

# Hednesford Pentecostal Church

## Spiritual Warfare

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## 1. SPIRITUAL WARFARE 1

1 John 3:8 ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil; not bury them, or hid them away or paint over them. This means exposure, confrontation, conflict and a lack of compromise.

### 1.1. AIM OF STUDY

What is the purpose of dealing with this subject?

So that we as the saints of God have a balanced, scriptural understanding of the spiritual realm.

So that we understand the spiritual conflict that is raging around us, and understand our part in that battle.

So that we can have confidence in Christ and walk fearlessly.

So that we know our authority and also limits.

So that we seek to maintain spiritual fitness and cleanliness

This study will seek to answer questions such as:

Where does the devil and demons come from?

What Rights and power do they exercise?

How do they influence the world around us?

How does the church engage in spiritual battles?

Can people be demonized?

We need to be aware of what Scripture teaches on this, as well as others issues, so that our world-view is soundly based upon the revealed truth of God's word. When sharing the gospel we are going to have to challenge the erroneous world-views held by the people we are seeking to set free.

Some will hold with a rational, scientific mind which refuses to accept the existence of anything that can not be measured,. predicted or understood.

Others, notably those accepting the New Age philosophy, will accept a spiritual aspect to life, believing in good and evil spirits, but believing that we are all parts of a divine whole. They look to a fulfillment when we all will be One. The Star Wars films reflect this thought.

There are those who see the battle between good and evil as being a struggle between equal and opposite forces. To some such a force is impersonal.

Some who accept, even if it is only nominally, the Christian faith may believe in a spiritual realm which would include God and his angels and the spirits of dead saints, but they do not know where evil spirits would fit into such a model.

If we are going to fully function as a church and as active members of the body of Christ, then it is important that our view of the spiritual realm is the full Biblical model. We need to realise that all our activities influence the spiritual realm as well as the natural realm, and we need to be activity engaged with that realm.

## 1.2. INTRODUCTION

This is an important and yet difficult topic. The subject is the presence of evil, supernatural beings; their opposition to and rebellion against God; their hatred of God's creation, mankind and God's people most particularly. We will examine Scripture to see where those evil beings came from and how they operate in various realms (heavenly places, on a national and local level and against individual people).

It is important because many peoples' lives are limited, damaged and made fruitless by demonic influences. It is important because every believer is engaged in this warfare and will have to personally make a stand against demon spirits, firstly in their own life and then for the benefit of other people. Jesus was very positive about this:

Mark 16:17. "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

It is difficult because, like other principle issues within Scripture, it is not clearly spelt out.

Because it is a subject which is not clearly defined in Scripture we need to tread carefully, sort out what is are the traditions of men, the influence of culture and what has a sound Biblical basis. There are those preachers, teachers and even denominations which hold diverse, even opposing, views on this subject, each using various verses to in defend their stance.

One of the most important, yes fundamental, subjects in Christian Theology is the Trinity. It is so important that mainstream Christian tenets would hold that those who do not believe in the Trinity, are not Christian, and are not partakers of the eternal inheritance, including eternal life. And yet to validate the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, we have to take the balance of the whole of Scripture. The Trinity is not systematically described, but only implied (albeit adequately), particularly through the teaching of Jesus.

Another subject that is only particularly described in Scripture is speaking in tongues. It is mentioned several times, its value is emphasised and some of its use described. Yet the difference between praying in tongues and bringing a message in tongues is not clearly made. Through our experience and the experience of our forefathers, we know the difference and can then see the scriptures that point to the difference. But without the experience the same scriptures would be obscure on the issue. The salient point of this is we all interpret some scriptures in light of our experiences.

In like manner none of the New Testament writers give us a definitive passage on the subject in hand. So in answering the questions raised by this subject, people will form different opinions based on differing scriptural truths, and also on their experiences.

## 1.3. THE DANGERS

There are various dangers associated with this subject.

One problem is that there is no adequate terminology with this subject. A phrase that means one thing to one person may conjure up a totally different understanding to another person. Phrases such as "possession" are very emotive and conjure frightening images from Hollywood horror films.

