

Lesson One – The Line Is Drawn

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There is a battle going on right now between the people of God and the spiritual forces in the heavenly places. The battle is personal and the battle is unceasing because there are presently two forces at work in this world system, and they are at odds with each other. God intends to give His people what Satan currently has and Satan does not want to give it up. The battle is about a land, an inheritance, and the realization of the very purpose for which man was created, as well as the very purpose for man's redemption. The sad thing though, is that most Christians have no idea about this warfare—who is fighting whom and why—and most aren't even engaged in the battle.

The most important element in the battle is *why* we are fighting, and *what is at stake if we lose the battle*. My hope is that this study will not only help you learn more about God's plans and purposes, but that you will truly see why you need to open your eyes, and more importantly your heart, and be on the alert in this world. You have a purpose...and you were redeemed *for a purpose*. God wants you to truly realize your higher calling.

So let's begin our journey together. This week we'll start at the beginning and discover who our enemy really is.

Day One – Satan's Identity

Before we start, please take a moment and spend some time in prayer with the Lord. This week's lesson is full of information regarding our enemy and he does not want you to understand God's plans and purposes for YOU. The good news is that God *most definitely* wants you to know, so pray for protection, and pray for eyes to see and ears to hear just what it is that God wants to show you.

Let's begin by going back to the beginning, where we first see man's adversary in Scripture—

Genesis 3:1-5

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ And the serpent said to the woman, “You surely shall not die! ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

From this passage alone, is there any indication about the identity of the serpent?

Then how do we know who the serpent is? We need to see what other Scriptures say about it:

Revelation 12:9a

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;

Who is the serpent?

What do you learn about the serpent from this verse?

Read Genesis 3:1 again. Who made the serpent?

We can find out more about Satan’s origins from other Scriptures, but it takes a little bit of studying to gather the information. Let’s start with reading a passage out of the Book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 28:1-10

¹ The word of the Lord came again to me [the Prophet Ezekiel] saying, ² “Son of man, say to the leader [this can also be translated “prince”] of Tyre, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Because your heart is lifted up and you have said, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, in the heart of the seas’; yet you are a man and not God, although you make your heart like the heart of God—³ Behold, you are wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that is a match for you. ⁴ By your wisdom and understanding you have acquired riches for yourself, and have acquired gold and silver for your treasures. ⁵ By your great wisdom, by your trade you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches—⁶ Therefore, thus says the Lord God, ‘Because you have made your heart like the heart of God, ⁷ therefore, behold, I will bring strangers upon you, the most ruthless of the nations. And they will draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor. ⁸ They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die the death of those who are slain in the heart of the seas. ⁹ Will you still say, “I am a god,” in the presence of your slayer, although you are a man and not God, in the hands of those who wound you? ¹⁰ You will die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers, for I have spoken!’ declares the Lord God!”’”

Ezekiel 28:11-19

¹¹ Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, ¹² “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “You had the

seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created (01254) they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were the anointed (04473) cherub (03742) who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created (01254), until unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you O covering cherub (03742), from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you. ¹⁸ By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade, you profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you. ¹⁹ All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have become terrified, and you will be no more.”””

This is a continuous lamentation against the city of Tyre from the mouth of the Prophet Ezekiel. Ezekiel was a priest and prophet of the Lord who ministered to God’s people during the dark days of exile and Babylonian captivity (around 580 B.C.). His prophecy against this city is one of total destruction because of their stance against God’s people, “...because Tyre has said concerning Jerusalem, ‘Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has opened to me. I shall be filled, now that she is laid waste.’” (Ezek. 26:2). Notice the flow of this discourse; in particular, the distinction between vv. 2 and 12 regarding whom it is directed towards: v. 2 says “the leader, or prince, of Tyre,” and v. 12 says “the king of Tyre.”

List the descriptions Ezekiel gives to each:

leader [prince] of Tyre

king of Tyre

Using the Strong’s definitions from your Appendix, write down the definitions of each word below:

1. created (01254)-
2. anointed (04473)-
3. cherub (03742)-

Go back and read Ezekiel 28:1-10 again. Is there any indication from the text that the “leader of Tyre” is a man? What makes you think so? Use portions of the text to support your answer.

