



Spiritual Conflict

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Lesson one

Spiritual conflict

How conflict began

Introduction

Life is full of conflict, struggle and war,

Why do we accept this as normal?
Does Scripture give us any explanation?

When we look at the New Testament we see all Christians will encounter warfare and conflict in the spiritual realm.

Conflict and war are part of the Christian life

2 Corinthians 10: 3-5. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Look at the language being used: war, weapons, demolish strongholds.

This scripture does not place the Christian on the defensive but the offensive. We should not be waiting to see what the enemy can do to us but we should be attacking him.

These verses apply to all Christians.

1 Timothy 1:18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight.

“Fight the good fight.” Serve with courage and efficiency in the spiritual warfare.
AV “war a good warfare.”

2 Timothy 2: 3-4. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs - he wants to please his commanding officer.

Paul makes several assumptions here:

- As a minister of the gospel Timothy is a soldier
- A soldier cannot live like a civilian
- The Christian life involves warfare

Ephesians 6:12. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms,

The metaphor is taken from the Olympic Games wrestling match. Wrestling involves the total person.

God himself is presented as a military commander

Exodus 15:3. The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.

This is not just a metaphor but what God did. He destroyed Pharaoh's army,

Joshua 5: 13-15. Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" Neither, "he replied," but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

A divine person with a sword drawn.
Jesus manifested as a human being.

Psalms 24:8. Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Before the battle of El Alamein in North Africa during the Second World War, General Montgomery addressed his troops, "Let us ask the Lord mighty in battle to give us the victory."

Isaiah 13:4. Listen, a noise on the mountains, like that of a great multitude! Listen, an uproar among the kingdoms, like nations massing together! The Lord Almighty is mustering an army for war.

A military judgement on Babylon,

The Christian life is not all sweetness and light.

What is the background? Who are the opposing forces?

The root cause of all unrest and conflict is rebellion i.e. the refusal to submit to the righteous government of God. The world is full of rebels and rebels can never know peace.

The church is full of members who have never really submitted to God.

Matthew 6: 9-10. This then is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Our Father - not my father, we are members together of one body.
Hallowed be your name - reverence for God, honouring and hearing him.
Your kingdom come - God’s purpose is to bring his kingdom on earth, what part am I to play?
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven - your perfect will without any obstacles.

It begins with me, I have to submit myself without reservation to the will of God.

Peace only comes through total submission to God.

Isaiah 57: 19-21. “Peace, peace, to those far and near, “says the Lord.” “And I will heal them.” But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. “There is no peace,” Says my God, “for the wicked.”

Total submission to God brings deep, settled peace.

How and when did rebellion begin?

It is necessary to recognise two basic facts.

- (i) The Bible primarily deals with the Adamic race
- (ii) There was an undetermined period in the history of the universe before the creation of Adam.

The Bible’s focus is on a certain man Adam and his descendants. There is nothing in Scripture to indicate that Adam was the only person of the human type that ever lived on the earth. The Bible does not deal with them only the Adamic race.

When Jesus came one of his titles was ‘the Son of Man’. He gives himself that title more than 80 times in the gospels. That title is ‘the Son of Adam’. Apostle Paul calls him ‘the last Adam!’

Lesson two

The pre-Adamic period

Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Certain Hebrew words in Genesis chapter one are plural in form: God; heavens; water; life.

The mystery of the trinity - A plural God singularly created.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning (Gods) created (singular verb) the heavens (plural) and the earth.

Job 38: 4-7. Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me if you understand. Who marked out the dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone - while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Job has been arguing with the Lord.

I am going to ask you some questions Job you better have some answers for me.

1) Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Answer - I was not there.

2) Who marked out the dimensions?

Answer - I don't know.

3) Who stretched out the measuring line across it?

Answer - I didn't.

4) What are the footings of the earth embedded into?

Answer - I have no idea.

5) Who laid the earth's cornerstone?

Answer - No reply.

When God laid the foundations of the earth angels were watching. The inhabitants of heaven already existed before the creation of earth.

