

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Newsletter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 KJV)

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Spiritual War Series

The Origin of Heathendom Part 2

Art Nelson

Previously

In Part 1 of “The Origin of Heathendom” we looked at the events that occurred prior to Noah's flood and Satan's attempt to corrupt mankind both spiritually and physically in order to prevent the promised coming of the “seed of the woman”, who would crush the serpent's head.

This issue will begin to look at the work of the kingdom of darkness after the flood.

The Shortcomings of the Devil

Before we proceed with this lesson and this series on the Kingdom of Darkness, let's clarify some things about the Devil and dump some of the false ideas that we have taken in through our traditions, cultural heritage, literature, false doctrines and false teachings.

As to Satan's power:

1. He is not all powerful, all knowledgeable, etc. In other words, he is not God. He is a created being and, as such, is subject to the limitations of all created beings.
2. He is not in an eternal battle with God, struggling back and forth over the control of the universe. He rose in rebellion against God to replace Him (the epitome of pride and audacious arrogance); however, he was never a threat to God. There was never a great battle (nor ever will be) whose outcome was in question. Jesus said that he “was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning” (Luke 10:18). This was a quick end to Lucifer's uprising in heaven. No big battle, just a “snap” of the fingers of God and Satan was out of heaven as fast as lightning. Jesus triumphed over Satan with His death and resurrection. Colossians 2:15 tells us, “When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”
3. Satan does not know the fullness of what God has in mind for the future. He only knows

what has been revealed by God through Angels or through His prophetic word. The Devil does not participate in the eternal councils of God. He is an outsider to the mysteries of God (1 Peter 1:12).

4. Satan has no creative power. I would even say that he has little imagination. He copies what God is doing, perverting it to his own ends. That is why he deals in counterfeits.
5. Satan's major attribute is that he is able to deceive. He has a persuasive tongue. His primary ability to do things in the earth is through his influence on the hearts of men through his deceptions. Just as the Lord works through people by His Holy Spirit, the Devil works through people who have given themselves to him, even when they think that they are only serving their own interests.
6. The end result of God's work as it relates to our enemy is that the Devil is thrown into the lake of fire to be tormented forever (Rev. 20:10). This is not in doubt. All know this, even the Devil because God has spoken it in His Word.

We have given too much power to the enemy. In some ways, he has tricked us into believing that his defeat is questionable. This type of thinking is one of the strongholds or fortresses that the Scriptures mention that need to be torn down in our minds (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

It is important that we understand the limitations of the Devil because they effect the nature and structure of the Kingdom of Darkness. We will begin to explore this in forthcoming issues of "Present Truth Teaching Newsletter".

The Re-emergence of the Kingdom of Darkness

The population of the earth was severely reduced by the flood. After the flood, the population count was eight: Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives.

[\(Genesis 9:18 NASB\)](#)

Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan.

Just as the Devil worked through Cain to begin to establish heathendom, he now begins to work through Ham. We don't know how much exposure the sons of Noah had to the wickedness that was around them before the flood, but, I am sure, there was at least some. Apparently, some of it found lodging in Ham's heart.

Noah planted a vineyard and eventually produced wine and enjoyed it too much and become drunk.

[\(Genesis 9:21 NASB\)](#)

He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.

This means that Noah probably passed out and in the process was left with his privates exposed. Ham dishonored his father by jesting about this with his two brothers who reacted quite differently than Ham did.

[Genesis 9:22-23 NASB](#)

(22) Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers

outside.

(23) But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness.

The result of Ham's actions produced a curse on his son, Canaan, and his descendants. Now, it is hard for us to wrap our mind about this because the curse seems drastically disproportionate to the fact that Ham saw his father's privates. It doesn't seem fair, does it? Well, it seems that it is possible that there is more to the story.

Genesis 9:24 NASB

(24) When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him.

This suggests that more occurred than simply seeing Noah's privates. Upon waking up, Noah knew what Ham had done to him. How did he know? The other two sons had covered him so that when he awoke everything would seem to be normal. If Ham had only viewed Noah's nakedness, Noah would have no way of knowing. However, the verse says that Noah knew what *his son had done to him*. Obviously, more than looking had occurred. I would suggest that Ham performed some unnatural sex act with Noah while Noah was passed out and then told his brothers about it.