### 1.3.1. No Such Thing

There are those, members or ministers of what men call church, who do not believe with a personal, evil spiritual being. To them the devil is a fairy tale figure and the result of ridiculous church dogma from the Dark Ages.

### 1.3.2. Can't Happen

Another extreme view is to say that no Christian can be influenced by the enemy, other than being tempted. Scriptures used to argue this would be:

2 Cor 5:17.       Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Eph 1:13.         In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

The argument of this stance is that if a believer belongs to God, and God's Spirit lives within that person, how can any evil spirit also coexist within the life of the believer? Such an argument is based upon a simplistic life-model of the human being, akin to a simple container. How can light and darkness both coexist within that container? How can a container be full of one fluid and full of another fluid?

And yet our lives do indeed contain opposing forces. God's Spirit does live within us but so does sin. My spirit may be speaking to God in heavenly languages through my body, and yet it is possible that at the same time my mind may be fixated on some sinful attitude or pattern of thought!

Many Christians, myself included, can testify that there was a time in their life when spiritually there was a fly in the ointment. That despite of trying to serve God, there was a spiritual oppression or bondage, or an area of habitual sin or a uncontrollable thought pattern. The solution to such problems they found was through an experience of deliverance.

### 1.3.3. It's Everywhere

Another extreme view is probably more dangerous. This blames everything upon the devil and sees the devil everywhere. In doing so the individual takes no responsibility for his own actions, controlling his own thoughts or modifying his own attitudes. Not able to reap the benefits of a disciplined lifestyle, the individual seeks to compensate by receiving a "quick fix" in a prayer line.

One thing is sure if we look for the devil everywhere - we shall not be disappointed. The enemy loves being the centre of attention. He prefers believers to be chasing him, rather than seeking the lost: to be concentrating on him rather than concentrating upon Jesus.

### 1.3.4. Ignore

Another danger is simply that we ignore the whole issue. It's difficult even threatening, so lets pretend its not there.

In such a case the enemy is unchallenged in his activities.

### 1.3.5. Fear

Fear is one the enemies strongest and most effective weapons. To this end he seeks to act in mysterious and disclosed ways. But the believer has nothing to fear.

Luke 10:19.       "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

### 1.3.6. Fascination

There is a danger that people get enticed by the supernatural. Either people can be attracted to the occult, or believers can go off on an ego trip and see themselves as some sort of super-exorcist.

Luke 10:20.       "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

### 1.4. PROBLEM OF EVIL

Philosophies and religions have tried to grapple with the problem of the presence of evil in the world.

For Christians or those considering the Christian faith, the problem boils down to: If God is all good and all powerful, how is it that evil is present in the world? Where does evil come from? Why do people suffer? Why do the innocent suffer at the hands of the evil people? Why does God do something?

These are fair questions, but they result from people holding an incomplete and therefore unscriptural world view.

#### 1.4.1. Did God Create Evil?

No everything he created was good. There is a malicious and thoroughly evil agent working in rebellion against God who seeks to steal, kill and destroy.

The Bible teaches that there is a spiritual being, called the Devil or Satan, who is totally evil and seeks only to do evil. Much of the evil, hurt and harm in the world can be traced to the work of the Devil. The Greek word for the devil, *diabolos*, translates the Hebrew word Satan. Devil means malicious accuser, Satan means adversary.

John 8:44. "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Adam and Eve were enticed by the devil, they deliberately rebelled against God's commandment and they ate the fruit that gave them knowledge of evil. Since then sin has been present in human nature. It is rebellious sin that spoilt God's good and perfect creation, that produced death and disease.

Mankind cannot blame Satan for everything. We to are inherently sinful, deserving of the punishment of hell which God has created for the devil and his angels. James tells us:

James 4:1-2. Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? {2} You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

James 1:14. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Rebellious and selfish desires cause wars, division and disputes. These few verses describe the bareness and destruction that result from living according to one's own desires and passions.