Nehemiah 9:6. You alone are Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all the starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

You made the heavens. Plural, even the highest heavens, also plural - that gives us three heavens.

In the beginning God created the heavens and its inhabitants and the earth and its inhabitants.

There is an unmeasurable gap of time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2.

It could be thousands of years, millions or an unmeasurable period.

Genesis 1:2. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

The description of the earth given in verse two is not a description of the earth in the state in which God created it, it's a description of the earth, the state in which it fell, as a result of things that happened between verse one and verse two.

The word translated 'was' in verse two could easily be translated 'became'.

.....the earth became formless and empty

Hebrew 'formless and empty' is 'tofu and bohu'.

A rhyming way of speaking like; harum-scarum. Helter-skelter.

Other uses of 'tofu and bohu' in the Scripture

Isaiah 34:11. The desert owl and screech owl will possess it; the great owl and the raven will nest there. God will stretch out over Edom the measuring line of chaos and the plumb-line of desolation.

See Isaiah 34:8. For the Lord has a day of vengeance a year of tribulation to uphold Zion's cause.

A picture of a terrible judgement at the hand of God.

The measuring line of chaos (tohu) and the plumb-line of desolation (bohu).

Completely given over to desolation which is a memorial to God's judgement forever afterwards.

Jeremiah 4:23. I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty, and at the heavens, and their light was gone.

Jeremiah 4:26. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

Jeremiah is given a vision of the land after God's judgement.

.....the earth, and it was formless (tohu) and empty (bohu).....

All three passages where these two words occur together depict a fearful scene of desolation brought about by God's judgement on terrible wickedness.

Isaiah 45:8. For this is what the Lord says - he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty (tohu), but formed it to be inhabited - he says; "I am the Lord, and there is no other....."

God formed the world to be inhabited. This proves that the earth in Genesis 1:2 was not in the condition in which God originally created it.

Deuteronomy 32:4. He is the rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just.

Ecclesiastes 3:11. He had made everything beautiful in its time.

Psalms 18:30. As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless.

Revelation 15:3 Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

Lesson three

The rebellion of Lucifer

The person of wisdom

The theme of Proverbs chapter 8 is wisdom and this is presented to us as a person. None other than Jesus Christ. A revelation of Jesus Christ in his eternal nature.

1 Corinthians 1:24. Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The whole setting of Proverbs 8 is before what we would call the creation of the earth and the beginning of the Adamic race.

Proverbs 8: 22-31. Before God ever created anything he brought me forth (the only begotten Son of God). I was anointed from eternity, before the world began. I was there when he set the heavens in place (v27). I was with him a delicately nurtured child (v30) I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in the whole world and delighting in mankind.

All creation was moving to one supreme purpose, the creation of Adam. Everything that was done from eternity was done to make the earth a habitable place for the purpose of bringing Adam and his descendants into being.

It was never in God's purposes to create the earth a desolate, void, waste wilderness. Something happened to require a divine intervention the result of divine displeasure, judgement and abandonment.

For millions of years it could have been just a void, watery, dark empty waste.

What caused God's judgement on the pre-Adamic earth?

Primarily, the rebellion of Satan - rebellion brings judgement.

Rebellion was here long before the Adamic-race was here.

Colossians 1: 16-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation (the first born before all creation). The contract is between born and created. Jesus was not created he is born of God, he was born before ever creation took place. Then all creation took place through him.

John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Colossians 1: 16-17. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Jesus eternally exists before all things. Jesus said before Abraham was, I AM.
Jesus keeps the whole universe in being.

Verse 16 we are given a picture of the heavenly creation and the heavenly orders before earth came into being.

The visible are the things that we can see the invisible the heavenly things we cannot see. They are just as real as the visible we just cannot see them.

The invisible things created before the earth are here defined in four successive orders.

- Thrones
- Powers
- Rulers
- Authorities

An order of the rule of the universe in descending order.

When rebellion broke out in the universe it broke out in the level of rulership. It did not break out on the level of thrones or powers.

Archangel means ruling angel or angel princes.

Scripture presents three great 'angel princes' (archangels).

