are constant and unchanging. They are immutable and eternal in the Heavens, as we see here: "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." Malachi 3:6, KJV "LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Psalms 119:89, KJV So because God is the "Father of Lights", who is symbolized by our very own Sun, it should come as no surprise to us then, that in the Old Testament, we find King David writing the following in one of his psalms: "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." Psalms 84:11, KJV In the previous verse, the word "sun" is derived from the Hebrew word "shemesh". The Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon defines this word as follows: ----- Begin Quote -----1) sun 1a) sun 1b) sunrise, sun-rising, east, sun-setting, west (of direction) 1c) sun (as object of illicit worship) 1d) openly, publicly (in other phrases) 1e) pinnacles, battlements, shields (as glittering or shining) ----- End of Quote -----But what about Jesus being the "bright and morning star", as we are told in that previous verse that is found in the Book of Revelation? While certain Bible scholars have associated this phrase with the planet Venus, I tend to disagree with

that opinion. If Jesus and His Father are indeed composed of

the same spiritual essence or substance, and if they are one in both thought and purpose as the Lord Himself taught us, then, in my view, this phrase can only be referring to the Sun as well. Consider some of the things that Jesus said:

"I and my Father are one." John 10:30, KJV

"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." John 17:11, KJV

"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:21, KJV

To prove that "bright and morning star" is referring to the Sun, and not to Venus, keeping in mind the definition for the Hebrew word for "sun" -- that is, "shemesh" -- consider the following two verses which are found in the New Testament. I believe that both of these verses are referring to Jesus:

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:" 2 Peter 1:19, KJV

"Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us," Luke 1:78, KJV

Exactly what is meant by these two phrases "day star" and "dayspring"? If we consider the original Koine Greek words which are used in these two verses, and the definitions which are provided for us in Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, then it becomes obvious that they are referring to none other than the Sun which rises every morning when the day dawns; just as He -- Jesus, our Daystar -- rises and shines in our daily lives. Consider the following definitions:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Dayspring: anatole {an-at-ol-ay'} AV - east 9, dayspring 1; 10 1) a rising (of the sun and stars) 2) the east (the direction of the sun's rising) Day star: phosphoros {foce-for'-os} AV - day star 1; 1 1) light bringing, giving light 2) the planet Venus, the morning star, day star 3) metaph. Christ ----- End of Quotes -----

Now please note that the Greek words "phos" and "phoros" have absolutely nothing to do with the planet Venus. They mean "light bringing", or "light bearing", and nothing more. If you look in a standard dictionary, you will find the very same thing. There is no mention of the planet Venus. In the above definition, the belief that the word "phosphoros" may refer to the planet Venus was added by Biblical scholars due to their personal interpretation and misunderstanding. While I cannot conclusively prove it, I suspect that the inclusion of Venus in the definition may have been influenced by the false, pagan belief that Venus was the goddess of love, just as the Apostle John tells us that God is love in the fourth chapter of his first Epistle, as we see here:

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 1 John 4:8, KJV

It is important to remember that just as Bible translations are subject to a translator's personal beliefs, doctrines and prejudices, the very same thing occurs when it comes to the creation of foreign language lexicons, such as the Hebrew and Greek lexicons which I use. In other words, while lexicons are excellent tools for discovering the original words -- and their meanings -- from which a Bible verse is translated, we need to keep in mind that just like each Bible translation, lexicons are subject to human influence. Thus, the authors of certain lexicons will consciously or unconsciously attempt to influence the understanding of the reader. This is why it is so important that we are Spirit-led when we read the Bible. In short, use lexicons to enhance your understanding of a particular verse, but watch out for extraneous definitions.

Regardless of their reasons for interpreting this phrase as meaning Venus, based upon the other verses, and the Hebrew and Greek words which we have already examined, I can only conclude that they were wrong to do this. In my view, "bright and morning star" is referring to the Sun, and nothing else. To compare Jesus to Venus, when we are told that He is the bright, or better said, the brilliant, splendid, magnificent star -- which is derived from the Koine Greek word "lampros" -- seems to do Him an injustice. While Venus is indeed very beautiful to behold, it cannot compare to the magnificent Sun which greets us with the dawn of each new day. As King David was inspired to write:

"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24, KJV

Technically-speaking, the day -- or twelve daylight hours -commences when the brilliant Sun appears above the eastern horizon each and every morning. Jesus Himself confirmed this scientific fact when He stated the following in the Gospel of John:

". . . Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world." John 11:9, KJV