This is a supposition; we don't know this to be a fact. All we know is that something was done to Noah. To me there is a big difference between something being done to you while you are passed out and someone seeing you naked while you are passed out. The potency of the patriarchal curse that resulted from this incident lends credibility to the idea that it was a lot more serious than seeing Noah naked.

One of the sons of Ham was the father of Nimrod who founded Babel

Genesis 10:8-10 NASB

(8) Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.

(9) He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD."

(10) The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

When it says that Nimrod was a mighty hunter, in the original the implication is that he was a hunter of men.

In Roman 1:18-32 we have a description of the moral condition of the people. They knew that God existed, they knew about His actions (especially as it related to the flood) and yet they refused to acknowledge Him and instead exalted themselves as God.

As we have seen from our previous issues of "Present Truth", the fallen angels were consorting with women and setting themselves up as gods. The flood wiped out all that had been done by them, including their offspring. Now, after the flood, the enemy began to assert himself again through the lineage of Ham. Satan needed to recreate the moral depravity that was prior to the flood and prevent it from being destroyed again. The enemy's goals had not changed. He wanted to prevent the coming of the promised seed and he wanted to consolidate and preserve his kingdom of wickedness. Nimrod was his choice to do this.

Just as God's intention is to sum all things up in one, Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:10), the enemy desires to bring all things under his man, the Antichrist. Nimrod was Satan's first attempt to bring the Antichrist into position. He has made many more attempts through the centuries for it is just as John has said, "...even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour." (1 John 2:18) Satan doesn't know the times and seasons that are in the timeline of God. He can only attempt his plans when it seems right to him. God ultimately allows or disallows the enemy's plans according to His purposes and His timeline.

It appears that the fallen angels had revealed forbidden knowledge to men prior to the flood. The type of knowledge that would allow man to live and act like a god. This was in keeping with the promise of the serpent to Eve, "you will be like god, knowing good and evil." Since the flood destroyed everything, Satan had to re-establish this with Nimrod and his kingdom and provide a method of preservation for the future.

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:4 NASB

(4) They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

After I came to know the Lord and began reading the Bible, this verse about the tower of Babel always bothered me. It just didn't make sense, especially when you consider God's reaction to what the people were doing.

Genesis 11:5-6 NASB

(5) The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

(6) The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

God responded as if they could actually build a tower that would reach into heaven and by doing what they were doing, they would be able to do anything else that they decided to do. Doesn't seem reasonable, does it?

We know that it is physically impossible to build a tower that will reach into heaven. First, the base would have to be too big; second, the materials aren't strong enough; third, you run out of oxygen before you get high enough. So, why did this upset God? Let's examine this in the light of what we have been discussing.

First, let's look at the intent of the people. These are their intentions as stated above in Genesis 11 verse 4:

1. build for ourselves a city;
2. build a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven; and
3. make a name for ourselves.

There was something about these three intentions of the people that caused violent reaction in Heaven.

The City: this is the beginning of Babylon. The Scriptures give us a “Tale of Two Cities”. In the physical it is Jerusalem and Babylon; in the spiritual it is New Jerusalem and Mystery Babylon. You can follow this “tale” from Genesis to Revelation for Babylon is the “capital” of the kingdom of darkness and Jerusalem is the “capital” of the Kingdom of God (physical Jerusalem during the Millennium Kingdom and spiritual Jerusalem for the current mystical form of the the Kingdom of God).

The Tower: notice that in the verse the words “will reach” are in italics. This means that these were added by the translators and there is no corresponding word in the original. Of course, when translators add words to help make sentences or meanings clearer, they add according to their own understanding of the meaning, which may not always be a correct interpretation. The original Hebrew could be rendered as “a top *like* the heavens”. In other words, with a “top inscribed with the heavens”. If this is correct, then it makes sense that the tower had a top with the Zodiac or astrological signs inscribed upon it. This is part of the forbidden knowledge that they desired to be preserved for the future and this is what upset God. If they preserved forbidden knowledge for future generations, this understanding would allow them to do anything they desired apart from God. It would establish man independent of God and allow him to function as “a little god” just as the Devil had promised Eve.

The Name: this is a reputation, a memorial, an honored position. This name would be apart from God and would exalt man and his achievements.

These are the things that upset God and caused Him to bring judgment on the situation.

The next issue of “Present Truth” will continue with these thoughts concerning why the people were building a city and tower and the type of knowledge that they were attempting to preserve and will look at why God judged it and the results of the judgment.----Art Nelson

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:

artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com

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