- 1) Lucifer 'the light bringer', the shining one.
Isaiah 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth you who once laid low the nations!
- 2) Gabriel 'God is mighty'.
Daniel 8:16 And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai (river) calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision".

Daniel 9:21while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

Luke 1:19. The angel answered, "I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you to tell you this good news".

Luke 1:19. In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee.
- 3) Michael 'Who is like God'.
Daniel 10:13. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the King of Persia.

Daniel 10:21.No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

The particular prince (archangel) charged with dealing with Israel.

Daniel 12:1. At that time Michael, the great prince who protect your people, will rise.

Jude 9. But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "the Lord rebuke you!"

Michael had something to do with the burial of the body of Moses and the devil had something to say about it.

Revelation 12:7. And there was a war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Michael had his angels.

A possibility is that each of these three archangels commanded one-third of the angels.

The angels could have been divided between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus referred to 'my Father's angels' and his own angels. Each group having its own leader (prince) Lucifer, Gabriel and Michael. Each group at the disposal of each member of the Godhead.

Big question - Why did God create Satan?

God never created Satan. God created Lucifer.
Lucifer became Satan when he rebelled against God.
Satan means the adversary, resistor.

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord and Satan standing at his right side to accuse (resist) him.

Satan automatically opposes everything God does and what the people of God seek to do.

When you seek God you are likely to have somebody at your right hand accusing you, condemning you, discouraging you, holding you down, Satan the resistor.

Revelation 12: 3-4. Then another sign appeared in heaven; an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his head. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.

An allegorical picture, never mix literal and allegorical interpretation of Scripture.

Satan dragged behind him like a tail one third of the angels of heaven.
When he rebelled he led his angels with him in rebellion against God.

Lesson four

Probable outline of Lucifer's rebellion

In the pre-Adamic period, heaven and earth alike were perfect from creation onwards. God committed to Lucifer a certain realm of authority, which included the earth. Earth was inhabited by a pre-Adamic race or races. There was a pre-Adamic garden of Eden (pleasure), with a temple and a sacred mountain. Lucifer was guardian of the temple and directed the worship of God.

Satan has always used religion as his main tool to deceive people. He is a task master at religion and organising religious services, he was doing this before he fell.

Lucifer became proud of his own wisdom and beauty, and aspired to a position of equality with God. (Probably this was the position occupied by the Son). Lucifer systematically promoted rebellion and seduced the angels under his charge from their loyalty to God, and then led them in an assault upon God's throne. For this, he and his angels were cast down from the heaven of God's dwelling. That is probably the heaven of heavens. They then set up a rival kingdom in opposition to God, situated in 'the heavenlies', that is between God's dwelling and the visible heaven.

At some point Satan and his rebellious angels caused the inhabitants of earth to join them in their rebellion, and in every form of wickedness. Probably all this went on for a long time because God is amazingly long suffering. God probably made offers of mercy and forgiveness to this whole pre-Adamic organised system of rebellion, to the angels and the other persons involved. Apparently none were willing to avail themselves of the mercy offered.

Ultimately God brought a tremendous judgement (mainly water) upon the whole earth and its inhabitants. The result of this judgement is described in **Genesis 1:2**. Mythology contains many references to a so called 'golden age', which would be the pre-Adamic age. The earth just brought forth and you just ate and drank and enjoyed yourself. Greek mythology abounds with references to this period. It also makes reference to a whole continent submerged beneath the Atlantic, Plato refers to this in his writings. This maybe the origin of 'the abyss'. Where we read the word 'pit' it should be abyss, it suggests a tremendous depth of water and you will find in the ministry of Jesus many demons said "***do not send us into the abyss, send us anywhere else but not the abyss.***" A place of imprisonment pending judgement for a whole civilisation or more than a civilisation. All of mythology may not be correct but it contains fragments of truth. The same myths are found in other civilisations that cannot be traced back to Greece.

The disembodied spirits of a pre-Adamic race (or races) probably constitute 'evil spirits' (demons) of the present age.