To further validate this point, consider the fact that just as Peter writes "unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts", the Gospel of John likewise very clearly informs us that Jesus is the spiritual Light of the world; just as the Sun is the physical light of the Earth. In fact, Jesus Himself told the Disciples that following His return to the Father, night, and darkness, would once again overcome the world. In other words, the twelve daylight hours He mentioned in the previous verse, would be replaced by night, and men would once again stumble about in spiritual darkness, unless they accept the truth of His Words. Consider these verses:

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

John 1:4-9, KJV

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Isaiah 9:2, KJV

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." John 3:19-20, KJV

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12, KJV

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:4,5, KJV

Just as the physical Sun sets each evening, thus bringing physical night upon the world, with Jesus' departure almost two thousand years ago, as I mentioned a moment ago, we know that spiritual darkness also returned to the world. That is, except for those individuals who receive the Light of Jesus Christ. It is for this reason that the Apostle Paul wrote in part concerning the Lord's Return: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." 1 Thessalonians 5:4, KJV

If we keep our minds and hearts focused on God's Word, then we will not walk in spiritual darkness as do others. We will not become alienated from God. We will know what His Will is for our lives, and we will be stars who shine brightly for God's glory. Furthermore, we are told, that being as we are the Children of Light, we are to have no fellowship with the works, or with the workers, of darkness, as we can determine by the following group of verses:

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." Romans 13:12, KJV

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Ephesians 5:11, KJV

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, KJV

Having established this point, let us move on to the next. As I also mention in the series "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", and as we saw earlier in the Book of Job, it is interesting to note that the Bible speaks of many morning stars, or sons of God, being created. Not only that, but it also emphasizes the destiny of two "light bearers", or two "morning stars", in particular. We have already clearly seen that the first one is Jesus the Christ; Jesus the Anointed One; the bright and morning star; He who was endowed with the fullness of His Father's Spirit during the time of His Earthly ministry. He is the true Light of the world, and the true heir to His Father's Throne. Furthermore, we, by virtue of believing by faith in His Blood Atonement, are also heirs to the Kingdom of Light; just as we see in the following set of verses:

"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

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3, KJV

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

John 1:12, KJV

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Romans 8:16-17, KJV

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:28-29, KJV

"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:" Ephesians 3:5,6, KJV "Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:6-7, KJV

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" James 2:5, KJV

On the other hand, just as I mention a false bride in the article "Once Upon a Time: A True Story", there is also a false light bearer as well. Furthermore, this usurper has his followers too. This deceptive being is the false angel of light who is known to most people as Lucifer, Satan, or simply as the Devil. As I mention in a few other articles, such as "Satan: His Origin, Purpose and Future", the word "Lucifer" is derived from the Hebrew word "heylel", which means "light bearer". Consider the following definition from the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon:

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

heylel {hay-lale'}

Lucifer = "light-bearer"

shining one, morning star, Lucifer

 of the king of Babylon and Satan (fig.)
 (TWOT) "Helel" describing the king of Babylon

----- End of Quote -----

The primary difference between Jesus, who is the true Light of the world, and Lucifer, who is the false light bearer, is that Jesus chose to remain submissive to His Father's Will. Jesus obeyed God the Father all the way when He chose to die on the Cross for our sins. Thus, He inherited the Kingdom; as do we through our faith in Him. Thus, the Apostle Paul writes concerning Jesus:

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11, KJV

I discuss this topic more in depth, in the series entitled "So You Really Think You Are So Humble?". But in contrast to Jesus' meek, humble, submissive spirit, Lucifer grew proud, impatient, selfish and haughty. He wanted it all, instead of being happy with his exalted position in the Heavenly Courts. Thus, through his own foolish rebellion, he became the fallen morning star. He lost his torch so-to-speak, as we see by the following set of 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! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:12-14, 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." Revelation 12:7-10, KJV Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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STAR WARS : THE REAL BATTLE WAGES ON! : PART 2

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Jesus Beheld Satan's Fall, A Creepy Unholywood Comparison, Satan's Great Wrath, False Angels Of Light, Father Of Lies, Father Of Darkness, Oprah Winfrey And Other False Apostles And Deceivers, Real Star Wars, The Weapons Of Our Warfare, Mental Strongholds, Liberated By The Word Of God, Put On The Mind Of Christ, There Is No Vacation From Fighting This War, Importance Of Being Grounded In The Word, Suggested Reading