Sin has affected the whole of creation. The world groans. It is not in a stable state. It hates the presence of sinful men polluting it with their crimes.

#### 1.4.2. Why does God allow murder, rape etc?

He does not allow it, he has disallowed it. He has said "Thou shalt not..."

#### 1.4.3. Why doesn't God just stop evil being done?

To do that he would have to over rule everybody's attempts of sin, and all our sinful and selfish thoughts. In doing so He would have taken away our free will and turned us into machines which just follow a predetermined programme.

The people who blame God for allowing people to sin, are probably the same people who moan about the presence of Police Speed cameras. They don't really want external constraints and control.

#### 1.4.4. Why doesn't God do something?

He has done a great deal. He has demonstrated his power and attributes through nature. He has given us a conscience so that we know by nature what is right and wrong. He has given us the law which tells us what sin is. He has sent his Son to tell us what God requires and to die so that we can be forgiven. He has sent His Holy Spirit to convict men and women of sin and righteousness and judgement. He has sent the church into all the world to preach the gospel.

#### 1.4.5. How come they get away with evil?

No one gets away with sin or evil. Every one will have to give an account for their words, thoughts and deeds. Those whose names are not written in Book of Life will be punished.

#### 1.4.6. Why did God create the devil or the tree of knowledge?

Why did God create the devil or the tree of knowledge if he knew what would happen?

Because of his eternal purpose. Yes he knew what would happen, but he did it anyway because it was the right thing to do. There comes a point when we have to believe in the goodness of God and the wisdom of God, even though our minds are unable to grasp the reason behind his actions.

Isa 55:9. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Cor 1:25. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

#### 1.4.7. Did the devil & Adam just do what they were programmed to do?

No. They did what they wanted to do. They used their free will and chose what to do.

Just as Adam blamed God "the woman you gave me", so many of these questions reveal the notion to blame God - "He should have taken more care". But everything that God created was very good.

Our finite minds soon struggle in coping with thoughts concerning God's foreknowledge and predetermined will. Peter preached:

Acts 2:23. "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

God had planned and Scripture had foretold that Jesus would be crucified. But this does not mean that the people involved were guiltless. They acted deliberately. God's will was ultimately done, but they are responsible for their actions.

When Paul speaks on this issue, he finally concludes by saying:

Rom 9:18-21. Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. {19} You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" {20} But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" {21} Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honour and another for dishonour?

Ultimately God can do with each of us as He wills, because He is God the creator and we belong to him. He doesn't have to be merciful to some or any of us; as though he owed us the opportunity.

## 1.5. CHURCH'S MANDATE

1 John 3:8 ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Eph 3:10-11. to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, {11} according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Mark 16:17-18. "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; {18} "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Rom 8:38-39. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, {39} nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## 2. SPIRITUAL WARFARE 2

Like many Biblical subjects, revelation concerning the demonic realm has been given gradually through Scripture. There is a marked difference between the way demonic activity is described and dealt with between the two Testaments.

### 2.1. OLD TESTAMENT

#### 2.1.1. Creation

The work of the demonic realm is first experienced in the Garden of Eden.

Gen 3:1. Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

The passage does not use the Hebrew proper noun Satan, but rather talks about "the serpent". Jewish believers thought that this was a reference to Satan, and the New Testament does confirm that assumption:

Rev 12:9. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The Hebrew word Satan means adversary, which is a word used of an enemy combatant or a judicial opponent.

#### 2.1.2. Foreign Gods

Throughout the Old Testament we read that the people of God should worship the One, True Creator God - The Lord God Almighty. But surrounding them were nations and people who worshipped idols, false gods and foreign gods. Usually idol worshippers believed in numerous gods, although they might follow a particular national deity. These foreign gods were cruel and demanded expensive sacrifices, often the lives of children. They were also served through, what the Judo-Christian moral code would call, sinful acts of drunkenness and debauchery.

God's people were expressly warned not to mingle with these worshippers of false Gods, and never to allow marriage between the communities. The reason was:

Exo 34:12-16. "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. {13} "But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images {14} '(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), {15} "lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, {16} "and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.