Some of the scriptures that refer to these events

Ezekiel 28. It deals with the city of Tyre which was one of the great commercial maritime cities of the ancient world. In this message of God concerning Tyre we have two completely different personalities presented. The 'ruler' of Tyre and the 'king' of Tyre. The 'ruler' was a man. The king was an angelic being, undoubtedly Satan.

Behind every Adamic kingdom and empire there is an unseen satanic spiritual kingdom organised to gain control and manipulate those kingdoms and empires for the fulfilment of Satan's purposes.

Ezekiel 28: 1-9. The word of the Lord came to me. "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, this is what the Sovereign Lord says".

The ruler of Tyre was a historical character, but at the same time he is the clearest preview in all of the Old Testament of yet another person to appear on the stage of human history the Antichrist.

In the pride of your heart you say "I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas." But you are a man and not a god, though you think you are wise as a god.

Here is a man who thinks of himself as a god lifted up in pride.

Are you wiser than Daniel? Is no secret hidden from you?

True of the Antichrist he will have tremendous supernatural wisdom given him directly by Satan

By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself and amassed gold and silver in your treasuries.

He will have tremendous material wealth.

By your great skill and trading you have increased your wealth, and because of your wealth your heart has grown proud. Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Because you think you are wise, as wise as a god, I am going to bring foreigners against you, the most ruthless of nations; they will draw their sword against your beauty and wisdom and pierce your shining splendour. They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die a violent death in the heart of the seas. Will you then say, "I am a god," in the presence of those who kill you? You will be but a man not a god, in the hands of those who slay you.

Here is a man who claims to be god but when divine judgement comes upon him he will die like a man.

You will die the death of the uncircumcised at the hands of foreigners.

The second picture 'the king of Tyre'.

There is only one person who fits this description and it is Satan.

Ezekiel 28: 11-19

The word of the Lord came to me; Son of man take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence and you sinned so I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendour. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.

Verse 12 A picture of Lucifer before he fell the bright, glorious beautiful cherub.

Verse 13 The pre-Adamic Eden and then the Eden that Satan entered. When Satan entered the Eden in which God placed Adam he was no longer this glorious, shining cherub.

Verse 13 AV *"the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee."* Satan has tremendous musical talent. He uses music and religion to ensure the human race.

Verse 14 Just like the two cherubs covered the mercy seat in the tabernacle of Moses.

Verse 15 Created a perfect cherub but he turned in rebellion against God.

Verse 16 'Widespread trade' **verse 18** 'dishonest trade' this means to go up and down as a tail bearer. An agitator with secret underhand agitation. This is how Satan alienated the loyalty of the angels. See **Leviticus 19:16** *Do not go about spreading slander among your people.*

Verse 17 He was so beautiful he became proud. The first two sins in history were pride and rebellion.

Verse 18/19 A judgement that is yet to be fulfilled. Lucifer was responsible for the sanctuary in the pre-Adamic earth, he was in charge of the worship. He was the cherub that covered whenever God's presence was manifest, he was responsible for the music, he was an artist. He was very accomplished but he rebelled and fell.

Lesson five

Lucifer's assault on God's throne and the restoration of earth

Lucifer's assault upon God's throne

Isaiah 14: 12-14. *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of the assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High".*

Verse 12 O morning star, a description of Lucifer before creation of all the angels he was outstanding in his beauty and splendour.

Verse 12 He fell from heaven, cast down to the earth. He corrupted the nations in the pre-Adamic period.

Verse 13/14 One phrase repeated five times "I will". The will set in opposition to God. The root of all problems.

- I will ascend to heaven
- I will raise my throne
- I will sit enthroned
- I will ascend above the clouds
- I will make myself like the Most High (the climax of his ambition).

This gives the impression that the rebellion is led from earth. An attempt to storm heaven from earth.

The first step of the Christian life is to deny the ego. The Christian must first take up his cross and deny himself.

Isaiah 14: 16-17. *Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?"*

Cities existed on the earth prior to Lucifer's fall.

Isaiah 24:1. *See, the Lord is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants.*

Since Adam God has not laid waste the earth or scattered its inhabitants.

