

Bible Study and Notes

THE SEED OF THE WOMAN

(LESSON 3)

Bible Study

1. What did God promise to mankind when Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden? **Genesis 3:14-15**
2. Who escaped Satan's attempt of murder when they were born? **Matthew 2:13-16, Exodus 1:22-2:10**
3. Who was destined to be a ruler? **Matthew 2:4-6, Genesis 41:39-40, Exodus 3:10-12**
4. Who ascended to God? **Genesis 5:24, 2 Kings 2:11, John 20:17, Jude 1:9**
5. Who specifically has

ascended to God's throne?
Hebrews 12:2

6. How did Satan inflict a temporary wound upon Jesus? **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**
7. How did Jesus inflict a permanent deathblow to Satan's kingdom? **Hebrews 2:14**
8. What does Jesus provide? **Colossians 1:19-22, John 3:15-17**
9. What did Jesus use to combat Satan? **Matthew 4:1-11**
10. What has God given us to combat Satan?

Ephesians 6:10-18

How Does This Lesson Fit into the Last Day Message?

According to Revelation 14:7, a message calling people to "Fear God" would be sounding before the "Son of man" appears upon "a white cloud" according to Revelation 14:14. In realizing through prophecy (*The Coming New World Order*) that God exists, we found in the lesson *The Great Red Dragon* that someone else exists and is identified by the titles of Old Serpent, the devil, Satan (Revelation 12:9), Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12), and several other names. He has unleashed a relentless war against God's kingdom (Revelation 12:7) as well as the living saints (Revelation 12:17). Additionally, we learned that his greatest plan is to get people to break just one of God's laws (James 2:10) for in so doing, he then has claim to them.

How successful is Satan's plan? Romans 3:23 states, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." In fact, 1 John 1:8 goes further in saying, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Unfortunately, Satan has been very successful. Seeing then that Satan can rightfully claim each person as his own, all of us should be doomed.

Why should we be doomed? Romans 6:23 declares "For the wages of sin [is] death." But wait! There was a promise made a few thousand years ago that will give us hope. It is God's response to the *Great Red Dragon*.

What is the Ancient Promise?

Genesis 3:14-15 says, "And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou [art] cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The Seed of the woman would create enmity between mankind and Satan. Satan would strike with a small wound (heel) while the Seed of the woman would give a fatal blow (head).

How Does the Bible Identify the Seed of the Woman?

Revelation 12:1-5 says, "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 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. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and [to] his throne." Here we see the two that God addressed in the Garden of Eden: The woman and Satan. The woman is pregnant. Satan along with a third of the angels [identified in the *Great Red Dragon* lesson] tries to kill the Seed of the woman right at birth but is unsuccessful. Instead, the child eventually ascends to God and is at His throne. It is this Seed that provides the opportunity for all to escape the death that each one of us deserves.

Those who have studied their Bibles before or have had a Christian experience probably already know Who the Seed is, but instead of just stating the obvious fact, let us allow the Bible to tell all of us who it is and see, through this exercise, how the Bible is its own interpreter.

From Revelation 12:1-5, we are given keys to identify the Seed of the woman:

1. There is an attempt to kill the child at birth.
2. The child is to be a ruler.
3. The child would ascend to God.
4. The child would be at God's throne.

What Child Was There an Attempt to Kill at Birth?

According to the Bible, more than one child has had an attempt on their lives at birth.

In Exodus 1:22, what does Pharaoh command? "And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive." This is a type of murder through drowning all of the male children.

Who was born during that decree? Exodus 2:1-10 says, "And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took [to wife] a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he [was a] goodly [child], she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid [it] in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash [herself] at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened [it], she saw the child:

and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This [is one] of the Hebrews' children. Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give [thee] thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water." The answer is Moses. Therefore, using honest Bible studying methods, Moses could be the Seed of the woman.

Now let us look at another child. Matthew 2:13-16 says, "And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he

had diligently enquired of the wise men." As we see, just as recorded in Revelation, the child would escape Satan's attempt to kill him at birth. This child is Jesus.

To jump to the conclusion that the Savior is Jesus and not Moses is to bring preconceived ideas to the study and that is poor Bible study practices. Therefore, let us continue and let the Bible tell us instead of our own intellect.

What Child Was Destined to Rule?

The second identifying point is now going to be addressed.