The danger was the people of God would be enticed by the immoral practices of the false religions, and turn from the living God.

These foreign gods were in reality demon deities, portrayed by idols.

Lev 17:7. "They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations."

Deu 32:16-17. They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. {17} They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.

Psa 106:35-40. But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works; {36} They served their idols, Which became a snare to them. {37} They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons, {38} And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with blood. {39} Thus they were defiled by their own works, And played the harlot by their own deeds. {40} Therefore the wrath of the LORD was kindled against His people, So that He abhorred His own inheritance.

### 2.1.3. When Evil Began

The Old Testament contains a couple of prophetic passages that had an immediate meaning concerning worldly rulers, but appear to have a secondary meaning which is the description of the fall of Satan.

Isa 14:12-15. "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! {13} For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; {14} I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' {15} Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Ezek 28:11-19. Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, {12} "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. {13} You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

{14} "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. {15} You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. {16} "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. {17} "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

{18} "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. {19} All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." "

According to Isaiah chapter 14 and Ezekiel chapter 28, the Devil was once an angel named Lucifer (literally Day Star), who was responsible for the music in heaven. However being in love with his own beauty he fell into pride and self-centred. He then rebelled against the Almighty God who had created him, and declared that he would reign instead.

We have to wait for the New Testament before we are taught about how demons came about.

### 2.1.4. Old Testament Occurrences

- David

1 Chr 21:1-3. Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel. {2} So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it." {3} And Joab answered, "May the LORD make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?"

- Job

Job 1:6-12. Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. {7} And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." {8} Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" {9} So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? {10} "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. {11} "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" {12} And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Satan was well aware of Job, and had indeed considered him. God had protected and blessed Job, making him rich and prosperous. There was a spiritual hedge of protection around Job, his family and his possession. This hedge of protection covered his children and employees as well as his own life. However as later events proved they did not have a hedge of their own.

Jesus told Pilate that he could have no power over Him unless it had been allowed by His Father (John 19:11)

- Zechariah

Zec 3:1-2. Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. {2} And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

The seen is the heavenly court room. Joshua is standing before the Lord, but the accuser is standing at his right hand to oppose him. Now Jesus is our advocate in heaven.

- Micaiah

1 Ki 22:19-23. Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. {20} "And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. {21} "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' {22} "The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' {23} "Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."

### 2.1.5. Summary

There is little mention of the demonic in the whole of the Old Testament. The Old Covenant was powerless in dealing with the demonic, but sought to separate the people of God from the works of the Gentile nations.

We read in Israel's history verses like:

Josh 6:21. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

The law could not deliver the inhabitants of the land from their sin and neither could it set them free from the demonisation that they suffered.

## 3. SPIRITUAL WARFARE 3

Like many Biblical subjects, revelation concerning the demonic realm has been given gradually through Scripture. There is a marked difference between the way demonic activity is described and dealt with between the two Testaments.

### 3.1. NEW TESTAMENT

#### 3.1.1. Jesus' Ministry

From the outset of his ministry, Jesus demonstrates a constant conflict with evil and unclean spirits. It started with a personal testing time.

Mark 1:12-13. Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. {13} And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

After Jesus had overcome all of Satan's tests we read:

Luke 4:14. Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit...

His public ministry is marked by confrontation with the demonic.

Mark 1:23-26. Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, {24} saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are; the Holy One of God!" {25} But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" {26} And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.

Mark 1:32-34. At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. {33} And the whole city was gathered together at the door. {34} Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

The events in his first day of ministry was to be repeated constantly.

Two differing terms are used here. One man was "with an unclean spirit". Others were "demon-possessed". The Greek word for unclean is *tame* and it means to be unclean, defiles and polluted. A person can be sexually, spiritually or ceremonially unclean. That which flowed out from his life was being polluted by the presence of a demon spirit. It could be manifest in his actions, words and attitudes. Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy and so demons work with a destructive agenda.

