

THE GREAT RED DRAGON

(LESSON 2)

Bible Study

1. Who is the dragon?
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2. When did the dragon deceive the whole world?
Genesis 3:1-6
3. Is Lucifer the only fallen angel? **2 Peter 2:4**
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6. What does God not withhold from people? **Psalms 84:11**

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9. What is the future of Satan? **Isaiah 14:15, Revelation**

20:1-3

10. Why should we examine the devices of Satan?
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What Questions Will Be Addressed in This Lesson?

The Bible states that there is a *Great Red Dragon*. Who or what does the dragon represent? When does or did the dragon come on the scene? What role does the dragon play in prophecy? These and other questions will be answered in this study.

**How Does This Lesson
Fit into the Last Day
Message?**

In review of our previous lesson, according to Revelation 14:6-12, messages will circle the globe just before Jesus returns (Revelation 14:14). In the lesson *The Coming New World Order*, we discovered that God does exist because He is the one who is able to accurately declare “*the end from the beginning*” (Isaiah 46:10). Not only did this prove that God exists, but it proved that we can trust the Bible for if the Bible could be so accurate with such detail, we should be able to trust in all other matters as well. We should trust the Bible to tell us more of prophecy but also in how we ought to personally live. If you let the Bible to be your guide, then you can say the words of King David, “*I trust in thy word*” (Psalms 119:42).

God revealed over 2,500 years ago the powers “*which shall bear rule over all the earth*” (Daniel 2:39) including the fact that the last power would divide into exactly ten pieces (Daniel 2:41-42) and remain such (Daniel 2:43) until God sets up His kingdom (Daniel 2:44). The last day message calling people to recognize that God does exist and that those that persist in ignoring God have a lot to fear is summarized in Revelation 14:7, “*Fear God.*” Continuing that theme (“*Fear God*”), we will now launch our study into answering the questions regarding the Great Red Dragon.

This is the first of two parts to a miniseries of topics. The second part (“*The Seed of the Woman*”)

will be God’s solution to the Great Red Dragon.

**Who or What
Is the Dragon?**

Revelation 12:3 says, “*And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*”

So, who is the dragon? Revelation 12:9 tells us the answer. “*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*” It is none other than Satan or the devil.

**When Does or Did
the Dragon Come on
the Scene?**

Revelation 12:9 reveals “*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*” Satan was cast down to the earth at which time he deceived the whole world.

When did he deceive the whole world? Look throughout time and you will always find someone loyal to God. Was there ever a time that the whole population was deceived? Genesis 3:1-6 tells us it was so. “*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman,*

Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” All two people were deceived and this is where he earned the title “*that old serpent*” (Revelation 12:9).

But Satan existed even before the earth existed. According to Isaiah 14:12, the Bible says, “*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*” Lucifer, the original name for Satan, is a fallen angel. He even served next to God’s throne.

How do we know this? Ezekiel 28:14-15 says, “*Thou [art] the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee [so]: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou [wast] perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*” The fallen state of Lucifer is that of iniquity or sin.

Speaking of iniquity, where did it come from? 2 Thessalonians 2:7 says, *“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way.”* Sorry, but it is a mystery. All we know is that God did not create it because *“[He is] the Rock, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he”* (Deuteronomy 32:4).

So, Lucifer served in the heavens at God’s side even before this earth was created until iniquity was found in him. At that time, he was cast out of heaven to the earth where he was given the names Satan, the Great Red Dragon, the devil, as well as the Serpent.

Is Satan the Only Fallen Angel?

2 Peter 2:4 gives us the answer. *“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”* More than just Lucifer sinned. As we have already read, Lucifer hid his iniquity, but the seeds from that iniquity spread through the ranks of the angels where they then had to make a choice between serving God and listening to the doubts of His love.

God’s love could not permit destroying Satan on the spot as soon as iniquity was found. This would have caused obedience through fear and that is not what beings were created for. So, God has allowed the works of

Satan to continue to show how wicked and destructive sin really is and allowing all of His free-will agents, us included, to make a choice either for God’s ways or Satan’s. Once all see what sin really is, then God will be just in dealing with it.

How many angels fell? The answer is found back in Revelation 12:3-4, which says, *“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”* Note that a third of the stars fell via the great red dragon. The verse that explains the meaning of the stars is in Revelation 12:9: *“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”* The great red dragon, Satan, took a third of the stars, representing the fallen angels.

What Is Satan’s Objective?

Isaiah 14:13-14 says, *“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”* Satan wants to rule the

universe even from God’s throne.

He basically declared war against God, which is brought out in Revelation 12:7-8: *“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.”* This war is the longest fought war so far and will continue until the end of time.

What does Satan try to do to human beings that stand in his way? Revelation 12:17 tells us, *“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”* He is out to make war against them as well. So, he is fighting on two fronts. He is battling for God’s throne and for total domination of earth.