Our first candidate that we see in the Bible about becoming a ruler is found in Genesis 41:39-40. "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, [there is] none so discreet and wise as thou [art]: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou." Joseph is that person and he was destined to become such especially after having a couple dreams predicting it (Genesis 37:5-11). But we will eliminate Joseph overall because even though there was an attempt on his life (Genesis 37:21), it was not at birth. Therefore, Joseph, by missing the first point, is disqualified from consideration.

Our second candidate is found in Exodus 3:10-12, which says, "Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. And Moses said unto

God, Who [am] I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this [shall be] a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain." Again, Moses clearly was eventually a type of ruler leading the people out of Egypt.

And now for our third and final candidate, Matthew 2:4-6 says, "And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, [in] the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." It is Jesus of course.

At this point, both Moses and Jesus fulfill the points identified in Revelation. We still have two more points to look at.

Did Anybody Ascend to Heaven?

The third point, the Bible specifically identifies four persons who ascended to heaven.

Genesis 5:24 says, "And Enoch walked with God: and he [was] not; for God took him." So, the first person identified is Enoch, but we eliminate him from being the "Seed of the woman" because he was not a ruler nor was there an attempt on his life.

The second person specifically

named in the Bible that fulfills this point is recorded in 2 Kings 2:11, which says, *“And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, [there appeared] a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”* So, Elijah is momentarily on the list fulfilling this point, but overall, we will not consider him as he also did not have an attempt on his life at birth nor was he a ruler.

The third person is identified in John 20:17, which states, *“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and [to] my God, and your God.”* It is Jesus! He remains on the list since He has hit all three points thus far.

The last person is in Jude 1:9, which describes a personal resurrection. *“Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”* Again, Moses stays on the list as well for people to be considered as fulfilling the points, leaving one more point remaining.

By considering new people, such as Joseph and Elijah, we show how we are again not blinded by our own preconceived ideas, but we had to find a reason why they were to be eliminated from consideration. Biblically we did just that and demonstrated another proper Bible study technique.

Did Anybody Ascend to God’s Throne?

The fourth and final point is fulfilled only by one of our candidates. Hebrews 12:2 tells us, *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* It is Jesus!

So clearly it is Jesus Christ who is the Seed of the woman because He and He alone met all four criteria.

Now the reason for this exercise is for future use. We have taken what appeared so simple and in a future lesson will reveal who the antichrist is in that more complex but same pattern of study. The Bible provides more than just four points on who the antichrist is, in fact, the Bible provides over fifty points. The sad part is that so many Christians miss the answer of who the antichrist is because they do not take into consideration all of the points.

How Did Satan Bruise Jesus’ Heel?

In Genesis 3:15, it is stated that Satan *“shalt bruise his heel,”* which refers to Jesus. How did Satan accomplish this?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says, *“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”* Though death seems more

severe than a mere bruise to the heel, death to Jesus Christ was only temporary for the grave was unable to keep hold of Him.

On the opposite side of the controversy, however, according to Genesis 3:15, Jesus was to strike at Satan’s head which is a severe and even deadly bruise. Do the scriptures support such a victory by Jesus? Hebrews 2:14 says, *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”*

Jesus Christ died on the cross without committing a single sin. Had Jesus committed just one sin, Satan would have been the victor. As it stands, Satan is a defeated foe. The only reason Satan still exists is for the sake of mankind. And we will study that later, but realize that at the second coming of Jesus Christ, there will only be two groups – saved and lost. Time is just playing out leading up to the two divisions, for even today there are too many people on the fence. Events however, are fast fulfilling, polarizing people to either side at an unprecedented pace. Details of such will be discussed in other lessons.

So, now that we see the players and understand we are to come under one or the other, let us continue our study.

What Benefit Does the Seed of the Woman Provide?

Hebrews 7:22 says, *“By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.”* SURETY is

defined by Webster as:

- 1) Something that makes sure or gives assurance as against loss, damage, or default security guarantee;
- 2) Person who takes responsibility for another;
- 3) One who accepts liability for another's debts, defaults of obligations, etc.

The Bible in the following example supports this understanding. Genesis 43:8-9 says, *"And Judah said unto Israel his father, Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go; that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, [and] also our little ones. I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever."* Judah was offering his life in place of failing to bring his brother Benjamin back alive. He accepted the responsibility, the liability, and the surety for Benjamin. In the same manner, Jesus is our surety in that He accepts the liability for the debt that we have incurred.