The Greek for demon-possessed is *daimonizomai*. In the New Testament it is used of persons into whose bodies demon spirits had entered and dwelt. As a result the person was afflicted with physical and mental diseases and from time to time had their reason de-throned such that the demon could act or speak directly through them.

Jesus attributed some physical and mental illnesses to the work of demons. People were set free from these apparent afflictions when demons were cast out.

Mat 12:22. Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

Luke 13:10-16. Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. {11} And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. {12} But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." {13} And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. {14} But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." {15} The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? {16} "So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound; think of it; for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

John summarises the ministry of Jesus:

1 John 3:8. ... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil; not bury them, or hid them away or paint over them. This means exposure, confrontation, conflict and a lack of compromise.

In every confrontation Jesus is never seen to be in danger, but always to be in control and having power and authority to rout His enemy.

### 3.1.2. Jesus' Teaching

Through the gospels we get a greater insight into the spiritual conflict around us.

Satan has a kingdom

Mat 12:26. "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?"

Through the fall the world has been delivered to Satan

Luke 4:5-6. Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. {6} And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

Jesus does not deny Satan's claim. Elsewhere Jesus calls Satan "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31, John 14:30).

Adam had been authority and dominion over the earth, as God's representative and to minister God's blessing. At the fall Satan had all this delivered to him, and he administers the curse. Hence his claim that the kingdoms and this world and their glory are his to give to whom he will.

Eph 2 tells us that the course of this world is according to the prince of the power of the air.

Eph 2:1-2. And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, {2} in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

1 John 5:19. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

Although we recognize that Satan does have authority in the earth, we should remember that his authority is limited, and that everything is ultimately under God's authority. This is illustrated by the introduction to Job.

Satan has fallen

Luke 10:18. And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Satan has an army of fallen angels

Mat 25:41. "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Rev 12:4. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

This verse is normally interpreted as meaning that a third of the angels joined with Satan in his rebellion against God.

### 3.1.3. Symbolismes

Rev 12:3-4. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

Rev 12:9. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Two symbolismes are used of the enemy, a red dragon and a serpent. The first speaks of murderous intent, great power, cruelty and strength, the second of subtly and guile.

Peter uses another symbolism:

1 Pet 5:8-9. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. {9} Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Satan is like a roaring lion, seeking to devour. What instruction does Peter give the church? Does he say run and hide. Are we to bury our head in and hands and mumble "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus...". No we are to stand up straight in Jesus name and RESIST the enemy. Paul tells us we are to WITHSTAND the enemy. These are military terms.

In resisting the advancing Church Stan had stired up persecution. Jerusalem (the seat of so-called true religion), Athens (the seat of so-called wisdom) and Rome (the seat of worldly power) all rejected and fought against the church having been stired up by the one who claimed he owned the kingdoms of this world.

Psa 22:13. They gape at Me with their mouths, like a raging and roaring lion.

On the cross Jesus endured the raging, roaring lion.

### 3.1.4. Apostle's Ministry

The apostles carried on the work of casting our demons just as they did the work of healing the sick. Not only the original 11, but also the later apostles.

Acts 16:16-18. Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. {17} This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." {18} And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

Fortune telling was an accepted part of the Greek culture, and not recognised as sinful, evil and demonically inspired. Obviously some demonic power was manifested which proved accurate, so as to make this a profitable trade. The Greek word for divination is Puthon, which is where the English word Python comes from.

We see by the title "spirit of divination" that demons attempt to work in people a specific task. Other demons are names as "unclean spirit", "spirit of infirmity", "lying and deceiving spirit", "spirit of fear".

### 3.1.5. Raiding Temples

In the Old Testament, the worshippers of foreign idols had to be destroyed because the Law had no power to deliver those caught in that demonic activity. However in the epistles the apostles never instructed the Christian believers to destroy or physically fight against the idol worshippers or their

temples. Instead these temples were to be raided in the sense that the participants could now be won for Christ and delivered from the evil forces.

This power of deliverance means that the New Covenant is robust and confident enough to be taken amongst all the nations, whereas the Old Covenant was seen generally as belonging to one nation. The Christian believer is to recognise that:

Eph 6:12. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

We do not fight therefore with physical armies, to impose the *good news*.