How Does Satan Make War Against the People of God?

Romans 8:7 reveals that *“Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”* One effective means that Satan uses is to get us to think on worldly things.

Why? Proverbs 23:7 tells us, *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart [is] not with thee.”* We may put on a good show but if our thoughts are wrong, we are not really on God’s side but on Satan’s side.

We may even deceive ourselves into thinking we are good people since we do not openly commit evil acts, but that is not what counts. What is in our hearts, that is, our mind and feelings combined?

How does Satan get us to think wrong thoughts? The most effective way is that of the Christian lifestyle. Almost all people know that Christians act very differently from the rest of the world. Just when someone thinks of becoming a Christian, Satan and his devils are right there to point out all the “good times” they will miss as well as all the “good things” in life they will have to give up. If that was all to the Christian walk, no one would sign up. Keep in mind, *“For the Lord God [is] a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good [thing] will he withhold from them that walk uprightly”* (Psalms 84:11). Satan shows the immediate gratification of pleasure, hiding the fact that it leads to death, while God promises a fantastic life in the future. Many however, do not see that even now we can have a better life.

What do drugs lead to? Early death. What does smoking lead to? Early death. What does free sex lead to? Potentially various diseases and in many cases, early death. What does gluttony lead to? Early death.

Sure, there are exceptions, but in general, the Bible is accurate when it says that sin leads to death.

By the way, the reason Satan entices people with worldly attractions is because he knows that which is recorded in James 4:4, “*Ye adulterers and*

adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

Next, Satan uses family and friends to discourage the Christian walk. Matthew 10:35-36 tells us, *“For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes [shall be] they of his own household.”* Blood may be thicker than water but much blood has been shed over the gospel even in family circles. And friends who have not had a close walk with God talk of nothing more than what the world has to offer.

Then Satan uses people that we may not even know. John 15:18-19 says, *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”* This is Satan’s attempt to appeal to the need of acceptance. May we not forget that as long as we submit to God, all of heaven accepts us and even rejoices when Satan is resisted. Luke 12:8 tell us *“Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God”*

And if that does not work, then Satan tries to confuse the issue as revealed in Isaiah 5:20. *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness;*

that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” Today’s society is having more pity on the offender than on the victim. Never mind that two brothers killed their parents for the inheritance, let us have compassion for they do not have parents anymore. Never mind if a mother murdered her own infant, thus losing custody of another infant while she served time. Her now four-year-old should be given back to her since she has been released. Never mind that people are trying to warn the world that if they continue in their sins, destruction is the sure result, instead, say they are part of a hate group.

Satan basically will resort to everything possible in his power. John 8:44 says *“Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”* But Revelation 2:10 tells us to *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast [some] of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”* And 2 Corinthians 11:14 says *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”* Satan will lie, cheat, steal, take on innocent forms, and even kill to get his way. We cannot be looking at just the good, but we must be looking at the whole picture.

Further, all Satan needs to do,

which he is well aware of, is to get Christians to trip up and fall in just one point. James 2:10 says, *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one [point], he is guilty of all."* Satan just wants to entice Christians enough to break just one of God's laws. They do not have to break all of them to be on Satan's side.

The things that Satan has tried and will continue to try are summarized in a parable in Mark 4:15-19. *"And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."*

And if you think you are saved and have no worries, the Bible says otherwise, *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"* (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Is Anyone Exempt from Satan's Ploys?

Some believe that Satan is

unable to accomplish this simply because they declared to be on God's side. Note the following scripture closely though. John 10:27-29 tell us, *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand."* Satan or any other being for that matter cannot take us out of God's hand, we however, can chose to leave His hand at any time and that is what Satan is trying to persuade. Further, if Satan cannot succeed in pulling born again Christians to his side, then why does he spend so much time and effort in this activity?

Looking at Job's experience, we can see the outright attack against one of God's chosen and Satan's objective. Job 2:3-7 tells us, *"And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that [there is] none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he [is] in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with*

sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown."

Satan really hates upright people and will stop at nothing to discourage them; however, he is unable to exercise all his power upon them because *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]"* (1 Corinthians 10:13). Notice that the only temptation that man falls into is his own desires. This is why it is good council for people to *"deny himself"* (Matthew 16:24).

Even church leaders are not exempt. Luke 22:31 states, *"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired [to have] you, that he may sift [you] as wheat."* Church leaders are the most affective in leading people. Further, Satan is also after the leadership so as to cease the movement forward against his kingdom. Even Paul faced discouragements in this regard according to 1 Thessalonians 2:18. *"Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."*

And if there was anybody set as an example of suffering through temptation, we can learn a lot by reading Matthew 4:1: *"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."* Satan even went after Jesus Christ!

