

Sunday February 12th, 2006

Spiritual Warfare Series part 1

The Line is Drawn

1). You will forgive me if I seem to be belaboring a point or just restating the obvious, but I need to make sure for all those who hear this message that the foundation is properly laid.

2). As we begin this series on the Spiritual Warfare it is so important for us to understand the nature of our conflict.

3). Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was (Became) without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

a). Teach about the earth being the province under Satan

b). When God restores the earth He restores it with the intent of replacing Satan with a newly created being, one unlike any other throughout the universe.

c). Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

d). And of course we know the story of Man's fall. But let's be quite clear about this Satan's actions are territorial. And territorial not just in relation to the earth but also to the heavens from which rulership over the earth ensues.

Da 4:26b*the heavens do rule.*

He draws a line in the sand as it were declaring his intent to fight to retain his position as the god of this world, along with the contingent of angels who rebelled with him.

e). And scripture makes clear that this conflict would continue until a terminal point.

f). Ge 3:14 ¶ *So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust 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 your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

i/ We will notice that there is to be enmity between Satan and the woman – and we cannot help but note that Israel is described as the wife of God, albeit an adulterous one at present, making Israel THE woman. The woman in receipt of the promises made to Abraham concerning both realms of the Kingdom the Heavens and the earth.

ii/ And of course those who are children of Abraham by faith, those who make up the Bride of Christ, taken from His body, just as the woman was taken from Adam's body.

g). The ensuing 6000 year conflict would be about who would rule over this province in God's kingdom – the incumbent ruler or those created to replace him.

i/ Ultimately the Seed of the woman, the Lord Jesus Christ will bruise the head of Satan. Marking not only his defeat, but also the removal of his crown, bringing about the change in rulership God had intended from the beginning.

h). Until this time comes however, the warfare continues just as it has done from the dawn of time.

4). It has been unceasing and vehement against the Israel in relation to the earthly realm of the kingdom. And for the last two thousand years it has been likewise against the church in relation to the heavenly realm of the Kingdom. That part to which our promises apply.

5). There are some things we should also note concerning our adversary – Da 10:20 *Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 "But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.*

i/ We find here the angel sent to the prophet Daniel having to fight with the prince of Persia, a prince who will eventually be replaced in preeminence by the prince of Greece. This fight takes place in the heavens and according to the angel only Michael, Daniel's prince, the prince of Israel stands with him

ii/ We see then angelic rulers working through the earthly rulers of Gentile nations upon the earth, controlling and manipulating the affairs of men. Exactly what is described for us in -

a). Eph 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

b). It may be stating the obvious but those we are to wrestle against are not flesh and blood.

c). This is not just telling us that other human beings are not our enemies, but making clear that these original rulers over the earth who reside in the heavenly places are spirit beings.

d). Although their numbers were depleted by two thirds at the time of Satan's rebellion, we are still talking of individually created spirit beings of great power who had been created specifically to rule over this province.

e). As such, any human being, even a Christian, of themselves, does not even come close to being able to defeat even one of these fallen angels.

f). Let's remember the admonition given to Christians in 1Pe 5:8 ¶ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

g). For the unprepared Christian there is no contest.

6). But remember, this warfare is territorial – it is about a land and an inheritance. Within the present Laodecian church this warfare is not even engaged for the most part.

a). Without in any way detracting from the enormity of salvation by grace, the salvation of our spirit, this in itself is not a threat to our enemy. Remember - Ro 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

b). Our free gift has to do with eternity – the warfare has to do with the age to come, the Millennial Kingdom.

c). Once any Christian though hears His voice and opens the door, setting their sight on the inheritance and a position as coheir with Christ in His Kingdom then everything changes.

d). We realize then that this territorial warfare is also a battle for the souls of men. And for all of us who have determined to go on to the land of our calling, to lay hold of that for which Christ laid hold of us, the battle must necessarily rage.

