

THE CHURCH UNDER ATTACK

Part I of IV

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The reason it was absolutely necessary to have the Revelation, the last book of the Bible written by John the apostle, is because it is the history of the Church and the world in prophecy.

If this is true, then, the Church as Israel (the Israel of God) and the state of Israel as Jacob, must at this time be signposts pointing to the end of all things.

In the Old Testament the state of Israel which was created of GOD when He called and commissioned Abraham, was a type of the Church. Every Bible student will agree that the history of Israel in the Old Testament is the history of the present day church.

I BELIEVE THAT THIS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH DID NOT CEASE WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT BUT IS A REALITY TODAY.

In 1973 while the state of Israel was being surrounded by the armies of the Arab nations, I had one of those rare visions where God would speak to me while I am awake, in an audible voice: The Lord showed me a blackboard and He drew a large fruit looking like a melon, but with a long hard seed in the center. He then said "Israel is compassed with armies." Immediately from all sides flying insects attacked the fruit, and destroyed the outer skin, leaving the bare pulp. There was a second attack which destroyed the pulp, leaving the bare seed. Then there was a third attack upon the seed itself,

BUT INSTEAD OF PIERCING IT,

THE ATTACK ONLY SERVED TO POLISH IT

AND MAKE IT BRILLIANT.

The Lord spoke again, this time with a voice of deep satisfaction - "They will never breach my elect." I was delighted at this revelation, but there was a question in my mind which I so desperately wanted to know: Lord, do you mean Israel the nation or Israel the Church? No answer.

Having had to deal with the Lord for so many years, I developed the understanding that a - no answer - sometimes means I have told you already, you do know the answer. Reaching back then into my understanding I

remembered that God does not recognize two Churches or two Israels, that we are all His sheep, but maybe different folds.

John 14

14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Many mansions would seem to suggest that we all who believe in God have a place prepared in Him through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

THE SUFFERING THEN, OF ISRAEL IN THE NATURAL IS ONLY A FORERUNNER OF THE SUFFERING WHICH IS ON THE CHURCH IN THE SPIRIT.

The attack of the Church then, is similar to the attack on Israel: The isolation of Israel in the world is the same isolation of the true church also. Even Israel's impossible position in the Arab world and the claim of the Arabs and Jews alike for the same lands, is part of the same spiritual position of the church.

I am of the opinion the Satan is now desperate. No matter how dumb he is at this time he must realize that he cannot win. The children of God are maturing, and one of the signs of maturity is that we are not tossed about by every wind of doctrine. (Ephesians 4:14)

THE NATURE OF THE ATTACK:

The nature of the attack upon the church is aptly described in Revelation Chapter 12 and verse 15:

Rev. 12:15 "And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

12:16 "And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. "

The 'serpent' of course is Satan. The other key words in arriving at the meaning of this passage are 'his mouth', 'flood', 'woman'. A flood is an unclean uncontrolled rushing of waters. The word mouth would refer to speech or preaching. Woman of course, is the Church. The meaning then is that Satan would at a certain time be sending forth a flood of false doctrines upon the church in order to drown her and to engulf her. The next verse says that the earth helped the woman, which means that 'earth' carnal humanity swallowed up the false doctrines thus defeating the purpose of the enemy.

THE TWO WINGS:

In verse 14 of Revelation 12 we are told that the woman was given “*the two wings*” of the “*great eagle*”. The two wings speaks of power to soar, and we are told in Exodus 19:4 that Christ bore Israel on “*eagles’ wings*” and brought them out of Egypt. Without going into the details of this word let me say that God is at the appropriate moment going to give the church (the woman) an anointing which will lift her above the carnal realm out of Satan’s jurisdiction.

HERESIES AMONG US:

Because I expect that some of us will not take the poison that is going forth, and also because I know that you need the word of the Lord to help you to overcome the heresies of today, I will here mention some of the doctrines which are attacking the church at this time.

Before I do this however let me give you a few scriptures which will clearly show that at this time the danger of false teachings is grave:

1 Timothy 4

4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

4:2 “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

4:3 “Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”

This passage pinpoints the time “in the latter times”, when these things should take place, not just as isolated cases but generally. Again it shows that the work of seducing spirits in our midst would increase because of men giving heed to the seducing spirits.

2 Timothy 3

3:1 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

3:2 “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3:3 “Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

3:4 "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: FROM SUCH TURN AWAY."

Here again this passage points to the time "*the last days*" when there would be grave peril to the church. This reference of the '*last days*' is speaking of the time near to the coming of the Lord Jesus. Our gravest trouble at this time is not from the sinners, but from those in our midst who have a form of Godliness and are preaching the word of the Lord.