The restoration of earth

Genesis 1:1 is the only verse that speaks of creation the following verses speak of restoration.

When Lucifer fell, his fall brought sudden destruction to the earth we know today. It was so destroyed by Lucifer that God flooded the earth. There are two floods. The pre-Adamic flood which was the direct result of Lucifer's fall and the flood of Noah.

The pre-Adamic flood

The earth was destroyed because of Lucifer's rebellion. When he invaded heaven he was flung to the earth and the earth was destroyed. The Lord flooded the earth and sealed the heavens. The sun and stars no longer shone. The sun was not created in **Genesis 1**, it was created possibly billions of years before the restoration we read about in Genesis. When God said let there be light he was granting it permission to shine again.

The word 'let' repeated in **Genesis 1** is not a word of creation but permission. God was permitting the light to shine.

Genesis 1:3 God said, "Let there be light" this was day one yet the lights in the sky were not restored until day four.

Genesis 1:6 God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters". The waters were already in existence, the earth was flooded. What happened on day two, God restored the atmosphere by dividing the waters that had flooded the earth and restores the atmosphere and calls it heaven.

Genesis 1:9 God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear". The earth was covered with water. The land was already there, it was covered. The earth had been flooded.

Genesis 1:11 God said. "Let the land produce vegetation". God restores vegetation.

Genesis 1:14 God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky". God restores the sun and the moon.

Genesis 1:16 God made two great lights. The word made is not the word create. To create is to make from nothing to make is to form from something that already exists.

Job 9: 5-7 He moves mountains without their knowing it and overturns them in his anger. He shakes the earth from its place and makes its pillars tremble. He speaks to the sun and it does not shine; he seals off the light of the stars.

A record of God's judgement after Lucifer's rebellion. God is so angry he turned the mountains upside down and seals up the sun and the light of the stars.

After Lucifer's rebellion God judged the earth with a flood, sealed up the heavenly lights and the earth becomes a frozen ball for an unknown period of time, possibly millions or even billions of years.

The Bible agrees with man's estimation of the planets age and prehistoric animals. God then restores the earth **Genesis 1:2** *the Spirit of God* (like a dove) *hovers over the waters*. And God says **Genesis 1:3** *"Let there be light"*. The light comes on and the earth melts into a watery sphere.

Lesson six

Eve's denial and the underworld

The pre-Adamic race which rebelled under Lucifer's rule were all cast into the pit.

The only one free to roam around was Lucifer who became Satan the devil. He inhabited the body of a snake, came to Eve and tempted and deceived her and her husband.

Something tragic had happened. God had given Adam and Eve rulership of the earth. What Lucifer lost Adam received. Lucifer was the king of the earth. Now God had a new king called Adam. "***I give you dominion over the earth***". Satan had a plan to regain his kingdom. He would deceive Eve. The reason Eve fell was because the Word of God was not in her. God never gave the Word to Eve he gave it to Adam. His responsibility was to give to Word to his wife. He must have failed in this.

The devil knew God as Elohim - the name of God connected with power, might and creation. This is the only name by which the angels know him.

God has another name that is introduced for the first time in ***Genesis 2:7*** - the name Jehovah.

Genesis 2:7 the Lord God formed the man.

When God creates the earth it is the name Elohim, object of worship, that is used to describe him.

When God creates man it is Jehovah - God's covenant name.

The angels do not know him by that name.

Even Abraham did not know him by that name.

God says to Moses by the name Jehovah I did not reveal myself to Abraham, he knew me only as El-Shaddai, but I am revealing myself to you as Jehovah and the only reason for this is because of the blood. When Moses was given the law and because God made his people a covenant people he said I am going to give you the name Jehovah. So the name Jehovah is connected to the covenant. It is that name we see through the Bible connected to the blood.

In the story of the flood ***Genesis chapters 6,7 and 8*** Elohim is used in connection with the building of the ark and the bringing in of all the unclean animals.

All clean animals were by seven.

Whenever you read about the 7 because one of them was sacrificed by blood there you see the name Jehovah.

Jehovah is connected to the blood.