Now read Ezekiel 28:11-19 again, keeping in mind the definitions you just supplied to the previous words and the descriptions you wrote. Is there any indication from the text that the “king of Tyre” is a man? What makes you think so? Use portions of the text to support your answer.

This passage directed towards the “king of Tyre” is indeed harsh words spoken against the very king of evil himself, Satan, the one ultimately seen as pulling the puppet-strings of the “prince of Tyre.” There are several reasons we can know this. The “king of Tyre” is described as being “created,” and mankind, aside from Adam & Eve, was essentially *pro-created*. The “king of Tyre” is also called a “cherub,” and that word is only used to describe winged celestial beings—angels. We also read that God placed him in Eden, the garden of God, and we know that Eden does not exist in this present world.

(Note: The last part of the passage describes the destruction that God brings on the “king of Tyre”/Satan. Although this version reads in the past tense as if it has already happened, the King James Version actually writes it in future tense—“he will be cast to the ground...he will be turned into ashes....” Many times the prophets have visions of the future that they describe in the past tense as if they have already happened, but that is simply because they have seen them as already having occurred. This may be similar to watching a video tape and afterwards describing what you saw. Either version would therefore be correct.)

Verse 16 states that Satan did something that caused him to be cast out from the mountain of God. What was it?

Isaiah chapter 14 gives a bit of information regarding Satan’s sin. Read it below.

Isaiah 14:12-15

¹² “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning [Lit., O Lucifer], son of the dawn! You have been cut down to earth, you who have weakened the nations! ¹³ But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.”

Contextually, Isaiah is speaking regarding the end of the tribulation period when the Antichrist falls. Then Isaiah refers to the power behind that future “king of Babylon” and gives us a glimpse of his past. What was his sin?

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According to v. 13, did Satan (Lucifer) have a throne?

Let's read a passage from the New Testament to determine if Satan had lost his throne by the time of Jesus' earthly ministry.

Matthew 12:26

[Jesus speaking] **“And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided among himself; how then shall his kingdom stand?”**

According to Jesus, did Satan have a kingdom?

Here's more from an interchange between Jesus and Satan—

Luke 4:5-8

⁵ And he [Satan] led Him [Jesus] up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’”

What does Satan show Jesus?

Who does Satan say *the kingdoms of the world* belong to, and how did he get them?

Does Jesus dispute this?

Before we look at some specific verses that describe Satan and his angels, write down the definitions of each word below, using the Strong's definitions from your Appendix.

1. world (2889) –
2. age (165) –
3. eternal (166) –
4. earth (1093) –

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The distinctions between these words are very important to understand. There is an article in your Appendix called “Eternal—is it Eternal or is it Age-Lasting” that explains in a bit more detail the distinct differences between these words. Please read it now.

Keeping in mind all that you have read, read what Jesus has to say about Satan to His disciples:

John 14:28-30

²⁸ “You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it comes to pass, that when it comes to pass, you may believe. ³⁰ I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world (2889) is coming, and he has nothing in Me;”

John 16:10-12

¹⁰ “...and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world (2889) has been judged. ¹² I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”

According to these passages, what does Jesus call Satan?

Now, let’s see what the epistles (which were written *after* Jesus was resurrected) say about Satan’s current position—

II Corinthians 4:3-4

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world (165) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

According to Paul in his letter to the church in Corinth around 56 A.D., who has “blinded the minds of the unbelieving”?

Who is he referencing when he uses the title, “the god of this world”?

And another epistle:

Ephesians 2:1-2

¹ And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

According to v. 2, when we were dead in trespasses and sins, what two things did we formerly walk according to?

According to these few passages, did anything regarding Satan’s position appear to change from the time Jesus was on the earth to the post-resurrection letters to the early church?

Is there any indication that his status has changed *in this present day*?

There is one more place we'll look regarding Satan and his "authority." In the Book of Revelation, John records a vision of the future given to him by the Lord Jesus Christ. The vision is almost entirely about the future time of tribulation on the earth, when Christ comes back, redeems His inheritance, and establishes His 1,000-year kingdom. We'll look at just one verse:

Revelation 11:15

"The kingdom of the world (Lit., the kingdoms of *this* world (2889)) has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

This event *has not happened yet...*

Therefore, what are the implications of this verse?