Now the strongest verses in the Bible that rebukes the false theory of relaxing and letting down your guard against Satan

because one thinks there is nothing that can be lost once one becomes a Christian is recorded in Jeremiah 7:8-11. *“Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; and come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen [it], saith the LORD.”*

Oh, people may not worship Baal and follow other gods, but spiritually they do. When we make God out to be something different than what the Bible actually teaches, we are doing the same thing. Further, notice what specific lying words are here. It is one that allows someone to basically sin and yet to be considered an upright person in the house of God. In other words, it is taught that you can continue in sin and still accept a clean title, the name we are called after our God. More plainly spoken, Jesus is called Christ. We are called by His name when we call ourselves Christian. We may even go as far as putting deliverance from sin wholly on Christ, that we have nothing of ourselves to strive against.

Now, we are not referring to someone who detests sin but yet submits to the temptation and sins and then turns to Jesus for forgiveness. That is all covered in the summary verse of *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.*

And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). And this verse deserves a whole topic of itself, and it will be addressed later.

So, should we teach and believe that we are always in right standing with Christ even if knowingly committing sin? Jeremiah is quite clear. That is a lie! People who accept that teaching are willing to believe that lie will be condemned, as also stated earlier.

What Lessons Can We Learn from Some Historical Spiritual Battles?

The first battle we will look at is in Genesis 3:1-6 where it states, *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her*

husband with her; and he did eat.” One of Satan’s greatest methods of deceiving people is covering sin with a “good” coating. As soon as people see the good that can be done or used, they ignore the fact that evil is associated with it. Of course, God does not operate that way. In fact, God tells us *“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”* (1 Thessalonians 5:21). He does not say, *“Keep that which has some good.”*

Some victories that Satan gets are from coating the evil of lying. How many will lie to gain an advantage, thinking only of the “good” result in the end? People even dismiss the lie by saying, *“It’s only a little lie.”* How many lies did Jesus tell? Amen? So, the next time we are tempted with a mixture of evil and good, no matter if the evil is a small percentage, keep only the good and if it is impossible to separate the good from the evil, God would have us reject the whole package.

The second battle we will look at is in Genesis 4:3-8 where it says, *“And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee [shall be] his desire,*

and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him." There is no record of Abel instigating Cain at all. There is no mention of Abel trying to change or convert Cain. All Abel did is what God asked without compromising but Cain did not. He did not shed the blood of animals, which was required to atone for sin (Hebrews 9:22); instead he substituted fruits and vegetables. Those that choose to disobey God become infuriated with those that obey God, so much so that they will go as far as to kill them.

And this will be repeated in the last days according to Revelation 13:15. *"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."*

Further, Satan pressures people to make wrong decisions based upon negative reactions of unbelievers. There is a tendency; for example, to bring the standards of God down to meet the people instead of bringing the people up to His standards. People are afraid to point out where religion conflicts with the world. By doing so, they are denying the power of God to work in these lives.

The third battle we will look at is in Genesis 7:7. It says, *"And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood."* Numbers is another vehicle

Satan often uses. Just because the majority believes it does not mean it is right. Unfortunately, many succumb to peer pressure and back down. Nobody wants to be the oddball and Satan uses this to draw people into committing acts that they would not normally commit. Several of the popular enticements include: "Everybody else is doing it," "Look what you will be missing out on," and "Don't you want the good life?"

The fourth battle we will look at is in Numbers 16:1-3. *"Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took [men]: And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, [Ye take] too much upon you, seeing all the congregation [are] holy, every one of them, and the LORD [is] among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?"*

Here again we learn that Satan can work through preachers. This will happen again in the latter days as well. Matthew 24:11 says, *"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."* And Revelation 13:3-4 says, *"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the*

beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

In a united effort, many prophets or preachers from various religions will unite under the Antichrist to deceive nearly everyone on earth. This unification is not necessarily by evil decisions. All the decisions to the unification can be nothing more than a series of compromises for the good of the cause not realizing as the compromises occur, the perfect way of God becomes more and more distant and the ways of the Antichrist become closer. This is why it is important that while we have the freedom to do so, study the Bible as much as possible so as to not be deceived.

The fifth battle we will look at is in Numbers 25:1-3. It tells us, *"And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel."* On the verge of entering into the Promised Land, all types of worldly attractions were brought in, much like the world today being on the verge of entering the heavenly Promised Land. As Satan used worldly women to hit men's weak spot (eyesight), Satan is using it again in the latter days. Billboards, TV, movies, magazines, and much more are all designed to excite the senses. Porn is so addictive that it is probably the most paralleling event with Numbers

25:1-3, especially since it can easily be done in private and most of it is free. Even godly women today are getting caught up in the latest attractions with being attracted to men, goods, and positions. Satan is really deploying these attractions for he knows he has but a short time. The phrase, "Sex sells" is definitely what Satan is doing.

