

# 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 Satan's Strategies

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### Previously

In our previous six months of the Spiritual War Series we have looked at the establishment of the kingdom of darkness and the origin of heathendom. In last month's issue we looked at the Tower of Babel and the enemy's attempt to preserve forbidden knowledge relating to the zodiac and astrology, which are foundational to the Babylonian mystery religions. This impacts us because of what Revelation says about Mystery Babylon. This issue will look at the reasons behind the establishment of heathendom and its part in the kingdom of darkness.

### The Enemy's Strategy Develops

God had promised in Genesis that the “seed of the woman” would crush Satan's head. As we have said, Satan isn't omnipotent and only knows the plans of God as they are promised and revealed. With God's word in Genesis, the enemy knew that a Messiah was to come from the woman. His first strategy was to attempt to prevent the coming of the Messiah.

Since God's word only said the “seed of the woman”, Satan had no further specifics, so his strategy was rather straightforward—corrupt all mankind, either physically or morally, to the point that it would be impossible for the “seed of the woman” to be brought forth. He came within eight souls of accomplishing this goal. However, God saved Noah and his family and the enemy had to begin again.

After the flood, Satan found his champion in Nimrod. Babylon was established by him and was dedicated to false gods (fallen angels and demons). Through its “mystery” religion, the enemy tries to corrupt mankind by fulfilling his promise to Eve—that we would be as gods. It is here that the first full blown religion is established that is fully opposed to God and man is touted as a “little god” who can, through the Babylonian mysteries and forbidden knowledge, come to make his own decisions of good and evil and manipulate his own destiny. Knowledge becomes the

way of salvation and not repentance.

However, the Babylonian rise of heathendom was struck a mighty blow when God confused the language and split the continents apart. In the seasons of God, it was not yet time for Babylon's power. When it is time, we see it come to fullness in Revelation.

When God's choice of Abraham reveals that the promised seed will come through his lineage, the enemy immediately begins to set things in motion to prevent this. Part of God's promise includes a land, so, the enemy begins to occupy the land ahead of Abraham by again (as he did prior to the flood) causing fallen angels to produce offspring with the daughters of men and filling the promised land with giants. By the time that the descendants of Abraham reached the land that God had promised and given, they had to face the giants

#### Num 13:32-33 NASB

- (32) So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of *great* size.
- (33) "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

This is an example of the Nephilim that occurred after the flood. The first outbreak of this type is prior to the flood and is recorded in Genesis.

#### Gen 6:4 NASB

- (4) The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

The enemy operates under the premise, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". The Nephilim (*giants* in KJV) outbreak almost succeeded before the flood, why not try it again? Only this time, Satan didn't need to go after all mankind, only the lineage of Abraham. Either corrupting or destroying it would prevent the coming of the Messiah. So, he made sure that the promised land was filled with the Nephilim. After all, how could normal people expect to defeat a hybrid race made up of those who are almost twice normal size and with strength that matches their stature?

It was because of the hybrid nature of the inhabitants of the promised land that God did not show any mercy but commanded that all be destroyed.

#### Deu 9:1-3 NASB

- (1) "Hear, O Israel! You are crossing over the Jordan today to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, great cities fortified to heaven,
- (2) a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know and of whom you have heard *it said*, 'Who can stand before the sons of Anak?'
- (3) "Know therefore today that it is the LORD your God who is crossing over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and He will subdue them before you, so that you may drive them out and destroy them quickly, just as the LORD has spoken to you.

After the children of Israel occupied the land, the enemy attempted to corrupt them by causing them to be disobedient to the commands of the Lord and leading them astray to worship false

gods.

After the lineage of the Messiah was narrowed down to the line of David, the enemy focuses his attention on him and his descendants. The enemy's success reaches the point that there is only one descendant of David left alive—Joash.

### 2Ki 11:1-3 NASB

- (1) When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she rose and destroyed all the royal offspring.
- (2) But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him from among the king's sons who were being put to death, and placed him and his nurse in the bedroom. So they hid him from Athaliah, and he was not put to death.
- (3) So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD six years, while Athaliah was reigning over the land.

Athaliah, as wife of Joram and mother of Ahaziah, was responsible for both the internal and external policy of the Jewish kingdom. She was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel and helped establish the worship of Baal in Judea (2 Kings 8:18, 26, 27). Jehu's revolution isolated her and the death of Ahaziah removed her legal status in Judea. However, she was probably the chief authority at Jerusalem. She used this authority to command the immediate destruction of all of the family of David and then seized the throne. Only Joash, who was a year old, survived the purge. He was hidden for six years in the high priest's house, a part of the outer court of the temple. (*These facts taken from Kell and Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament*)

God's promise to David is contained now in only one life, that of Joash. Had the enemy succeeded in killing Joash, then God's promise would have been voided. Each promise of God from Eve to Abraham to David narrowed the lineage of the “seed of the woman” and the enemy put all he had into stopping the fulfillment of the word of God. However, our God is faithful to His word and He uses faithful people to bring about its fruition—people such as Jehosheba, the priest and the baby's nurse.