We'll end there for today. Think on these things and we'll pick up again tomorrow.

Day Two – Angelic Beings

Yesterday we glimpsed just a bit about the identity, origin, and present position of our adversary, the devil. He is called the "god of this world/age" by the Apostle Paul and the "ruler of this world" by Jesus Himself. Satan has a throne, from which he rules over the kingdoms of this world in this present day. In a time yet future, the kingdom of the Lord will replace the kingdoms of this world.

We know that Satan is not the only angelic being at work in God's universe, and today we will discover a bit more about these other angelic beings. Again, before you begin please ask the Lord to oversee your study time and to teach you His Truth. Remember, there is a battle going on around you!

Let's look at a passage from Revelation that tells of future events surrounding Christ's return. This particular event happens around the mid-part of the Tribulation:

Revelation 12:7-9

⁷And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

There are two sides warring with each other in this passage. Where is the war and who comprises the sides?

We can see from this passage that there are *bad* angels—Satan's angels—and there are *good* angels—those angels that war with Michael *against* Satan and his angels.

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Let's learn more about these angels by studying a portion of Scripture from the Book of Daniel. Daniel was much like Ezekiel; he was a prophet of the Lord and ministered to God's people during the 70-year period of Babylonian captivity (605 B.C. – 536 B.C.). Most of his prophesies center around prophetic visions and dreams, either his or those around him.

We'll study this particular passage from Daniel in pieces, and then bring it together at the end.

Daniel 10:1-21

¹In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. ²In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. ³I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all, until the entire three weeks were completed.

How long did Daniel mourn?

Continuing...

⁴And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, ⁵I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. ⁶His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.

Describe the “man” that Daniel encounters.

Continuing...

⁷Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. ⁸So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deadly pallor, and I retained no strength. ⁹But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. ¹⁰Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹And he said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

What does Daniel see (v. 7) and who else sees it?

What was Daniel's reaction to seeing this?

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Continuing...

¹² Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.

Why did this person come?

From where did he come? (This is not directly stated, but inferred.)

Continuing...

¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future.”

Going back to v. 2, how long did Daniel mourn? How long was this person delayed from coming to Daniel?

Who was withstanding him and whom had he been “left there with”?

Who came to help him?

What is Michael called?

Let’s stop here for a moment and I’d like you to use the Appendix and look up the definitions of the following words:

1. prince (08269)-

2. king (04428)-

These words indicate *positions of authority only*. Therefore, can we tell from just looking at the definition, whether these words are describing human beings, or angelic beings?

Continuing...

¹⁵ And when he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. ¹⁶ And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, and said to him who was standing before me, “O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength. ¹⁷ For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me.” ¹⁸ Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. ¹⁹ And he said, “O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!” Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

²⁰ Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. ²¹ However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.”

Verse 20 states that the man/messenger will “return to fight against the prince of Persia.” To where will he return?

What are the forces referred to in v.21?

Who is the only one standing firmly with this “man” against these forces?

The messenger, with help from Michael the Archangel and Guardian of Israel (*cf.* Dan. 12:1; Jude 1:9), was fighting with the prince of Persia and the kings of Persia in the *heavenly realm*. Meanwhile Cyrus, the earthly king of Persia, was ruling a rather large and powerful kingdom of Persia (which was actually a dual kingdom, the Medo-Persian kingdom, but Persia was the stronger of the two at this point). In v. 20 the messenger states that “the prince of Greece is about to come,” and historically we know that Greece became the next world power, under the leadership of Alexander the Great, after conquering the Persians and the Medes.

It can be seen that there are angels waging war with other angels in the heavenly realm. Their titles, “prince of Persia,” “prince of Greece,” and “kings of Persia” historically coincide with the earthly kingdoms in power. Satan is the leader of them all; his angels must fall under his authority. However, Satan’s rule does not, and cannot, take place outside the sovereign control of the Almighty God, (e.g. in the Book of Job we see Satan coming before God’s throne and getting specific orders on what he *can* and *cannot* do).