Satan who does not know God as Jehovah could not use that name when he tempted Eve.

He said **“Did God really say”**. He could not say, **“Did Jehovah really say”**, because no angel knows him as Jehovah.

Jehovah is revealed only through the blood and the blood was not shed for angels.

She should have said, “his name is not Elohim I do not know Elohim. Who do you mean?”

God had never introduced himself to Adam and Eve as Elohim. They only knew him as Jehovah. When Eve said (God) Elohim has said, she denied him as Jehovah. If you deny the blood the devil will tempt you. Her denial of the covenant God is equivalent to our denial of the power of the blood to keep us safe from Satan’s attacks.

When she denied her covenant relationship with God - Satan regained his office as king dethroning Adam and Eve. At which point the demons were no longer bound in the pit and Satan released some of them.

Most of them remain in the pit and will be released at the great tribulation. They will be released into the earth as there is a need for them. As the cry for them becomes greater they will be released by need.

The Bible’s description of demons

Revelation 9: 7-11. The locusts looked like horses preparing for battle. On their heads they wore something that looked like crowns of gold, and their faces resemble human faces. Their hair was like woman’s hair, and their teeth were like lion’s teeth. They have breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddoin, and in Greek, Apollyon (destroyer).

The five regions of the underworld.

1) Sheol - hell

Deuteronomy 32:22 For fire has been kindled by my wrath, one that burns to the realms of death below.

The habitation of all unregenerate men and women when they die. They go into it at death awaiting the judgement day.

2) Hell (translated Hades in the Greek)

Isaiah 38:10. I said, “In the prime of my life must I go through the gates of death and be robbed of the rest of my years?”

A place once filled with the saints waiting of the coming Messiah.

Psalm 16: 9-10. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoins; my body will rest secure because you will not abandon me to the grave nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Isaiah 5:14. “The grave enlarges its appetite”. When Jesus died all the saints in Sheol were raised from the dead enlarging the capacity of hell for the unregenerate.

Matthew 27: 51-53. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus’ resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

All the saints arose with Jesus from Sheol and visited the old city of Jerusalem. Now when we die we go to heaven, we dwell in the presence of the Lord awaiting our physical resurrection.

3) Pit - the deep or the abyss.

Luke 8:31. And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the abyss. Demons said do not send us into the pit, rather into the pigs. They did not want to go back to the bottomless pit.

4) Tartarus - prison

Where all the fallen angels who slept with women were sent.

In **Genesis 3** after Satan had deceived the woman and caused the fall of man God cursed him.

Genesis 3:15. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel.

Who was he talking about? The seed of the woman.

The seed of the woman is Christ Jesus. He did not say his seed he said her seed. Why? If you look at the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew and Luke you will find the genealogy in Matthew is that of Solomon and the genealogy in Luke is that of Nathan. Solomon’s genealogy was cursed and was broken because of sin. It was that genealogy that produced Joseph but God judged that line of Solomon - no kings would reign any longer from that line. Because of the sins of the kings of Judah a curse was placed by God on that line.

But the line of Nathan was blessed and produced Mary. ‘Her seed’ meaning Mary and not ‘his seed’ meaning Joseph.

Now Satan comes up with his own plan. I will not let her seed come through. I will block it with my own, I will not let her seed be born, I will mix her seed with angelic and block the coming of the Messiah.

So the wicked angels lusted after women.

The only man found on the earth carrying the pure Adamic seed is Noah.

Genesis 7:1. "I have found you righteous in this generation".

The whole earth was polluted with angelic seed.

The reason for the second flood was not to destroy the earth but humanity. For that humanity was a mixture of angelic and human.

Giants existed after Noah. They came through the wives of his sons but David destroyed the last of these.

The angels that slept with these women were condemned in Tartarus.

2 Peter 2:4. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgement.

Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home - these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgement on the great day.

1 Peter 3: 18-20. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water.

Jesus went into the underworld to proclaim to the angels in prison to tell them their plan had failed for they thought they had blocked his coming. He then rose from the dead and all the saints rose with him.

