

# Blindness to Danger

Today too many people are complacent, unaware, blind, willingly ignorant of the spiritual danger that exists in the world. They are equally unaware of the fact that they are in a spiritual war. This is especially true regarding the youth today. This war is one of trial and conflict in which the aims, consequences, issues, prizes and rewards are for time and eternity.

Eph. 6: 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 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. 13 herefore 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.

Every person was born into this spiritual war. Genesis 1:28 uses the word “subdue”. The word “subdue” is only used in a context where war and strife exists. Further, the definition carries with it the notion that one should be victorious against the object or individual whom is warring against him. The war is described:

Rev. 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him...12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth

that he hath but a short time...Rev. 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed...

Gal. 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

Gen. 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;...5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

## The Enemy

Today, movies graphically depict the realities of the earthly wars. They depict the strategy, effort, conflict, fierceness of the battle, bloodshed, courage and carnage in order to gain one plot, hill or piece of ground. How little is this depiction considered in the spiritual war that each person is engaged in at this moment. How little does one consider that there is no rest from this war, not even to let his guard down for a split second. In this war, there is no time for foolish jesting, time of ease, comfort. We are in spiritual peril this very second. Do we really know our enemy? Consider this question and

its answer in the light of the following scriptures:

2 Cor. 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. (read the whole chapter)

Ezek. 28:12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Rev. 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Dan. 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

These verses (of many) describe satan, the devil, that serpent of old. The verse clearly show his physical and mental abilities are second to none. The verses make clear that every person is no match (outmatched) against the devil. The verse from Daniel above states

that not even Gabriel is a match for satan. Just like Gabriel, the only way we can overcome satan is by/through Jesus (who is Michael).

Consider the following scriptures regarding the manner in which satan carries out his attacks or wars (read Genesis Chapter 3):

Gen: 3:1 Now the serpent was more *subtil* than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 1 Tim. 4:1 states seducing spirits, doctrines of evils...Col 2:4 beguile you...enticing

Prov. 7:10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and *subtil* of heart.

2 John 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a *deceiver* and an antichrist.

Matt: 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

2 Cor. 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ... Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (see 2 Peter 2:2-3)

These verses give a clear portrayal of satan as artful cunning, sly, clever, subtle, devious, and tricky. 1 Peter 5:8 describes the devil as a lion, one who lurks, stalks its prey. Hence we should follow Peter's counsel: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith. We should be steadfast, vigilant: meaning watchful (not given to rest) with all readiness or

alertness especially to respond.

## The War's Terrain

2 Cor. 10:2 But I beseech you...which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; (Read Eph. 6:11-13 above)

1 Tim. 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. (Read 2 Tim 2:14-26 and 1 Thess. 5)

1 Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called...

The terrain of the war is the mind. The battle is fought in doctrines and beliefs. Jesus in the sermon on the mount and in Matt. 15 clearly taught that the battle is not in the outward (action), but the inward; in thought/intent (Prov. 23:7). The darts and arrows of the enemy are false doctrines. Hence we should always guard the avenues of the soul and mind. 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? (Rom. 6:16).

We should always watch who and what we listen to. We should seriously shun the random, casual listening to sermons on youtube and other internet media. We should ever be mindful of doctrinal debates/discussions, especially with unbelievers. Satan is ever planning to lay his snares before us (Psalms 64:5, 119:110, 140:5, 141:9). Ponder how Eve was deceived. Especially, we should be on guard when laboring for souls. While we are trying to win souls, the devil through the unbeliever is equally trying to ensnare us.

Consider that Jesus never let the evil angels speak. Why, because we are totally ignorant of the effect of just merely hearing a false belief or doctrine has on our minds, of the seed planted. We are totally ignorant, unaware to the fact, that a little leaven, equivalent to a jot/tittle, leavens the whole lump. Consider, ponder heavily James 1:13-15. Consider the parable that Jesus spake: "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! (Matt 6:23). The translation of this statement is that 99% truth and 1% error is infinitely more deadly, toxic than 99% error and 1% truth.

Let us not continue in ignorance of the war. Let us be wise virgins correctly discerning the times (1 Chron 12:32). Let us fight the good fight of faith. Romans 7 describes this war; our hopeless state/condition in this war. Roman 8 tells of the means which we may more than conquer/ vanquish the enemy through Jesus. God has provided in Jesus all that we need to be victorious in this war. Jesus is in this fight as one with us (Rev 19:10, Matt 28:20). May we ever be vigilant and alert. Make the Bible our study. May we all be of the numbered ones, overcomers, standing on the sea of glass in Rev. 15:2. God be with you towards this end.