So what is God doing? Let’s continue to study—

Daniel 4:24-26

‘...²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king [Nebuchadnezzar]: ²⁵ that you be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whomever He wishes. ²⁶ And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with

the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that it is Heaven that rules [Lit., the heavens do rule]...'

What does the second half of v. 25 say about the Most High?

The Aramaic word used in v. 26 for “Heaven” is *shemayin*. The term, “the heavens” is a more accurate translation of the word in this passage because it is written in its plural form. This same rendering of *shemayin* is seen in Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Its meaning can be *either* 1) the physical (atmosphere and universe) heavens, or 2) the location where God lives.

From what you’ve learned so far, what does it mean, “the heavens do rule”?

Combining this with what you have learned from Daniel and Ezekiel, what does it mean that God “bestows *it* on whomever He wishes”? (First, define what “it” is by looking at the context of v. 25.)

This governmental system of authority that is pictured in Scripture is a hierarchy of rulers, emanating down from the Most High to the heavenly rulers to the earthly kings and leaders. Since God is the Perfect Creator, we must understand that this system is perfect in its origin.

Now then, do you think that God has changed His mind about this system? Do you think this system of authority that we see in Daniel (written 2500 years ago) still holds true today? Why or why not?

Think and pray on these things and we’ll continue tomorrow.

Day Three – Satan’s Targets, Part I

We’re beginning to build a picture of who Satan is, what he and his angels do, and their role in God’s system of rulership in the heavens surrounding the earth. Most Christians know that Satan is indeed our enemy and most would say that his purpose is to keep us from living a godly life of fellowship and righteousness with God, and with one another. However, most Christians probably don’t really know *why* he seems so intent on battling with us and what is at stake for us if we *do not succeed* in this battle. Today and tomorrow we’ll explore a bit more specifically about who Satan is targeting, and on Day Five we’ll see *why* he does so.

We’ll go back to the beginning again, to that first incident between the man (actually *the woman*) and the serpent:

Genesis 3:1-5

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ And the serpent said to the woman, “You surely shall not die! ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Have you ever wondered why Satan was in the garden? Why did he want the woman to disobey God? Let’s look at man’s creation, specifically *why* man was created.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

According to v. 26, why was man created?

Then after his creation, God places man in a specific place—

Genesis 2:15

Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

Where does God put man? And why does He put him there?

Read Ezekiel 28:13-14 again, remembering that this is talking about Satan:

Ezekiel 28:13-14

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there.

Where was Satan placed when he was created?

Remember that Satan has a throne and a kingdom and rules over that kingdom.

Let’s also remember that Satan sinned and was judged (with that judgment yet to play out fully); and, at the very beginning of Scripture, we see a new creation, man, on the scene with very similar descriptions—in the garden of Eden with the position of having dominion over the earth. Satan himself was disqualified by his act of rebellion (disobedience) so it is no coincidence that we would see him at man’s side, tempting man to disobey God. Satan knew all too well from experience that disobedience leads to disqualification of rulership.

The commands given to man were simple and God laid it out at the beginning:

Genesis 2:16-17

¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”

We then read that the man and the woman *did* eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Because of the deceptive influence of the serpent, they disobeyed God, and then received the consequences for their act of rebellion (Gen. 3:6; 3:13-24). All three parts of man, spirit *and* soul *and* body (I Thess. 5:23), “died” (which can be better understood as being separated from God) and mankind was banished from the garden. Both man and woman were disqualified from ruling.

But God had a plan which had been formulated from before the foundation of the world. He stated this plan after man’s disobedience:

Genesis 3:14-15

¹⁴ And the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life; ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise (Lit., crush) you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Who will bruise whom, and where? (Insert proper nouns into the pronouns “you,” “he,” and “him” to help you determine this.)

Now fast-forward 4,000 years to see more of God’s revelation concerning this—

Romans 16:20

And the God of peace will soon crush [Lit., bruise] Satan under your feet.

Paul wrote his letter to the Church in Rome in 57 A.D., approximately twenty-four years after Christ was resurrected. From this verse, had Satan been “bruised” yet?