We have nothing of ourselves to offer God the Father for the sins we have committed. Some people go so far as to think that if they do not commit another sin and do wonderful works for God's sake that they may enter into the presence of God without any assistance, but they fail to realize that the lack of sinning for the rest of their lives and good works do not make up for even one sin that has already been committed. Something or someone still has to pay that debt. That is because God wants us to be perfect (2 Corinthians 13:11). This is

where Jesus comes in. He alone provides the surety for everyone; which God the Father has chosen to accept as stated in Colossians 1:19-22. *"For it pleased [the Father] that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, [I say], whether [they be] things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in [your] mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight."*

Further, Jesus also provides something else. Alone, it is impossible to lead a sinless life no matter the determination, but through Jesus Christ, it is possible (Hebrews 11:6).

But how can one person be surety for all? This is answered by looking at Adam. When he sinned, God had a choice. He could have wiped out Adam and Eve, put another pair of humans in a recreated planet giving the next couple a fair chance since sin entered the first one, and test them. Since God loves us (1 John 4:11), He would have tested another pair, and another, etc. until he collected all the pairs that past the test that He desired. The second option would be to make all humans subject to Adam's sin and allow one person to pay the price, and we accept that when we commit our first sin.

Obviously, God chose the later option, and it is summarized in 1 Corinthians 15:21-23. *"For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the*

resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

What Were the Temptations in the Wilderness All About?

Now Satan knew that this Surety would be provided. It is called God's plan of salvation (Acts 4:12). This drew an intense attack from Satan upon Jesus because if Satan could tempt Jesus to sin just once, Jesus would not be able to be the Surety. Satan was relentless with the temptations.

Even today we sense Satan's strong temptations, but we are not going through them alone. According to Hebrews 4:14-15, it says, *"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin."* Jesus felt at least every feeling that we feel and went through the points of temptation as we do.

You may wonder how that is possible seeing we live in a world of technology and Jesus did not. You see, all temptation falls into three categories.

1 John 2:16 tells us, *"For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*

Jesus was tempted in all three

areas even more severe than we are.

Let us look at the Bible record of the direct battle between Jesus and Satan over these three points of temptation? Matthew 4:1-4 is the first temptation. *"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."* Exactly where the fall of man began, Jesus went over the same ground. The lust of the flesh, which is the area of cravings or strong desires, had to be overcome if Jesus were to gain the ultimate victory.

We each need to overcome these tendencies if we want the victory. This includes appetite, sensual desires, and much more.

Now let us look at the second point of temptation. Matthew 4:5-7 says, *"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."* Here we see the attack using the pride of life, which is to prove one's position or ability so as to look good in

the eyes of others, as well as needlessly adorning ourselves so that we really look good to as many people as possible.

Jesus knew earthly recognition is short lived. He also stated, *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me"* (John 6:38). The same holds true of us. We are not on earth to occupy space and time, but each of us has a purpose to fulfill. We are here to do the will of God. Mark 3:35 states it plainly. *"For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."*

Even though Satan was right that God would send His angels to protect Jesus, Jesus knew that presumption is a sin. Numbers 15:30 tells us that. *"But the soul that doeth [ought] presumptuously, [whether he be] born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people."*

Now let us look at the third point of temptation. Matthew 4:8-11 says, *"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."* The lust of the eyes is allowing things that are eyed to alter the godly course one has been placed on earth to perform.

Jesus' mission was to live a sinless life and die on the cross for all humanity. Taking Satan's offer would have been to turn from God's way and serve self. Self is never the motive to test our duty with. This is why Luke 9:23 says to *"deny himself."*

Note that in each temptation, Satan used scripture and yet was defeated by scripture. It kind of looks like one can get just about anything out of the scriptures they want. In fact, that is true. But it does not make it right.

The ability to prove whatever you want, primarily ignoring verses that contradict one's agenda, is the main reason more than 92% of Christians do not accept the Bible to guide their entire way of life. They do not believe it to be the actual Word of God. In fact, they believe it was a book constructed by human invention without the aide of the Holy Spirit. How sad this is. We will discuss this further in other studies as well as in this study guide.

Now in combating Satan, there is a promise provided in James 4:7, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* As Jesus exemplified, to submit to God includes having solid scripture that one obeys. Therefore, if Jesus lived according to the Old Testament scriptures, should we not submit to the Bible in whole?

Look at the first response of Jesus, which was *"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4). This is very important. Every way of Jesus

was backed up by the scriptures. Can the same be said of us? Are we living by “*EVERY word that proceeds from the mouth of God*” (Matthew 4:4) or just a portion? Or none at all?