We should learn from this. As we go about our daily activities, we need to be faithful to the word of the Lord. We may not know how important our actions are until we reach eternity. I am sure the Jehosheba didn't realize how crucial her actions were in stealing away Joash, but the very integrity of the word of our God hung in the balance.

## The Messiah

We see another example of Satan's strategy at the time that Jesus comes into the world. The Star of Bethlehem was the sign of His birth and this was recognized by some Magi (these are eastern magicians, astrologers; not the “wise men” that we use for our manger scenes) and they made a journey to pay homage to a new king (they did not see Him as the Son of God, but, simply as a great earthly king).

### Mat 2:1-2 NASB

- (1) Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, 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."

These Magi are not followers of the Lord God. The basis of their religion is rooted in Babylon and the Babylonian mysteries. Their inquiry of Herod about where is he who is born the King of the Jews provided an opportunity for the tools of the enemy to attempt to destroy Jesus.

#### Mat 2:3-8 NASB

- (3) When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
- (4) Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- (5) They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:
- (6) 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"
- (7) Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.
- (8) And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."

Their inquiry caused Herod to search out where the Messiah was to be born and provided him the approximate time frame based on the appearing of the star.

God intervenes to protect Jesus from the enemy's coming attempts to destroy Him.

#### Mat 2:12-14 NASB

- (12) And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.
- (13) Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord \*appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."
- (14) So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

#### Mat 2:16 NASB

- (16) Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

Satan's efforts are manifested through Herod who kills all male children two years old and younger in Bethlehem. [Notice that our manger scenes are incorrect. The Magi were not present at the stable but later at the house (Matt. 2:11). They had to travel from the East after seeing the Star and therefore, were not present just after His birth.]

## A Change in Strategy

Since Satan failed to prevent the coming of the "seed of the woman", his only option is to prevent the Messiah from accomplishing His purpose. Jesus' stated purpose was "to do the will

of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His purpose” (John 4:34). If Satan could cause Jesus to be disobedient or to fail in His purpose then he would succeed in preventing the effective work of the Messiah. We have the record of Satan's direct attack on Jesus in these areas recorded in Matthew chapter four, the first eleven verses. Jesus was led (literally, driven) by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. However, Jesus overcame the temptations offered by the enemy. Jesus refused to do anything *for Himself* (turn stones to bread); refused to do anything *of Himself* (jump off the pinnacle); refused to do anything *in Himself* (worship the enemy).

With His death and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled all that the Father desired and made a way of reconciliation with God. With the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the multi-membered Body of Christ began to function in the earth. Through the Holy Spirit, the Church is to continue to fulfill the Lord's purpose. The enemy's strategy is to hinder and, if possible, prevent this from happening.

The Lord, in His wisdom, has provided all that we need to accomplish the corporate goals of God. Ephesians chapter four tells us of the gifts of Jesus, the five-fold ministry. The outcome of their functioning is given in verse 14:

#### Eph 4:14 NASB

- (14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

As stated in this verse, we see our condition before the work of the five-fold ministry is accomplished. In this we can see the strategy of the enemy.

Satan tries to keep us:

1. **Retarded.** He want us to remain children long after we should be adults. A child whose mental development stays childlike even though his physical development continues is considered retarded. The enemy desires that we stay “spiritually retarded”, spiritual children when we should be mature spiritual adults. The Lord's answer is the five-fold ministry so that “we are no longer children”, we grow up.
2. **Unstable.** Satan wants us to be tossed here and there by the waves of circumstances and the winds of various doctrines. An unstable person doesn't receive from God (James 1:6-8). The Lord's answer is the five-fold ministry so that we become stable people.
3. **Deceived.** Satan wants us to be in deception. He uses “tricky”, “crafty” men who use us in deceitful schemes that further personal agendas but do nothing for the Kingdom of God. The Lord's answer is the five-fold ministry so that we know the Truth and learn discernment.

You can examine your life to see if any of Satan's strategies are operating. Are there hindrances to you growing up spiritually? Is your life, especially your emotions, unstable? Do you seem to fall prey to, so called, spiritual leaders who drain you of life and abort God's call for you? If so, then you are being manipulated by one of Satan's strategies. Search out those you are functioning in the callings of the five-fold ministry and receive their help to rid your life of these hindrances from our Enemy.

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