Satan’s end is foretold right at the beginning, isn’t it? But as we’ve learned, Satan remains in the position of power. He remains in this position because the one (mankind) that was created to replace him was disqualified. However, Satan won’t hold this position forever because God has stated that the “seed of the woman” will bruise Satan’s head (deliver a death blow) and ultimately be victorious. Not only would this Seed be the victor over Satan, but this Seed would also bring mankind back into position for which he was created—*rulership*.

Paul tells us how this will happen—

I Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

According to this verse, what parts of our being need sanctification (Lit., to be made holy)?

This redemption and sanctification would wholly save man and bring him back to the position for which he was created. Since sin brought about man's disqualification, the cleansing of sin would make him "blameless" (Lit., without fault) and again qualify him for the position of rulership over the earth.

From the very beginning, Satan's sights are set on the One who will be victorious over him. He specifically targets the woman whom this Redeemer would be "the seed" of. Look at how this is revealed through Scripture:

In the tenth generation from Adam, Noah was born—

Genesis 5:32

And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 9:25-27

²⁵ So he (Noah) said, "Cursed by Canaan [son of Ham]; a servant of servants he shall be to his brothers." ²⁶ He also said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. ²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant."

In v. 26, who is the Lord described as being the God of?

What two things are said of Japheth?

What is to become of Canaan, Ham's son?

Make sure you get this. God is the God of Shem *only*. Let's continue—

Genesis chapter 11 gives us a genealogy of the lineage of Shem. In the tenth generation from Noah, a man named Abram was born.

Genesis 17:1-2,4-8

¹ Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless. ² And I will establish My covenant between Me and You, and I will multiply you exceedingly." ⁴ "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. ⁷ And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Genesis 22:17

"...indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies."

Note that it is only through Abraham and his descendants (*through Shem*) the God would establish His covenant.

List, in brief, the promises in the covenant God made with Abraham.

There are two realms mentioned in Genesis 22:17. What are they?

Abraham's seed will "possess the gate of their enemies." Historically speaking, the gate of a city was the location where all governmental activity took place. Therefore, to possess the gate of one's enemy meant to possess the governmental control over them and their city. Because there are two realms mentioned, heavenly and earthly, we can see this to be a promise that Abraham's descendants will rule over their enemies in the heavenly realm, and over their enemies in the earthly realm.

Going back to Abraham's genealogy—

Genesis 17:21

"[God speaking to Abraham] **But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.**"

Whom will Abraham's covenantal promises come through?

Isaac then has two sons, Esau and Jacob, but only Jacob got Isaac's blessing—

Genesis 27:28-29

²⁸ "Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and an abundance of grain and new wine; ²⁹ may peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you; be master of your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who curse you, and blessed be those who bless you."

Then Jacob had twelve sons and his name was changed to Israel. The twelve sons had many children and increased greatly in number. They ended up in Egypt, enslaved, until God sent Moses to deliver them out of slavery. When the people of Israel were removed from Egypt, they passed through the Red Sea and then headed towards the land that was promised to them through Abraham. God then spoke to Moses with a further revelation of these promises.

Exodus 19:3-6

³ And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: ⁴ 'You yourselves have

seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

According to v. 5, to whom will the sons of Israel belong?

What is it conditioned upon?

Israel goes through a tumultuous three hundred-year period where, even though they end up in the Promised Land, their life there is far from perfect due to their continued disobedience. However, God's plan is steadfast and true and Nathan, a prophet of God, reveals to King David (a descendant of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob) that his heir will be this promised Redeemer. Let's read what God said to King David, through Nathan, the prophet:

II Samuel 7:12-14a

¹² **"When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me..."**

II Samuel 7:19a (David speaking)

"And yet this was insignificant in Thine eyes, O Lord God, for Thou hast spoken also of the house of Thy servant concerning the distant future."

Rewrite vv. 12-14 in your own words.

Who will be a father to whom?

What will God do for His Son?

According to v. 19, when will this Descendant come?

Whom is God talking about?

Let's end right here for today, and we'll pick right back up tomorrow. We are laying a lot of foundation now as we seek to learn more about Satan and the warfare that is all around us, so continue to study hard and ask God to help you not only *understand* His truths, but to *remember* them as well.