Jesus said:

John 18:36. Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

### 3.1.6. Church's Mandate

At the cross, Jesus totally and permanently defeated the Devil and his allies.

Col 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it [the cross].

Matt 16:18 ...I will build my Church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

The Church is now involved in mopping up operations; seeking to spoil the enemies goods by leading people from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Christ.

Eph 6:11-12 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

So we see that the Devil and his demons are cunning (serpent like); they are powerful and organised; and they are wicked. The battle between the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of Christ, is not a battle between equals and opposites. The Devil is not omnipotent, omniscient or omnipresent, but he is limited in might, limited in knowledge and can only be in one place at one time.

Luke 10:18-20 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. {19} "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. {20} "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

## 4. SPIRITUAL WARFARE 4

2 Cor 10:4-6. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, {5} casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, {6} and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

This session I wish to look again at the weapons of our warfare. We should all be familiar with these, but it will do us all good to revisit them.

Our warfare is waged in differing directions. We battle against the spiritual opposition of demonic powers. These powers will use all sorts of circumstance, situations and people in standing against the purposes of God. We battle against negative, faithless mindsets in our own minds. We need to maintain faith and vision. We battle against a world system that is manipulated by the prince of this world.

We are at war. There is a warfare raging around us, affecting our lives and the lives of those around us. The spiritual realm determines a lot of activity that appears to be the actions of men or just coincidence.

### 4.1. THE ARMOUR OF GOD

Before we consider the weapons with which we attack, let us briefly consider our spiritual armour.

2 Cor 6:7. by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

Eph 6:11-17. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. {13} Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. {14} Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, {15} and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; {16} above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. {17} And take the helmet of salvation...

Much has been said and written about the armour of God, but it can be summarized in the following:

There is no defense for the back

A roman soldiers armour, which Paul used as a model, offered no protection for the back. The soldier was expected to stand and face the enemy. Similarly each believer is to "stand against the wiles of the enemy".

The armour is not made of spiritual gifts, but spiritual characteristics we need to walk in.

The believer needs to walk in righteousness, truth, faith and a mind that is renewed in the goodnews (gospel) of God. If we are living a lie or walking in unrighteousness, we expose ourselves to the enemy's weapons.

### 4.2. THE TONGUE

We will be subsequently looking at the weapons of prayer and the word. These are both effective as we speak them out aloud using our tongue.

Mat 21:21. So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.

2 Cor 4:13. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,

We need to believe and speak from that belief. Sometimes we need to voice what we are believing for in prayer to God. David said "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." He stared want in the face and declared in whom he had put his trust.

Sometimes we need to speak to ourselves as a reminder of what we are believing for. "Why are you cast down, O my soul. Hope thou in God."

Sometimes we need to speak authoritative words of faith to the enemy. "Get behind me Satan. It is written..." David spoke from his faith to Goliath.

Sometimes we need to tell those around us what we believe.

Dan 3:16-18. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. {17} "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. {18} "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

James says that maturity is demonstrated in the control of the tongue.

James 3:2. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

James 1:26. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

How we use our tongue is critical in this life.

1 Pet 3:10-11. For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. {11} Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

The words we speak overflow from what we store in our heart.

### 4.3. THE WORD

John 6:63. "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

All the works and words of this life will count for nothing in eternity, what is important is the things that are done in the Spirit and in truth. Words have a spiritual dimension, either positively or negatively.

Mark 1:34. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

Some words are not worth listening to.

Rev 19:15. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Jesus' word is portrayed as a sword with which he slays His enemies.

Hebrews describes the awesome power of God's word (Heb 4:12).

Heb 4:12. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It is the word of God that created all things at the beginning (Heb 11:3),

Heb 11:3. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

and it is the word of God that sustains all things (Heb 1:3),

Heb 1:3. who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

it is the word of God that heals (Psa 107:20),

Psa 107:20. He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

it is the word of God that cleanses (John 15:3),

John 15:3. "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

it is the word of God that sanctifies (John 17:17)

John 17:17. "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

and it is the word of God that judges (John 12:48).