5) Gehenna - the lake of fire

Matthew 25:41. Then he will say to those on his left, depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels".

That will be the habitation first of Antichrist and the false prophet and then of all the wicked.

The demons, evil spirits we are contending with today are the disembodied spirits of the race or races that existed on the earth before Adam's race.

They have one purpose in harassing humans and attacking humanity and that is to gain bodies. For a habitation to continue their rebellion, under Satan's control against God and his eternal kingdom.

Lesson seven

The war we are in

Genesis 3:15. "I will put enmity between you and the woman."

These words were pronounced by God himself. Not a skirmish or some minor outbreak of hostilities but a long protracted conflict that has continued down the centuries. A war of worldwide, indeed universal proportions is being waged. Some consider it strange to speak of war in a Christian context. The gospel is the gospel of peace: Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The peace Jesus has come to bring will only be realised with the overthrow of all rebellion and lawlessness.

1 Corinthians 15: 25-27. "For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he has put everything under his feet."

Jesus surprised his disciples with these words.

Matthew 10:34. "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."

Wherever the gospel was proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit it brought trouble, as at Philippi, Ephesus and Jerusalem.

Acts 17:6. "But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: 'These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here.'"

Paul uses the language of warfare often in his letters.

Ephesians 6: 10-13. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

The word 'struggle' is translated 'wrestle' in the AV. Wrestling indicates close combat where the contestants are in continual contact throughout.

The whole world is under the evil one's control

1 John 5:19. "We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."

It is easy to have the idea of two camps in extreme corners. The church and all its activities in one and Satan's group in the other with its violence, drugs, riots, evil practices etc., In between a no-mans-land with harmless human activity. Eating, drinking, working, relaxing, sleeping and daily living. (These were the activities that Jesus pointed out were going on when God brought the flood in Noah's day.)

Matthew 24:38. "For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark."

These activities not wrong in themselves, are carried on in the world system that is under the control of Satan.

The whole world

A system that includes the world of education, philosophy, politics, entertainment, sport, the media. No area of human activity and experience is exempt from the distorting and damaging influence of Satan's domination. That is why we need our minds to be renewed.

Romans 12:2. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Jesus was not 'at home' in this world system.

Luke 9:58. "Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Rescued from the kingdom of darkness

When we are saved, born again, we become those of another kingdom.

Colossians 1:13. "For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves."

We are in the world but not of the world. We are called not to avoid the every day activities of the world as buying, selling, eating, drinking, marrying, which is human life, but in those activities avoid being controlled by the power behind them, the evil one. Some have sought to escape to convents etc., but have found the system inside their walls as well as outside. We are to be 'salt and light' living by the principles of God's kingdom. That is part of the battle.

Realising that the whole world is corrupted we are not to be paranoid but to walk carefully considering all circumstances and possible consequences as children of the day. Aware of our enemy, how he operates, how he attacks, how he controls men and women. We also need to know our position in Christ, our weapons and what we are called to do.

2 Corinthians 2:11. "In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."

Satan's army

Satan has an army of fallen angels and demons that he commands and we are to resist and overthrow their work. A battle fought against the powers in the heavens that dominate nations, cities and communities as well as against the demons that seek to enter and control the bodies of men and women. We are to defend and also to attack in the war.

Ephesians 6: 14-18. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Lesson eight

The strategies of Satan

The devil has three main strategies to defeat the church, the children of God. But we, the army of God are not left helpless we have a defence for each of his schemes.

Strategy 1 - Satan the deceiver

We see throughout Scripture Satan using deception to thwart the plans and purposes God has for his world. From the very beginning of creation Satan enters the garden to deceive Adam and Eve by getting them to eat the forbidden fruit. We are told in the Book of Revelations that the devil is responsible for leading the whole world astray.

Revelation 12:9. *“The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.”*

Today Christians and non-Christians alike are deceived by Satan. The Bible repeatedly warns us not to be deceived and states that many will be deceived during the last days.