See you tomorrow.

Day Four — Satan's Targets, part II

Pray first!

We are building a genealogical picture of the “seed of the woman” from Genesis 3:15 in order to understand why Satan perceives us, the Christian, as his enemy, and why he targets us as he does. Let's continue from where we left off yesterday, with a bit more information concerning the promised Son of David, whose throne would be established forever, whom David knew would come in the *distant* future. This Son, whom God promised He would be a Father to, is Jesus the Christ.

Isaiah prophesies concerning this Son. His words were to a (still) disobedient and divided nation of Israel a few hundred years after the promise was given to David—

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.

Describe the promises surrounding this Son that is to be given to Israel.

There *will be no end* to the increase of this Son's government, or of peace, on the throne of David and over the kingdom He establishes. This kingdom will be one of justice and righteousness *forever*.

Now think about something. Satan is following all of this, and is quite aware of what is happening—*he is the ruler of this world*. He sees God's plan unfold and you can bet that he is paying close attention to this nation of Israel and this promised Son that is to come. Remember, Satan has already heard from God about his demise, and he would most certainly stop at nothing in trying to prevent it from happening. He wreaks havoc throughout the nation of Israel and is successful in distracting the nation and keeping them from being faithfully obedient.

Now we come to the New Testament, and the birth of this Son, Jesus. Note what Scripture calls Him—

Matthew 1:1

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Luke 23:3

And Pilate asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And He answered him and said, “It is as you say.”

Matthew 2:1-2

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ² “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him.”

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What are the different titles used to describe Jesus in these passages?

From what you have learned so far, what do these titles mean?

What do you think Satan was thinking about this Man?

We know the story of what happens to Jesus, the King of Jews. His message of repentance, with respect to deliverance into the heavenly kingdom, given to His brethren is rejected. The rejection reaches its peak with the persecution and crucifixion of their King, God's Son, Jesus the Christ. However, that was exactly what God purposed to happen in order to bring the Gentiles into the fold of Abraham's promises.

Galatians 3:26, 29

²⁶ For you are all sons (Lit., children) of God through faith in Christ Jesus... ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

How did we become a child of God?

And if we belong to Christ, what are we?

It all centers around Abraham, and the covenant that God made with him concerning His promises.

Romans 4:13

For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.

What are Abraham and his descendants to be heir of?

And since we are now considered Abraham's descendants, what are we heirs of?

The word "heir" is the Greek word *kleronomos*, which literally means "to have what is allotted." The connotation is as the word is used today, which means "a person who is first in the line of succession to an estate, crown, etc."

Therefore, we Christians are heirs of the world through Christ the Redeemer and with Christ the Redeemer, the One who will dethrone the current ruler, Satan.

Now, let's look at Christ's inheritance--

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Psalm 2:8 (A Psalm of David)

“Ask of Me [God speaking to His Son], and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Thy possession.”

According to this verse, what is God’s Son’s inheritance?

What will be His possession?

One more verse to tie it together—

Romans 8:16-17

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...

We are to inherit the same things as Christ, aren’t we? Do you see how this fits together?

But, since we are *heirs* and not *owners of*, we are not in possession of the inheritance yet. Read on—

Colossians 3:23-24

²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

I Peter 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

I Corinthians 15:50

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Notice that Paul, in his letter to the Church in Colossae, refers to the inheritance as a “reward.” Where does Peter say the inheritance is (I Pet. 1:4)?

According to I Corinthians 15:50, what is the inheritance?

Here’s a little more information regarding the inheritance, from Jesus Himself—

Matthew 5:5

“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth (1093).”

Again, what is the inheritance?

Jesus tells us when this reward will come—

Revelation 22:12

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”

Now let's put all of this together. Jesus is the Promised Redeemer, sent to restore man back to his created position as ruler over the earth. He is also *King* and when He returns with His kingdom, He and His co-heirs will replace the current ruler, Satan. That is what Jesus was offering to the nation of Israel when He came to the earth the first time, “Repent, for the kingdom of [the] heaven[s] is at hand.” If they had repented, then Jesus would have taken His rightful place in Satan's stead, with man by His side—this is the kingdom of heaven. And with the institution of the kingdom of the heavens, the earthly kingdom would have been established as well. We know this because Daniel 4:29 tells us “the heavens do rule.”