John 12:48. "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him; the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Mat 4:3-4. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." {4} But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

The phrase "it is written" appears 61 times in the New Testament.

Isa 55:11. So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Eph 6:17. ... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

#### 4.4. PRAYER

Eph 6:18. praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;

It is praying through rather than praying about or praying around. A key word is perseverance.

Luke 18:1-8. Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, {2} saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. {3} "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' {4} "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, "Though I do not fear God nor regard man, {5} 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" {6} Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. {7} "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? {8} "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

We are very likely to loose heart, and in fact if we don't keep close to God in prayer, we will loose heart. The essential element of prayer and spiritual warfare is seeing that our God, our heavenly Father is in absolute control over all the universe.

We loose heart when things take longer than we want or don't work out as we want (Prov 13:12). Or when we don't know or understand what is happening. Isolation and loneliness can make us loose heart.

Luke 18:7:.. There are times when God appears to be like the unjust judge - when God appears to be all the things that the Bible declares He is not. It may appear that God has favourites, it may appear that God is not good, it may appear that God is not fair and that he does not care or answer prayer.

Jesus offers no explanation as to why God may bear long with the cries of His people. The aim of the parable is that we might continue to pray and not loose heart or faith. Hence we are called to demonstrate a faith that continues to trust in God no matter what the circumstance, or how our prayers seemed to be ignored. And yet we are to continue to pray rather than being passively resigned to a situation.

We need to continue to pray through, not to change God's mind or will. We don't need to do that. Rather it is to break down the opposition that is resisting the answer, either spiritual or unbelief.

Dan 10:2-14. In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. {3} I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. {4} Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, {5} I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! {6} His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. {7} And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. {8} Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. {9} Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. {10} Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. {11} And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

{12} Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. {13} "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. {14} "Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

### 5. SPIRITUAL WARFARE 5

Eph 6:11. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

In this session we are going to remind ourselves of what the Bible calls the Wiles of the Devil. These are things we all know, but how alert are we to these attacks?

Generally demonic attack comes wrapped in everyday circumstances and conflict with other people. He seeks to trick us in reacting to the outward rather than the hidden spiritual cause.

The apostle Paul recognised that his work in the gospel was often hindered by the enemy of men's souls.

1 Th 2:18. Therefore we wanted to come to you; even I, Paul, time and again; but Satan hindered us.

The mature believer recognises or discerns the spiritual source and applies his energies against that. In our warfare we are to attack the demonic that is behind situations, but not the people that may be involved.

#### 5.1. TO DESTROY

John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Satan is full of hatred and violence. He hates every human being and wishes to destroy us. He hates God's creation and wishes to spoil and vandalise it.

He wants everybody to be separated from God and he seeks to keep people away from God's salvation and forgiveness, which is through faith in Christ Jesus. He doesn't mind too much if people believe in God, so long as they don't believe in Jesus.

Just as God has a plan for our lives, so the enemy has a strategy in keeping us from reaching our potential and making us unfruitful.

He wishes to rob us of our peace, our assurance and our faith.

#### 5.2. TO PRODUCE DOUBT

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

Matthew 4:3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the son of God, command that these stones be come bread."

To receive anything or to achieve anything in the Kingdom of God, requires faith. Faith is the gateway and power source of much in the Christian life. The Devil seeks to attack our faith by sowing doubt or confusion in our hearts and minds.

He wants us to doubt God, doubt God's word and to doubt our relationship with God: attacking with statements like; "If you were a Christian you wouldn't think such thoughts.", "If God loves you then why...".

He knows that the human mind thinks logically and wants to understand why. True faith believes God when there is no explanation or understanding.

### 5.3. TEMPTATION

Satan's temptations. He plants the seeds of evil thoughts and imaginations into human minds and hearts, intensifying the evil already there.