Matthew 24:5. *“For many will come in my name, claiming ‘I am the Christ’, and will deceive many.”*

2 Timothy 3:13. *“While evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”*

Satan’s target for this deception is the mind of men. A man is what he thinks. Therefore what he thinks is important. It can build him up or destroy him. If we think wrong, we will act wrong. We are what we think.

Satan deceived Eve by attacking her mind. Therefore we need to guard our minds.

2 Corinthians 10: 4-5. *“The weapons we fight are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”*

Jesus states that the devil is the ‘father of lies’ and there is ‘no truth in him’, ‘lying is his native language’ and he was a ‘liar from the beginning.’ Satan will lie about God, his Son and the Holy Spirit. He will lie about God’s Word, us and everything else. This is the only weapon he has to deceive us so we must be on our guard.

His sole purpose is to get us to ignore God’s Word. God’s Word is eternal, life giving, life changing, active, sharp and powerful. It gives us direction. Through it we can renew our mind by thinking like God. We grow by his Word. We can know God, by knowing his Word. He has revealed himself in his Word. It is the mind and heart of God.

Our defence against the deceiver then is obvious, it is the Word of God. The Word is the 'Sword of the Spirit'. Jesus used it in the wilderness against Satan to great effect causing him to run defeated from his presence. Jesus is our example and we need to follow him. There is no other way.

To be able to use the Word of God as our defence, we need to know, study, memorise, meditate and apply it to your lives every day.

2 Timothy 2:15. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Strategy 2 - Satan the destroyer

Jesus said that Satan comes to 'steal, kill and destroy'. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking out to devour someone. That is who he is. God creates, the devil destroys.

His target is the bodies of humans. We see this very clearly in the story of Job. He destroyed the fruit of his body, his children, the labour of his body, material property and the health of his body. Jesus tells us Satan might be able to kill the body but he cannot destroy the soul.

Matthew 10:28. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

The weapon he uses is suffering. He used it on all the Old Testament saints: Joseph, David, Daniel and so many more and on New Testament saints as well: Paul, Peter, Mary and most of all the Lord himself. He continues to use this weapon today to carry out his mission as destroyer.

God has a great plan for each of our lives and Satan wants to destroy it. He wants us to miss it by bringing suffering into our lives. We must not let him succeed. Our defence is the 'grace of God.' As we look to God when we go through trials, depending on him, he will stoop down in his love and rescue us. As we walk in humility, rejoicing in our hardships, we will know the peace of God that guards our heart and the delivering hand of God our Saviour.

Strategy 3 - Satan the dominator

Satan is the Prince of this World and the whole world is under his control and influence. He wants to be God. He believes he will win and gain control of God's universe. As with all liars he is deceived by his very own lies.

As the dominator he targets the Christian's will. If he can get us to agree with him he can control our lives. This is what he attempted to do with Jesus in the desert, after his baptism. By getting Jesus to worship him he could control the Ruler of the Universe.

Satan lost his place in God's heaven because of pride. He uses that same cause as a weapon against the Christian so he can be their dominator. Pride is the opposite of humility and encourages saints to look inward and trust in 'self' rather than the grace of God. All are attacked in this way and if we submit to it we will experience God's resistance and experience a fall.

James 4:6. But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Satan wanted to live independent of God. He deceived Adam and Eve, and convinced them to reject God's rule in their lives. He will try and convince all God's people to do the same.

God has created us for his good pleasure that we might live in a glorious world of freedom and love where he is our God and we are his people and he lives amongst us.

Satan has sought to convince mankind that God is a controlling dominator but if he ruled he would give us all freedom. The truth is the exact opposite.

Our defence is to let the Holy Spirit rule in our lives and he will lead us into all truth. The Holy Spirit in us is the source of God's love and power that will strengthen us. As we yield to him in our heart the dominator will not gain a foothold in our life.

2 Timothy 1:7. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Conclusion

When Jesus went to the cross he completely disarmed Satan robbing him of every weapon he had brandished against God's people for over 4000 years. Through Christ we have total victory over Satan. And it is as we know the truth and walk in it no weapon formed against us will prosper. Let us all continue to fight the good fight of faith and enjoy all the freedom Christ has won for the world.

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