Satan wages war with us because we are now the current recipients of the offer of the kingdom of the heavens. We are now in line to be co-heirs with Christ in that Coming Day.

And Satan does not want to lose what he has.

That's it for today. Stay in prayer and we'll pick back up tomorrow.

Day Five – Why Us?

We've covered a lot of information so far; today we'll continue to lay down more foundation about this present system of rulership because it is directly related to our purpose and our goal. As we've learned yesterday, Satan does not want to give up his position of authority in the kingdom of the heavens, and he *knows* Christ and His co-heirs are set to take it from him one day. He will do whatever it takes to stop that from happening. At this time you may be asking yourself, “Why does Satan bother if he knows that we are to take it from him one day? What's the point?” The point is simple and it is a premise set forth at the very beginning. In fact, we've already studied it:

Disobedience leads to disqualification of rulership!

If we are disobedient then we will be disqualified from ruling with Christ. If Satan can achieve this with each one of us, then he wins. *He doesn't win the war*, he simply wins the battle over our souls. And he thinks that if he can disqualify enough of us, then there won't be enough “heirs” left to take over the position that he and his rebel angels currently hold.

One thing needs to be made very clear at this point: *this is not about spending eternity with God!* This is not talking about losing one's salvation. This is about our reward *of* the inheritance *of* the kingdom of God *in* the heavens.

The whole focus of this warfare is NOT eternal; the focus is on the seventh day—the future kingdom age when Christ will rule. Let's go over some key points necessary to put this warfare into perspective.

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 and become familiar with the timeline labeled “7 Days” in your Appendix.

There was an original creation of the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1), followed by a ruin of that creation (*cf.* Gen.1:2a; Is.45:18). This was due to Satan's sin and the desecration of his sanctuaries (Ezek. 28:18). God then restores His ruined creation, taking six days to do it; He rests on the seventh day (Gen. 1:2b-2:3).

The six days of restoration, followed by a seventh day rest sets an unchangeable pattern of restoration. Therefore, when man comes into a ruined state, God sets in motion the same process of restoration.

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However, we know this is not seven 24-hour days, but seven 1,000-year days, as proclaimed by Peter in his second epistle—

II Peter 3:8

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

This verse is not a poetic concept that simply expresses how timeless God is! This verse from Peter is written within the context of dealing with the timing of the promise of Jesus' second coming (vv. 3:4, 9).

Let's briefly see how this idea unfolds throughout Scripture—

Genesis 2:3

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

The word “sanctified” is the Hebrew word *qadhash* which means to be made clean and consecrated to God. This verb captures the idea of being pure and devoted to God.

Then God spoke to Israel with a commandment to keep holy the seventh day, the Sabbath—

Exodus 20:8-11

⁸ **Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.**

According to vv. 8 and 10, what was Israel supposed to do?

Then God told them why—

Exodus 31:13

But as for you [Moses], speak to the sons of Israel, saying, “You shall surely observe My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.

What is the Sabbath?

Why do they have to observe it?

How long will it remain a “sign”?

God then goes on to say, through Moses, as he leads the Israelites to the land promised to Abraham—

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Exodus 31:14

“Therefore you are to observe the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death...”

What would happen to the person who profaned the Sabbath?

Now for a silly question, but an important one. If a person was killed for profaning the Sabbath, would they have any part in the establishment of the Theocratic Kingdom in the land that Moses was leading them to?

Let’s follow the definitions of “the Sabbath,” “the seventh day,” throughout Scripture—

Isaiah 58:13

If because of the Sabbath, you turn your foot from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable...”

What does Isaiah call “the Sabbath”?

Read on—

II Thessalonians 2:1-2

¹ Now we [Paul and Silvanus and Timothy] request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, ² that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed wither by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come...

According to this passage, is the Day of the Lord past, present, or future? How do you know?

List those two things that will occur when the Day of the Lord comes.

Remember that Jesus comes back and establishes His kingdom at a future time. Notice how His coming back is connected with the coming of “the day of the Lord” and the Sabbath is called “the day of the Lord.”