The sixth battle we will look at is in Daniel 1:5-8. It says, "*And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel [the name] of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*" Daniel had a choice. The king honestly thought he was feeding these boys the best food possible. Daniel also knew that if he did not partake of the food that he would offend the king, be standing alone in his decision, and even possibly bring the king's wrath upon himself and possibly the rest of the captive Jews. In those days, an offended king would easily resort to the immediate death penalty.

But there is a principle that we are all to live by, as stated in

Matthew 10:28: "*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*" You see, the devil knows that Christians will go out of their way to keep the peace and not offend people, but what the devil does is push a little further to try and get people to disobey God in order to keep the peace. To fear the reaction of people more than the reaction of God is to let down God and put people before God.

The seventh battle we will look at is in Daniel 3:10-12. "*Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, [that] he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*" The same principle of fearing God more than man is again brought out here but this is a different approach. The devil turns up the heat by making decrees to go against God's ways. And this was the case here and it will be also in the future when it will be decreed upon the whole world to go against God which we read before in Revelation 13:15: "*And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many*

as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Most people listen to the laws of the government more than the Word of God. They even go as far as to ask, "Do you expect me to go against what the government tells us to do?" The answer is, if it goes against God, YES! If it goes against our personal feelings though, we are to submit to the government.

This is brought out in Titus 3:1-2, which says, "*Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, [but] gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.*"

The eighth battle we will look at is in Daniel 6:12-13. "*Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask [a petition] of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing [is] true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which [is] of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.*" Again, the devil is not dumb. If one decree does not work, he will make another, even to make it look like taking a stance over an issue is so trivial.

Think about it. All Daniel had to do when he wanted to pray was to close the windows and not pray out loud for 30 days.

Sounds trivial, but Daniel also knew that to alter in one degree from that which he had performed all his life would permit the devil to press for another and another. In other words, one step of compromise prepares the way for many more, and eventually all the "little" compromises are really steps to an overall compromise of the faith. The devil moves one little step at a time.

Another way of looking at the "What's the big deal?" picture is called discipline. Godly discipline is performing the godly actions, thinking the godly way, no matter the circumstances around. When we give into feelings, give into external influences, discipline suffers. And discipline is important with God for our desire is to be a disciple of Christ, right? Discipline comes from the word disciple.

Satan has had thousands of years to perfect the last great deception at the end of time. The world did not drift overnight into the corruption that it is in today. Some say that the momentum of falling into corruption occurred towards the end of the 1950's as if prior to that, life was fine. Could it be that what looks like rapid steps towards worldwide corruption would not have been possible if the "little" compromises did not occur in the prior 1,950 years and even the thousands of years before Christ? So, the next time there is a challenge over what may look trivial, pray to God for insight to see what future compromises this will lead to.

Now, the ninth battle we will look

at is in Matthew 4:1-11. *"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."* From this we learn of the three main areas the devil attacks in regards to desires: *"the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life"* (1 John 2:16). If Christians do not realize that they need to stand up especially against the motto "If it feels good, do it," the battle is already lost. When one purposes in their

life to become a Christian, Satan will try his best to pull people back into the world, and to not resist is to give him the victory.

How much resistance may be involved? Hebrews 12:4 states it plainly. *"Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."*

So, we see that Satan comes at people with all kinds of gimmicks: packages wrapped in a good appearance, fear of unbelievers being harmful, peer pressure, outnumbering, use of fallen ministers, worldly attractions, the concern of offending people, governments working against Biblical principles, attacking what seems to be little issues so as to begin the compromising, and various lusts. This of course is not an all-inclusive list, but it is enough to put up the defenses and not treat life as if there are no repercussions to actions taken.

What Can We Expect from Satan in the Last Days?

1 Peter 5:8 tells us to *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."*

Revelation 12:12 declares *"Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."*

1 Timothy 4:1 states that *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving*

heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."

A very intense battle will and is occurring where we cannot even trust our eyes. This is why the Bible states, "*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Not only that, but people can expect a great battle from one of his greatest instruments of Satan. Revelation 13:1-2 tells us what that instrument is. "*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as [the feet] of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*" This is the Antichrist that will be studied in another lesson.

And to aid in the deception, notice what else will come upon the earth. Revelation 16:13-14 tells us, "*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [come] out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, [which] go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*" It is spiritualism like we never have seen before.

thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." Isaiah 27:1 says that "*In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that [is] in the sea.*" So, Satan will not continue his ways forever.

Also, notice yet another name for Satan the dragon – "*leviathan*".

Revelation 20:1-2 says, "*And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.*" The millennium is also a future study but notice that Satan will be bound during that time.

Why Was This Lesson Presented?

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

May God bless you and protect you. May He enlighten you to the wiles of the devil so that you may not be overcome.

What Is the Future of Satan?

Isaiah 14:15 tells Satan, "Yet