There is a veiled by very pointed warning in the old testament concerning EATING in the natural, directed to the Jews, but when understood in the Spirit, takes on massive proportions. In Leviticus 11 God warns the children of Israel about the clean animals and the unclean. They could know the clean animals by three basic points:

1. CHEW THE CUD
2. CLOVEN HOOF
3. PARTED HOOFS

CHEWING THE CUD has to do with the talk of a person, or his preaching –

CLOVEN HOOFS has to do with the feet being "*shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace,*"

PARTED HOOF means one walking in the balance of the Spirit and the Word.

Jesus Christ said "*EAT ME*". Many of His disciples left him at that point because they did not know that he was depicting himself as the clean animal to be eaten by the priest. (John 6:53) When we listen to a preacher who speaks the right things, but does not walk in them we are eating unclean food in our souls; he is an unclean animal, like the rabbit, who talks the talk BUT DOES NOT WALK THE WALK.

This same passage in Leviticus goes on to talk about the fish in the waters which propel themselves by fins as against those which wiggle along like serpents. It goes on to tell of birds that fly above earth, which speaks of Christians again who are not carnal people, yet among them there are the clean and the unclean. For further explanation of the see "*The Pattern*", pages 83-91 published by us.

Let us not spend any more time on preambles but go directly to the matter of the false doctrines which are attacking the church;

SLANDER:

I am mentioning this as a heresy because it causes more damage than any heresy and it is one of the sharpest instruments of Satan against the church.

IF YOUR HEART IS RIGHT WITH GOD
YOU CANNOT ENTERTAIN SLANDER AGAINST
ANY OF GOD'S CHILDREN.

In the event of slander I would advise you to use the sharp tool of Matthew Chapter 18:15-17.

Mat 18:15 "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

18:16 "But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

18:17 "And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

Do not allow yourself to be a garbage bin. If you are given news and information against a brother or sister, do something about it, don't sit on it and destroy your fellowship with that person or persons without speaking to them about it.

DID GOD MAKE THE DEVIL?

God has made us free moral agents and endowed us with His Spirit which teaches us the Nature of God in relation to particular doctrines. I do not know that this doctrine is helping any of the children of God to live a better life or to be prepared for the coming of the Lord, BUT on the other hand I have known some whose faith has been overthrown by it. In other words I am saying that the doctrine can kill, since it has to deal with the knowledge of God which will affect the believer's behavior.

The proper beginning in finding an answer to this question is an unbiased examination of all the scriptures pertaining to the manner. Sometimes we preachers in our anxiety to preach a certain doctrine forget our responsibility to the people and only present the scriptures which seem to

agree with our concept, but I will attempt to give a good cross-section of the scriptures on the subject.

Let us go to the beginning of our present world order, when God created and made the things we see around us:

Gen. 1:31 "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

The understanding of this scripture is that God made all things good. The animal kingdom, the vegetable kingdom, and man, the crowning point of His work, were all good. The word GOOD is a derivative of GOD, which would suggest that God mad these things to function according to His nature of Goodness. Everything therefore that God has made, in its proper function will please God.

GOD CANNOT MAKE EVIL:

If we take the passage in the Hebrew as it is rendered the suggestion is that not just the animals, the plants, and man were made good, but that all God's works are good and that it is blaspheme to ascribe evil to a GOOD GOD. Evil is alien to the nature of God and there is no point in the scheme of things where God and evil can work together. Light and darkness cannot dwell in the same place, one is contrary to the other. To further elucidate this point let me give you a few Hebrew words: The word good is represented by three sounds – T, ow, and B. These are pronounced – tobe- (H02896). The word for Jehovah or one of the words used for Jehovah is – Yah. In our language we write the Hebrew "Yah" as Je, or Ja; therefore the word – "Tobe-yah" would mean Good-God, or God the Good One. We find this word in many places in scripture, one of which is: Exodus 33:19 speaking of all the goodness of God passing before Moses. THE WORDS GOD AND GOODNESS ARE SYNONYMOUS AND CANNOT BE SEPARATED. Moreover, there is an absoluteness about the relationship between God and the word 'good'. God is all good, absolutely good:

I John 1:5 "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Partial light or partial goodness cannot be associated with God. It is very important for those who want to know God to understand this point of the absoluteness of the characteristics of Our God: Love, all love no hate: Light, all light no shadow, just absolute light: Good, not evil, just absolutely good.

The understanding of this then is that God is all good, and cannot make anything contrary to His own nature. GOD CANNOT MAKE EVIL.

Before we go into the reasons for the existence of evil we need to give other scriptures which are sometimes commonly used to prove that God made evil: The first scripture will be Isaiah 45:7:

Is. 45:7 “I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.”

The word “make” in the Hebrew is “aw – saw” and one of the meanings is to form something with your own hands, which is the specific meaning in this passage. In the reference in Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance the number is 6213. Forgive me going through these details, but the people who are preaching these false doctrines need these kinds of details, and I am sure they will help. The meaning is clearly stated in other scriptures with the same reference number, which means they are the same word in the Hebrew. Isaiah 2:8 states:

Is 2:8 “Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made.”