The Sabbath is also called the “rest”—

Exodus 16:23a

(KJV) And he said unto them, “This is that which the Lord hath said, ‘Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord...”

Hebrews 4:9

There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

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According to Hebrews 4:9, is there still yet a *future* rest?

In the Old Testament, God (through Moses) led the first generation of Israel to a land that was promised to them through Abraham. His intention was to establish a Theocratic Kingdom in the land, but it depended on the people's obedience (Ex.19:5-6). The first generation did not receive the land as an inheritance, but the second generation was allowed to go in. However, the nation as a whole never maintained faithfulness/obedience for any length of time and the kingdom never manifested in the full way that God intended. However, God always had plenty to say concerning their behavior and gave them many opportunities to repent and receive what was promised to them.

Look at the connection God draws with the land and their “rest” in the land—

Deuteronomy 12:8-10

⁸ You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes; ⁹ for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you. ¹⁰ When you cross the Jordan and live in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies around you so that you live in security...

What is another term used here for the “resting place,” the “land” (v. 9)?

Remember what you've learned about *our* inheritance from Day Three? Write it down.

Now one last thing before we put all of this together—

How long will Jesus' kingdom last? Read it below.

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

How long will Jesus and His fellow heirs (also known as “priests of God” [I Pet.2:9]) reign?

Let's tie this together.

The future Sabbath rest is the inheritance, which is the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also called the Day of the Lord. The kingdom will last 1,000 years and so this “day” will last 1,000 years. Now look at the “7 Days” timeline in your Appendix again. Do you see it?

Here's a very important question. Does this *at all* pertain to the eternal ages beyond the seventh day?

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All of Scripture moves towards and puts emphasis on the coming age. Eternity beyond that is not really an issue because life for the eternal ages is settled when we receive the free gift of salvation. We can *never* lose that! All Christians are currently battling for a position in the *coming age*, the Coming Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, *not eternity*.

And the crux of the matter is: *Disobedience leads to disqualification of rulership!*

We cannot lose the free gift of life in eternity, but we CAN lose our individual participation in the Seventh Day Rest. This is what the spiritual warfare is all about.

Disobedience is not looked upon lightly in Scripture—

Romans 8:7

...because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so;

What is considered “hostile toward God”?

More on disobedience from Paul—

Ephesians 5:1-6

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. ³ But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; ⁴ and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

What are the things that we are told NOT to do?

Why?

What are those saints called who practice these immoral things (v. 6)?

(Notice the word “saints” in v. 3. Paul is talking to *saved* people. The whole of Scripture is written to the saved—those who are spiritually alive and have the ability to comprehend spiritual matters. That is *not* to say that an unredeemed person cannot find the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ within the written Word, he most certainly can. God’s Word is salvation. However, the original intent in penning and distributing the books and letters contained within the whole of the Bible was for the people of God. Understanding and remembering this is the key to opening up much about the meaning of Scripture.)

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More from Paul on the same subject—

Galatians 5:13,16-21

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another... ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. ¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

According to v. 13, to whom is Paul speaking?

Would this be saved or non-saved people?

What are the deeds of the flesh?

What does v.21 say about the person who practices such things?

According to this passage, do Christians have a choice as to whether they walk according to the flesh or the Spirit?

I'd like you to stop just a moment and really think about what God is saying...

There are serious consequences for disobedience.

And Satan would LOVE to have you continue in disobedience, wouldn't he?

We'll stop here for the week. Please take what you've learned to God and ask Him to solidify His truth within you. Study and accept His truth as He has revealed it in His Word. Don't let Satan overwhelm you with guilt or confusion or condemnation. We're all sinners and we're all disobedient at times. However, we have Jesus, our High Priest, who is faithful and just to forgive us our sins as we confess them. We have so much freedom in that! Listen to God with an attentive ear and let Him teach you about His deeper things.

Let's end with words from the Lord that He spoke to His children, the nation of Israel, 3,000 years ago—

II Chronicles 20:15-17

¹⁵ Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, "Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up

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by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you.”

Now ask yourself, are you ready to go to the battlefield and stand?

See you next week!