Look at the second response of Jesus, which was “*It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God*” (Matthew 4:7). Again, scripture is used to combat Satan – not a church teaching and not an opinion. And again, can the same be said of us or are we tempting the Lord by walking as close as possible to the world and yet hoping we are still saved?

And now we look at the third response of Jesus, which was “*Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve*” (Matthew 4:10). Who are we worshipping? God or Satan? God or self?

When we begin to state, “We’ll, I believe...”, we ought to stop talking. That is because that is the path to worshipping oneself.

What is Jesus’ Objective?

Everyone has a motive or an agenda they say. Luke 19:10 tells us of Jesus’ agenda. “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*” Everyone born to this world is born lost as recorded in Matthew 12:30, “*He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.*” There are only two sides: those that are with Jesus Christ are saved; and those that are not with Him are automatically classed as against

Him or lost. Jesus came to seek all those that are lost in the ways of Satan.

Now if everybody is automatically classed against Jesus, why does God not just destroy this world? Luke 9:56 has an answer for that. “*For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save [them].*” God created each one of us precious in His sight. His goal is to bring back the lost under His camp.

What Does Jesus Do To Try to Get Us on His Side?

Again, Romans 6:23 tells us, “*For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Christ offers eternal life. You have a choice between life and death. Which will you choose?

Does Jesus use aggressive means? Revelation 3:20 states, “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*” The way of Jesus is gentle though He is tough on sin according to Revelation 3:19. “*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*”

To illustrate the way of God in comparison to Satan, Jesus made a significant statement while on earth. John 10:27-29 says, “*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.” Every moment of every day, when we follow His voice as sheep, the promise is that no one can take us out of His hands. However, even Christians for a moment can choose to go astray in thoughts or actions and then find themselves in a desperate situation. Sheep are lead, which is what Jesus, the Shepherd, does. In His earthly form, He demonstrated the right way to follow. He also declared this in John 14:6, “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” The life of Jesus is the only way we need. 1 John 2:6 says, “*He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*”

Does Everyone Have the Opportunity of Eternal Life?

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 gives us the anticipated answer. “*For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*” Yes! Christ died for everyone. Unfortunately, not all appreciate what Christ has done and reject His free gift.

How does one reject the gift of eternal life? The verse tells us that if we live not to ourselves, we are accepting the free gift, which means that the opposite is true. If we live to self, then we reject the free gift. This is what Christ taught. “*Then said Jesus*

unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24).

It is like receiving a present. It turns out to be a sweater. But instead of using the sweater, you say to yourself, “I will continue to wear my old sweater.” Did you really accept the free gift? You may have claimed to taken it, but until you put the new sweater on and keep wearing it, you really have not accepted the gift.

Now the old sweater represents your old life style – sin. The new sweater provides the ability to not sin. Is that exciting or what?

In addition, the Bible states plainly the condition of accepting the free gift in Hebrews 5:9. *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”* It is one thing to say and sing about what God has done and is doing, but it is another thing to demonstrate it by action.

The underlying principle comes down to which side will we choose. Romans 6:16 provides the sides. *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”* People, including Christians who think they are saved, who do not live according to every word of God are actually disobeying God and showing themselves to be servants of sin, which is of Satan. Those that choose to live by every word of God are choosing Christ’s side and receive His righteousness.

You see, God puts before us two roads. Matthew 7:13-14 tells us, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate:*

for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” One way allows the indulgence in anything our heart desires to gain pleasure, title, economic status, educational level, etc., but the future is destruction. The other way appears more restrictive for it eliminates that which is harmful with the future being eternal life free from sin.

Speaking of the more restrictive way, *“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). We may not always see the danger and even ask, “What’s wrong with this?” Trusting that God knows what it will lead to, we should leave it off for our salvation sake.

Ever hear of the phrase, “Throw caution to the wind”? That is exactly what Satan wants you to do. We are to be cautious because our eternal life depends upon it.

What Lessons Can We Learn from Some Historical Spiritual Battles?

In our previous lesson, we saw potential victories for Satan. Now, let us re-examine each of the battles and see who really won.