17:8 “And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands neither respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves or the images.”

Let us see then if we can understand what the passage is saying: ‘I form the Light’ and ‘CREATE darkness’ I ‘MADE peace and create evil.’

YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THE THINGS WHICH GOD SAYS HE “FORMED” ARE THE THINGS WHICH AGREE WITH HIS NATURE as also the things He said HE MADE. “LIGHT” “PEACE”.

The things which God said He “CREATE” are negative.

THE ANSWER:

Here is then the answer to the scripture: Our good and loving God made all the beautiful and good things, but this very act automatically creates an opposite pole. For example if you MAKE light, then the absence of light must be darkness, if you MAKE good, the absence of good must be evil; if you make a wall in the middle of a room then you automatically create two rooms. God did not make evil, He made good and by so doing He created evil.

Some of the skeptics of this truth say if an almighty God made Good and thus created evil would not He be just as responsible as if he had made evil. The answer to those who are spiritual is – NO! The reason is that God desires to have sons, and the nature of God is based on FREEDOM. God does not have prisoners, neither is He interested in having robots doing His will. In view of these facts He sets His creation FREE even to the point of Rebellion against

Himself. In the final analysis, all those who desire to be Sons of God will make it, and all those who desire to be devils will become Demons.

Because those who trouble our souls with false teachings, spare no pains in quoting scriptures to deceive, I must at least mention one more scripture that is commonly used before we go on to other things.

Isaiah 18:9 “Behold I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.”

In this context the passage here in Isaiah is referring to the smith who makes the sword and the soldier who uses the sword to destroy human life. This passage was not referring to the devil. If however, some persons would like to use it in that sense it is not wholly in-acceptable, since whether you are speaking of a small destroyer or a large destroyer, it could probably be permissible. Please remember however, that when some persons desire to make a point they do not acquaint their readers with the difference that context sometimes make.

I want you to notice that the same word, “CREATE” is used in the above passage, both for the smith who bloweth the coals and for the ‘waster’. GOD ONLY MADE TWO MEN – ADAM & JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, the rest of us were created in Adam and some recreated in CHRIST.

Let us go on to other scriptures and find other references on the subject so that we might be abundantly sure that our good God did not make a bad devil. The question asked by the proponents of this doctrine, is, who made him? We must therefore go to the Scriptures to find a suitable answer which will satisfy the Holy Spirit within us, and we must not accept that which is pleasing to the eyes of the mind until we feel an inner satisfaction that the Holy Ghost within us is satisfied. We will now consider Isaiah 14 and begin with verse four:

Is 14:4 “That thou shalt take up this proverb against the King of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased, the golden city ceased:

Is 4:6 “He who smote the people in wrath with a continuous stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger is persecuted, and none hindereth.

Is 4:7 “The whole earth is at rest and is quiet: they break forth into singing.”

In verse 4 we see the prophet directing his word to the King of Babylon. Prophetically we know that God did not put this in the Bible and hand it down to us to give us an insight into History which is past and gone and dead, UNLESS OF COURSE HE IS SPEAKING OF A GREATER KING THAN THE KING OF BABYLON AND IT IS POINTING US TO THE HAPPENINGS OF THE END TIME. The words Babylon, Egypt, Assyria etc. are also used in scripture to speak of spiritual powers. Let me give you an example:

Rev. 11:8 "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt where also our Lord was crucified."

The last phrase 'where also our Lord was crucified' tells us that it must be the spiritual name of a place since Sodom is no more and Egypt never was a city. It takes a certain spiritual sense given of God to understand the scriptures. Sodom speaks of Homosexuality and Egypt is symbolic of sin and bondage.

Satan is the king of Babylon. The ancient kingdom of Babylon died, but the devils that ruled Babylon still rule the kingdoms of this world today. From this understanding we can see that the message of the prophet Isaiah was not just directed to Israel about the king of the natural city of Babylon, but to us concerning Satan the devil, of whom the king of Babylon was only a type. Again in the same way we could have used the word "waster" to mean not just the human waster but the great waster, so also we can use this word "oppressor" to mean the devil, Satan himself.

Isaiah 14:12 "How art thou fallen from heaven O, Heylel, – Lucifer.. is a misnomer incorporated into scripture by some Roman) son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"

14:13 "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14:14 "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."

The first point to be observed here, is that in the original scriptures there is no Latin word in the middle of the Hebrew text. When these words were written there was no such language as the Latin tongue. It would be impossible for God to suddenly deviate from the Hebrew in which the prophet was writing and give him a Latin word, much the less likely the name of a Roman god. The ROMANS WORSHIP LUCIFER the morning star, since they are Saturnians and do worship the heavenly bodies. Let us therefore change our King James Bibles to read "HEYLEL" instead of Lucifer. Heylel means praiser, and bright one.