7). The rest of Christendom may rail at Satan as wolves bay at the moon, but we would do well to note scripture.

a). Jude 1:9 *Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

b). Why would Michael the archangel not bring a reviling accusation against the devil? Because - Eze 28:14 *"You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*

c). He remains God's anointed even now, until he is replaced and we should watch what we say - 1Ch 16:22a *Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones,*

d). Many Christians attempt to bind the devil and his angels based on Christ's words to His disciples in - Mt 16:19 *"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

i/ Contextually this scripture, as does Jesus' whole message, has to do with the coming Kingdom, not now. There will come a time when those who ascend the throne with Christ will bind and loose, but it will be then and not now.

ii/ And with respect to binding Satan, scripture is clear – Re 20:1 ¶ *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

e). No one but God, through this angel, at the appointed time will bind Satan. To believe anything else is to be ignorant of God's purpose or to disregard it completely.

8). In fact we would do well to note the typological picture of the present conflict, that of David and Saul.

a). Saul we will remember had the kingdom taken from him – 1Sa 15:23 *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."*

and David was anointed king in his place, 1Sa 16:13 *Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.*

but it was many years before this became a reality.

b). In the meantime David had fled to the wilderness where many who were unhappy with the kingdom of Saul joined themselves to him

looking for and anticipating a time when the present rulership under Saul would be removed and they with David would rule in his place

1Sa 22:1 ¶ *David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. 2 And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.*

c). And during this time Saul sought to kill David and those who followed him as he knew that these were the ones destined to take his crown and rule in his place.

i/ 1Sa 23:8 *Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.....14 ¶ And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.....25 When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David. Therefore he went down to the rock, and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon. 26 Then Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them.*

d). In the same way Christ has gone far away from Satan's Kingdom in a figurative sense, and those who are dissatisfied with the affairs of Satan's kingdom have allied themselves to him - Heb 2:10 ¶ *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

e). But note, this is not speaking of all Christians, but those who are looking to a change of rulership at a time yet future.

f). It was not all of Israel who went with David. The majority stayed under the hand of Saul, even the priests, and even priests in this kingdom were not safe - 1Sa 22:17 *Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD. 18 And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod.*

g). Being a Christian and remaining in the kingdom of Satan is no protection. Just as Saul brought about the deaths of the priests here in our scripture which would result in their not participating in the coming kingdom under David. So Satan will bring about the deaths, in respect to life in the age to come, of all Christians who remain a part of the present world system.

h). Only those who would separate themselves from the things of this world, who would join Christ in the mountain wilderness and will faithfully endure this exile with Him until a change of rulership takes place, who engage the enemy in battle according to the direction of their Captain can expect to find themselves as an equivalent to one of David's mighty men in the Kingdom which is to come.

9). The reality is that Satan knows who Christ is and knows who have allied themselves with Him looking to the coming Kingdom.

a). Christ is at present seated at the right hand of the Father and as such is untouchable by Satan directly, but those who would follow Him into His kingdom, being part of His body, although separated from this world find themselves within the borders of Satan's kingdom and therefore open to attack.

b). And as we said at the beginning this is not a fight which takes place between like and like. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, nor do we fight in our own flesh and blood - 2Co 10:3 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but **mighty in God** for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

10). In order to remain undefeated on the battle field we must engage the enemy according to God's instructions, and those instructions alone. There is no other way. This is a spiritual battle against spiritual beings and our souls are at stake.

a). Eph 6:10 ¶ *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

b). Our strength is in the Lord alone and in the power of His might, not ours.

c). And He has provided 'the whole armor of God' for us to wear so that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

d). And for the Christian, who has their eyes on the prize, who avail themselves of God's provision there will be victory after victory, after victory.

e). But for the Christian with their eyes on the prize, who does not avail themselves of God's provision there will only be defeat, resulting in their being overcome and therefore disqualified at the Judgment Seat. The battle for their soul will have been lost

f). But thank God that we have ears to hear and eyes to see and let us determine over these next weeks that we will be fully prepared to walk in victory with the one who has made our victory possible.

g). Eph 6:13 *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-*

11). Stand, hold hands and pray this prayer of Jesus - Joh 17:6 ¶ *"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 "Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. 8 "For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. 9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 ¶ "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world,*

just as I am not of the world. 15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

16 "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 ¶ "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. 20 ¶ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.