The first battle we looked at was Adam and Eve in the garden who was beguiled by Satan to eat the forbidden fruit (Genesis

3:13). It is true that mankind was never to know what sin (evil) was. This is why God labeled the tree as the forbidden tree as noted in Genesis 2:9, *“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”* Because of Adam and Eve’s disobedience, God had the right to destroy them on the spot and Satan would have had total victory, but God made provision to gain the ultimate victory which also reveals His true character *“for God is Love”* (1 John 4:8). The provision is summarized in John 3:15-17, *“That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”* So, if Adam and Eve did not sin, the universe would not have seen demonstrated the extent of God’s love. Keep in mind, we are not praising Adam and Eve for sinning, just revealing that God is able to work good out of the evil (Romans 8:28).

The next battle we looked at was with Cain and Abel. Cain, who represented Satan’s side, killed Abel (Genesis 4:8), who represented Christ’s side. Satan appeared to have the victory by killing a righteous man, but he forgot the blessing pronounced on all that die while obeying God. *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed [are] the dead which die*

in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13). You see, Satan loses every time a godly person dies because when someone that is godly dies, Satan cannot touch that soul ever again. That soul is sealed for Christ. The victory is Christ's and not Satan's.

The third battle was in the days of Noah. It looked like the whole world would be on Satan's side if he could just get eight more souls – Noah, his three sons, and all four wives (Genesis 6:18). But God intervened. According to Luke 17:26-27, it says, *"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."* God preserved the eight faithful ones by sending a flood, but one may wonder about the rest of those souls because all of them are now sealed for the side of Satan. On an individual basis, it is true that God lost those souls and Satan won them, but on a global basis, Satan was defeated once again. God has one advantage that no one else can compare to. Isaiah 46:9-10 tells us, *"Remember the former things of old: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."* God alone knows the beginning from the end, which means He knows if time were to

play out, who would choose to be saved and who would choose to be lost. So, the intervention of God via the flood, though it seemed to be a drastic measure, was a merciful answer to what the rebellious were doing to themselves and what it would lead to. God was the victor in preventing Satan from having full control of all the inhabitants.

The fourth battle we covered in the last lesson dealt with Korah and a band of well-known ministers and church leaders that stood in rebellion to Moses (Numbers 16:1-3). If this rebellion were to continue, it would have eventually destroyed the Israelites. God could not permit this to happen. Just like the flood, God had to deal justly with these people. After God gave evidence of His choice for Moses to be the leader (Numbers 16:5-28) and His displeasure with Korah and gang, and after ample opportunity for repentance was provided, God had to carry out justice. Numbers 16:32-33 reveals it, *"And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that [appertained] unto Korah, and all [their] goods. They, and all that [appertained] to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation."*

Many see these acts as from an angry God, and since the cross, God seems to be more loving as if God is temperamental. Try telling this to Ananias and Sapphira who were struck dead and fell at Peter's feet for reneging on an offering (Acts 5:1-11). Besides, this would

contradict Malachi 3:6, which says, *"For I [am] the LORD, I change not."* God just cannot let sin run rampant. There are times that His hand has to move. In addition, as recorded even in the Old Testament, we see what God really thinks about these acts that He must perform. Ezekiel 18:23 says, *"Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: [and] not that he should return from his ways, and live?"* Although God's hand was moved to destroy the wicked, the spiritual errors of Korah were checked, and Satan lost once again in his quest to gain all on his side.

The fifth battle was that of the acts occurring in Moab. Right on the verge of entering into the Promised Land, Satan drew many of the Israelites away into worldly pleasures (Numbers 25:1-3). God's response once again was the same – give opportunity for repentance and then bring upon the rebellious immediate death. Numbers 25:5-9 says, *"And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who [were] weeping [before] the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw [it], he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel,*

and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand."

Many think that it is a loving act to allow people to continue in their sins so as not to create any friction. There is also a theory that people will automatically turn from their sins as they fellowship with godly people. What reality reveals is that the congregation becomes converted to the world instead. Now this does not mean that one must be perfect to enter a church or even to come to Christ "For if there be first a willing mind, [it is] accepted according to that a man hath, [and] not according to that he hath not" (2 Corinthians 8:12). If you are willing to allow Christ to cleanse you, He makes a promise. Philippians 1:6 says, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform [it] until the day of Jesus Christ."

In addition, God gives each of us ample time to allow this work to occur. Numbers 14:18 tells us that "The LORD [is] longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing [the guilty], visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation]." He does not kill someone on the spot for disobeying nor should long time church members be ready to condemn the moment a new believer acts or says something out of line especially in ignorance. God gives time to repent and after time has expired, He removes it. Again, victory, though not as sweet as can be, is God's because He

prevented the worldly pleasures presented by Satan from contaminating all of the Israelites.