In the passage from Isaiah 14 we find reference made to the "Mount of the congregation in the sides of the north." vrs. 13. We find a cross reference to this scripture in Psalm 48:2:

48:2 "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."

Zion is always referred to in type as the Stronghold of God, God's elite or in other words His elect. God wants to make His throne in our hearts, and this is where Satan also wants to make His throne in our hearts, and this is where

Satan also wants to reign and rule. In this case I am sure you will agree with me, that Satan is already defeated.

We notice that the scripture describes Satan as a being with evil characteristics. He is NOT AN INFLUENCE or the figment of man's imagination. Let us get some scriptures to prove these points:

Luke 4

4:1 "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

4:2 "Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

4:3 "And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

4:4 "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

4:5 "And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

4:6 "And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

4:7 "If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

4:8 "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

4:9 "And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

4:10 "For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

4:11 "And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

4:12 "And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

4:13 "And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season."

The devil talked to Jesus recorded by Luke chapter 4 from verse 1 to 13, and you will notice that Jesus was not speaking to himself, moreover there was no sin in Jesus, and there was nothing in Him for Satan to tempt, or any lust by which He Jesus could be enticed. The scriptures record that Jesus said "*The prince of this world cometh and he finds nothing in me.*"

Let me refer you to another scripture on this point which will fully vindicate the position:

John 8:

8:44 “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

This is Jesus' testimony of Satan and we had better pay keen attention to it. Jesus said Satan was a murderer and a liar from the beginning. Whenever we read a word like the word “beginning” it is regular and reasonable for one to ask “Beginning of what?” In this case Jesus was speaking of the beginning of Satan. For an idea of the beginning of Satan we only have to read the rest of the sentence – “*and abode not in the truth*”. The word “abode not” tells us that he was once in the truth. One cannot abide in something he never was in. Thus we see clearly that the angel “Heylel” who was in the second heaven with Michael and Gabriel (this thought will be proven by scripture further on in this message) deliberately, willfully, knowledgeably, stepped down from his high calling as one of the sons of light, and chose to be king of darkness. WE CAN SAFELY CONCLUDE THAT THE BEGINNING OF SATAN WAS THE END OF THE ANGEL HEYLEL.

Satan went to Eve in the Garden of Eden and said to her, “*...you will be like God.*” In Isaiah 14 we have just read where he said, “*...I will be like the Most High.*” Satan’s intention to be like God and His subsequent fall, all happened long before man was made. As a point of fact, one of the reasons for his fall is that he wanted to be commissioned to reign over the elect of God’s people even before they were made. This position, of course, was reserved for Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. His words in Isa. 14:13 (last clause), “*I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north,*” was in effect saying that he was threatening God that he would take Zion (God’s stronghold) and reign over them.

THIS POINT MAKES IT ABSOLUTELY IMPORTANT FOR CHRISTIANS TO MAKE JESUS KING IN THEIR LIVES NOT JUST SAVIOUR BUT KING.

In Luke chapter 4:5:

Luke 4:

4:5 “And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

4:6 “And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

4:7 “If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.”

The first question is: What did Satan show Jesus? The scripture says the kingdoms of the world. It was not possible in the natural to see the kingdoms of the world from a mountain top, therefore we must conclude that it was the spiritual kingdoms which he showed Jesus. Secondly Jesus would not be interested in the natural kingdoms of this world, since He said, "*My kingdom is not of this world.*" THE SPIRITUAL KINGDOM WOULD BE THE HEARTS OF MEN. Before man was made Satan had posted that he would take the elect of God, and now that Jesus had come he was anxious to prove his point, since he knew that Jesus had come to take the kingdom away from him. Of course, you know the result of that encounter; that Satan lost.

There is a third point we need to take note of, that Satan said that the power and the glory of the kingdoms of the world were delivered unto him, and to whomsoever he would give it to. God gave Adam dominion over the world, and when he lost the battle with Satan, he also lost the dominion and the power he had. In John 17:5 and 22 Jesus spoke with the Father of the glory which they had from before the world was, and then he told the Father that he was giving that power to the twelve apostles. We the obedient children of God through Jesus Christ have been given the power and the glory.

Mat. 6:13 "For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever, amen."

Mat. 28:18 "And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Satan said the power and glory of the kingdoms of the world were given unto him; Here Jesus is saying ALL POWER is given unto Him. Power was given unto Satan by Adam, but ALL POWER is given unto Jesus by God. Jesus Christ our Lord turned around and gave the power to us and said, "*Go preach the Gospel....*" Praise be to God.

(This message will be continued in the next issue, dealing with the very damaging heresy of Ultimate Reconciliation.)