Acts 5:1-3. But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. {2} And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. {3} But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

1 Cor 7:5. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

2 Cor 11:3. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

After raising doubt, then comes the temptations. Temptation often comes as an attractive short-cut to God's way; it is marketed as being quicker, easier and more pleasant. But the Devil never reveals the price tag. Jesus said that Satan is the father of all lies.

Satan knows that the only thing that can really separate Christians from God is sin. If he can entice us back into a life of sin, then he has achieved his aim.

Gen 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" {2} And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; {3} "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" {4} Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. {5} "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." {6} So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

The initial question by Satan, 'every tree', sought to highlight the restrictive nature of the command, rather than the liberty to partake of all the other fruits. Today he puts people off Jesus by highlighting or exaggerating any restrictions that are within the Christian faith. In reality faith in Christ brings freedom and many benefits, but Satan never mentions these.

The enemies final remark was full of deceit; the open lie that she would not surely die, followed by the statement that she would be like God. He denies the penalty associated with the crime. "To be

like God' carried with the suggestion of majesty and power, and is the same craven desire that fills Satan's own heart. He fell because of pride and the desire to be worshipped, he entices people with the same. In truth Eve was already like God, since she was made in His image. But when they chose to sin Adam and Eve became less like God and more like the Devil.

For Adam and Eve the consequence of disobedience was just as God had warned them. Death entered the world, they and everything else started to die. Our sin rarely affects ourselves only, other people are often hurt by our actions.

Gen 3:9-13. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" {10} So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." {11} And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" {12} Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." {13} And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Their actions brought shame and embarrassment to Adam and Eve, just as our own sin does to us. They had difficulty living with themselves and living with each other. They each sought to shift the blame onto someone else. Their relationship with God was broken. When sin is rampant then so are broken relationships, families, marriages, even nations.

### 5.4. ACCUSATION AND SLANDER

Another way the Devil works is to make accusations and slanderous allegations against people, so as to cause division, stir up strife and to break up relationships. He will use the truth if it suits his purposes, otherwise he will fabricate tails. He:

- Accuses and slanders God in the ears of men. He will destroy peoples lives and then tell them it was God.
- Accuses and slanders men in the ears of other men.
- Accuses men before God.

Rev 12:9-11. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. {10} Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. {11} "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

He seeks to dig up the dirt and parade it for all to see. God wants to forgive us our sins and forget them forever, if we will repent.

Heb 10:17. then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

#### 5.4.1. Joshua the High Priest

Zec 3:1. Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.

Here we see Satan opposing the person and work of the High Priest through accusations made at the throne of God.

### 5.5. BLIND PEOPLE'S EYES

2 Cor 4:3-4. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, {4} whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Satan will try and make people too busy to stop and listen to the gospel; he will fill them full of prejudices; he will muddy the water by offering them dead religions and cults, none of which lead to Christ. He aims to push as many people as possible into a lost eternity.

#### 5.5.1. Subterfuge

If Satan can persuade people, particularly Christians, that he does not exist, then he can carry on his work unhindered. Alternatively if he can cause people, again particularly Christians, to over estimate his strength and power, then he will put them on the defensive and fill them with fear.

### 5.6. DISHONOUR GOD

2 Sam 12:14. "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

Rom 2:24. For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written.

How many unbelievers have refused to ever entertain thoughts of becoming a Christian, because of the sin or hypocrisy they have seen in those who profess to be saved. Not only would sceptics deride religion as a result of David's crime, but the Accuser of the Brethren would also use this occasion to make capital before the court room of heaven.

### 5.7. ENGENDER REBELLION

Rev 20:7-9. Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison {8} and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. {9} They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

### 5.8. ATTACK LEADERS

Mat 26:31. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

1 Chr 21:1. Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

### 5.9. APPLICATION

In light of the wiles of devil it is beholden to every believer to:

Maintain Faith

Maintain Purity

Guard the tongue - don't gossip, accuse or slander.

Maintain unity. Deal with problems scripturally and maturely.

See the bigger picture. See the bigger cause. Be aware of the spiritual realm.

Attack: pray & proclaim God's word