The sixth battle that we looked at was concerning Daniel's diet. Daniel chose the way God commanded even though it could have offended the king (Daniel 1:5-10). To show that Daniel's belief in God's way was superior to man's way, a ten-day test was proposed (Daniel 1:12). What was the result? Daniel 1:15-20 tells us, "And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse [vegetables]. As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom [and] understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians [and] astrologers that [were] in all his realm." Victory once again was taken from Satan. If we put our faith in God, His way will win out in the end.

The unfortunate situation is that too many expect God's way to be quick, but that is not necessarily His way. This is why Jesus said what He did in

Matthew 10:22, "And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

Shortly there after, Satan tried again to snatch the victory, this time with three of Daniel's friends. Daniel was not present and Satan saw this as a perfect time to act seeing the backbone of the group was missing. Because the three Hebrew boys would not bow down to the golden image that was set up (Daniel 3:16-18), they would be cast into the furnace to be burned (Daniel 3:11). It was so hot that even the men that cast those boys into the furnace died from the intense heat. Daniel 3:22 says, "Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego."

What was the result of Satan's attempt to remove his opposition? Daniel 3:24-29 tells us, "Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, [and] spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, [and] spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come [hither]. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. And the princes, governors, and

captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. [Then] Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed [be] the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort." Satan's ploy backfired big time! The true God was revealed to all representatives of every nation in the realm that day (Daniel 3:2).

The next battle came as a decree. All were forbidden to pray to any other being other than King Darius for a period of thirty days with the threat of being fed to the lions (Daniel 6:7). Daniel, not compromising in serving God, was thrown into the pit of lions (Daniel 6:16). Again, apparent victory for Satan, but what was God's response? Daniel 6:20-22 tells us, "And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: [and] the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee

from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt." When death of a godly person would serve no purpose, God may preserve that person.

Being godly however does not guarantee one will not see death at the hands of the ungodly although God still has the victory. Acts 7:51-60 is one of those examples. "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers [did], so [do] ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept [it]. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with [their] teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast [him] out of the city, and stoned [him]: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon [God], and saying, Lord Jesus,

receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." This was the beginning of the persecution of Christians in Jerusalem and in all of Israel forcing the Christians to flee into the Gentile country. God used this incident to mark the beginning of the gospel going to the Gentiles.

The last battle we looked at in the previous lesson was the temptations Satan used against Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11). The temptations did continue all the way to the cross (Matthew 27:40) though. During those temptations, Satan wanted to taint the sacrifice of Christ. One wrong thought, one sinful act and the sacrifice would have been impure and unacceptable. As we already found out, Christ was the perfect offering (1 Peter 1:19). He did not give into a single temptation. Praise the Lord!

How Does One Fight Against Satan?

Over the centuries, Satan has done his best to resist the forward movement of God's plans. God however, overrules every apparent victory of Satan. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose." We never know when, where, and how we will be tempted of Satan, but this we do know, we have been given armor to stand up to whatever Satan dishes out. The question is, are we willing to wear it and

use it?

What is that armor? Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us, "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*"

Everything we need to combat Satan has been provided. It is a matter of using the provisions and use them wisely and correctly. There is no excuse to fall prey to Satan's temptations. Let us press on to victory.

What Can We Expect from Jesus in the Last Days?

Malachi 4:5 says, "*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great*

and dreadful day of the LORD." Just as Jesus confirmed that John the Baptist was preaching in the Spirit of Elijah in regards to the first appearance of Christ (Mark 9:12-13), in the last days, the same spirit will be evident prior to the second coming (James 5:7).

What will be preached in the Spirit of Elijah? Revelation 14:6-12 provides the exact message to be heard. "*And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and*

the faith of Jesus."

Are we sure these messages precede the second coming? This is answered by continuing with Revelation 14:14, "*And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud [one] sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.*" This is a symbolic representation of the second coming.

And, God being longsuffering (2 Peter 3:9), that is patient, He will permit this message to be preached as in the days of Noah. How long did he preach? Genesis 6:3 says, "*And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also [is] flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*" So, this warning will have ample time to reach every soul, but time is running out. When will time run out? That is what the lesson *On the Eve of Armageddon* is all about.

What Is the Future of Jesus?

Luke 1:31-33 tells us, "*And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*"

May God bless you, protect you, and reveal His love to you.