As I concluded in part one, while at one time long ago, the Devil -- or Lucifer -- was God's very own "covering cherub" and light bearer, due to his own pride and vanity, and as a result of not being happy with his exalted position in the Halls of Heaven, he foolishly rebelled against God, along with a third of the other Angels. The end result was that a great war occurred in Heaven. In the aftermath, Lucifer was thrown out of Heaven, and he was cast down to the Earth. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus Himself briefly spoke of this event when He said the following:

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." Luke 10:18, KJV

Isn't that amazing? I had never taken that verse so literally before. But according to Jesus' own words, He was there. He

watched as Lucifer, or Satan -- meaning "adversary" in both Hebrew and Greek -- was cast out of Heaven due to his foolish rebellion against God. As I mention in the article "When Was Satan Cast Out of Heaven?", I can only wonder if Jesus was up one early morning, praying to His Father, when He witnessed the Devil being cast to the Earth. Maybe it was just like a shooting star -- or meteor -- when it strikes the edge of the Earth's atmosphere, and suddenly brightens up leaving a long trail behind it. Or maybe, as the verse states, Satan's fall literally appeared as a sudden, bright streak of lightning in the sky, as that foul fiend struck the Earth.

I find this scenario really creepy, and I will tell you why. I don't know how many of you have seen the 2005 version of "War of the Worlds" with Tom Cruise and Dakota Fanning; but in that particular movie version of H.G. Wells' famous book, the alien invaders arrive on the Earth by transporting down in flashes of lightning. Is that just a matter of coincidence or what? I have sometimes wondered how much the head honchos in unHolywood have taken concepts from the Bible, and then incorporated them into some of their science fiction movies. At any rate, however it occurred, we know that Jesus saw the Devil's fall. As I point out in other articles, what we also know, is that Satan arrived on Earth with great wrath, as we see by the following verse:

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters 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 12:12, KJV

Considering the great wrath in his wicked heart, is it really any wonder then that when he arrived here, Satan and his vile minions -- meaning both his spiritual and physical minions in the form of human cohorts -- began to wage war against the Children of Light? Is it any wonder then that he, along with those same evil companions, began to go about pretending to be "angels of light", in order to deceive the people of Earth with their subtle lies? Is it any wonder then that even today, so many people -- such as New Age thought advocates, Wiccans and folks who follow oriental and Middle Eastern religions -are so convinced that they have found the light, when in fact they are actually walking in spiritual darkness? Consider the following verse, written over 2,500 years ago, which reveals how Satan's crowd has been using this very same tactic for literally thousands of years:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Isaiah 5:20, KJV

If that verse doesn't perfectly describe today's deceived society, then I don't know what does. As we learned in part one of this article, the Apostle James referred to God the Father as the "Father of Lights". In stark contrast, Satan is clearly the "Father of Darkness". In fact, as I explain in a number of other articles, in the eighth chapter of the Gospel of John, while rebuking His unbelieving Jewish enemies, Jesus called the Devil the "Father of Lies". Furthermore, He told them that they were the children of hell, and that the Devil was their true father, 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 . . . He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

John 8:44, 47, KJV

While in the following verses, the Apostle Paul is referring specifically to the false Jewish brethren who had crept into their midst, as I point out in other articles, there are many such false, so-called "light workers" scattered throughout modern Christianity and the world today as well. These folks preach a very different christ from the Jesus Christ of the Bible, and a very different gospel from the Gospel of the KJV Bible. They are liars, deceivers and antichrists who will not lead you to the Throne of our Heavenly Father, and much less to Eternal Life. One particular high profile person who I've written about in another article is Oprah Winfrey. That woman talks about a so-called "christ light", and strongly insists that Jesus Christ is not the only path to God the Father. Now consider the truth which is revealed in the following verses:

"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 11:4, 13-15, KJV

"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

"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

"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

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" 1 Timothy 4:1-2, 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

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;" 2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." 2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

Thus, as we learned in part one, we must remain grounded in God's Word so that we can differentiate between the truth and the lie. We must steer clear of such modern deceivers, and avoid their works of darkness at all cost. If there is one thing which I hope you learn from this article, it is that a very real war continues to be waged today between the Children of Light and the Children of Darkness, just as it has been waged for thousands of years. There is a very real Star Wars being conducted between God's "Star Children" and Satan's false "Wandering Stars". It is not just on the movie theater screen. It is happening in real life, every single day, as people make the choice to either accept or to reject Jesus Christ, based on our testimony and witness. The weapon of choice is not some kind of futuristic laser sword as seen in the movie series of the same name. Rather it is the old, tried and proven Word of God. For as it is written in the Scriptures:

"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

"(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

Those strongholds of which the Apostle Paul speaks are found in the very minds and hearts of men; because that is where the real battle is being waged. That is where the enemies of truth seek to influence people. According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, the terms "strong holds" and "imaginations" in fact refer to the personal views, opinions, arguments and reasons used by men to fight against the Word of God. It is a subtle war of thoughts, and of words, between the truth of God's Word and the lies espoused by the Children of Darkness. It is an ongoing war to free men from the shackles of sin and spiritual deception, in order that they might experience the glorious liberty of the Children of God. Of course, the only way that such freedom can be achieved, is if they choose to accept and believe in the liberating truth of the very Word of God. For as Jesus Himself said to the Jews of His day:

". . . If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:31-32, 36, KJV

Notice that Jesus very plainly states, "if ye continue in my word". As I have already made clear to you, that is the only way in which we can hope to avoid falling for Satan's lies and deceptions. If we know God's Word, and if we continue to abide in His Word, then we won't be so ignorant of Satan's devices. That is, hopefully, we will not fall victim to the subtle, evil, deceptive thoughts which he tries to place in our minds. As the Apostle Paul writes in the following verse:

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

It is for this very same reason that in the verses I shared a moment ago, Paul tells us that we must bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. We must control our thoughts. We must make certain that our thoughts are in line with the Word of God. I cannot over emphasize that the real battle is a battle within the mind, because actions, whether they be good or evil, initiate as thoughts in the mind. This is why Paul also tells us that our minds must in fact be transformed and renewed. In essence, we must all be rewired, and we must put on the mind of Christ; which is simply to be obedient to the Will of the Father. Consider the following verses:

"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

"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

What we all need to realize is that there's no vacation from fighting this war. We cannot join the Lord's Army, and then someday just suddenly decide to quit. As we learned in part one, we simply cannot become so weak in a spiritual sense, that we faint in our minds and give up. We cannot be weary in well-doing; because the truth is, while we may decide to quit, the enemies of our souls never quit. They will smash us into the ground until we are totally defeated. So we have no choice but to put on "the armour of light", and to "put on the whole armour of God", and to fight "the good fight of faith", until the day in which the Lord calls each of us to our Eternal Home. Why? Because we are God's "Star Children". We are God's "Star Fighters". We are God's Children of Light, and this world's salvation depends a lot on our willingness to keep fighting in this great war. So please consider the following verses and be encouraged:

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us PUT ON THE ARMOUR OF LIGHT." Romans 13:12, KJV

"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: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" Ephesians 6:10-18, 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. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:" 2 Timothy 4:7, KJV

"Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin." Hebrews 12:4, KJV

In conclusion then, from all of the Scriptural evidence we have now examined, it should be clear to you that we can either be stars which obediently revolve closely around our Heavenly Father -- the Father of Lights -- according to His Perfect Will, or else we can choose to be rebellious, fallen stars who not only wander lost and confused in the depths of spiritual space, but who have also foolishly, and perhaps ignorantly, taken sides with the very enemies of our souls. We can either be true stars which emanate and reflect the spiritual light of Jesus Christ as He commanded us to do, or else we can be dark and spiritually-dead stars. We can be similar to black holes which offer no life or even light. Consider the following verses again:

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16, KJV

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Daniel 12:3, KJV

As I pointed out at the beginning of this article, the only way in which we can avoid the latter condition, is by making certain that we maintain a healthy hunger for God's Word. For it is through God's Word, and by God's Word, that we are all constantly cleansed, renewed, spiritually strengthened and refreshed. Furthermore, His Word will lead and guide us into all truth; and it will convict our hearts to do what is right and pleasing in God's sight. Not only that, but it will help us to keep the Heavenly Vision; and that is to remember that we truly are the Children of the King, the Father of Lights. Finally, being grounded in God's Word will also protect us from deception, and it is surely everywhere at this current time.

So tell me. Do you stay grounded in God's Word so that you are a star who shines brightly for Jesus Christ? Are you a burning ember for the Lord? Does God's unquenchable Spirit burn within you so strongly that you really have no choice but to share His Word with others in some form? I certainly hope so. Your rewards will be great if you do.

With these thoughts I will bring this article 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 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 article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics website:

2012: New Age Deception And Psychobabble Apostasy of Oprah Winfrey: America's False Prophetess? Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord? He Who Fights and Runs Away: Choose Your Battles Wisely Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God? Once Upon A Time: A True Story Satan: His Origin, Purpose And Future So You Really Think You Are So Humble? The Battle is Not Yours Alone The Children of Light: Are You One of Us? The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It? The Lord Will Lift You Up When Was Satan Cast Out of Heaven?

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