

Sunday February 26th, 2006

Spiritual Warfare Series part 3

The Enemy Within

1). There are many things to consider when dealing with the Spiritual Warfare, and as we start this week let us hang on to two important facts that we have already seen.

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). 1Ti 2:14 *And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

c). And as we saw last week the major area of deception for us lies in that which scripture calls the doctrine of Balaam

Re 2:14 *"But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.*

d). We noted this scripture in relation to the entire Church at the Judgment Seat, and noted that it had to do with the assimilation of Christians into the things of this world – its values, ideals, systems. Those things which remain under the authority of the god of this world – Satan, and by extension, his fallen angels.

i/ Eph 2:2 *in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,*

ii/ We will remember what Jesus said - Joh 18:36a *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world.*

iii/ Ro 12:2a *And do not be conformed to this world,*

iv/ 1Co 7:31b.... *For the form of this world is passing away.*

v/ And finally - Re 11:15 *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

e). The time is coming when all associated with this present world system, under Satan, will pass out of existence. But it has not happened yet and consequently we must be on our guard.

2). Let us recall an incident recorded in Matthew and Mark concerning Peter - Mt 16:23 *But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

a). What I would like us to see here is the juxtaposition between the things of God and the things of men.

b). The things of men are clearly and directly associated with Satan.

c). The things of men would of course be related to things surrounding our first birth, that is our existing sin nature. And a phrase we use to describe this is 'the flesh'.

i/ Ga 5:17 *For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*

ii/ And this conflict between the spirit and the flesh has a direct impact on the issue of our inheritance in the land of our calling –

1Pe 2:11 *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,*

iii/ Notice the word 'war' and the word 'soul'

d). And this of course is confirmed for us in - Ga 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

3). It is so important to grasp how significant this conflict between the flesh and the Spirit is. And to help us grasp this in its fullness we need to go to the O/T types.

4). Consider the first generation of Israel – God supernaturally brings the nation out of the bondage of Egypt. Having passed through the Red Sea, signifying the burial of the firstborn killed in Egypt, having given them water from the rock (typifying the Holy Spirit) and the manna from heaven (typifying the word of God) and leading them towards the land of their calling to be at the head of the nations within the theocracy, to fulfill their role as kings and priests.

a). It is at this point that we find this happening - Ex 17:8 ¶ *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

b). Now this may appear of itself to be of little consequence until we realize this - Ge 36:12 *Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz.*

c). Amalek is Esau's grandson and as such, he and the Amalekites descended from him, are characterized through Esau - Ex 20:5b... *visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,*

d). Esau is a type in scripture for us to learn from - Heb 12:16 *lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.*

e). Esau, the first born, despised his birthright, that which was yet future – considering it of little value – compared with satisfying his carnal needs in the present.

f). Esau typifies the man of flesh set against Jacob, the second born, who typifies the man of the Spirit - Ge 25:27 *So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.*

A contrast we have seen in an earlier series, 'The Son of the Bondwoman' in respect of Ishmael and Isaac.

g). And it is right at this point where Israel, being led by the Spirit towards the land, that we find the descendants of Esau coming out to fight against them. With the sole purpose, obviously of stopping Israel from entering the land.

5). Ex 17:9 *And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." 10 So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13 So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. 14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."*

a). Teach this – Moses rod = Christ's scepter

i/ Eph 6:10 ¶ *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

b). Aaron and Hur - Ga 6:2 *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Heb 10:24 *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

c). 'Until the going down of the sun'

d). *that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."*

6). Our type with Amalek does not end here. From a further type, concerning Saul, Israel's first king, we see another connection between Amalek and regality.

a). 1Sa 15:1 ¶ *Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD. 2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. 3 'Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"*

(Teach this)

b). It is through the one anointed to be king that Amalek, the man of the flesh is to be utterly destroyed.

7). Now let us remember our heavenly calling. And let us remember that we have been called to regality. And let us remember that God has given us the same instructions that He gave to Saul.

a). Ro 8:13 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

b). Col 3:5 ¶ *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

8). Despite God's clear instruction, however, Saul is not obedient

a). 1Sa 15:18 *"Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' 19 "Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"*

i/ Echoes of Abraham after the battle of the kings.

b). And this was Saul's response - 1Sa 15:20 *And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 "But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."*

c). Saul saved Agag and the best of the things as he thought this would please God.

d). And this is a problem encountered by most Christians. We are deceived into thinking that there is part of our carnal nature that is 'good'. Things we want to hang on to believing they will be pleasing to God.

e). Instead we should believe the witness of scripture –
Ro 7:18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;*
Ro 6:12 *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*

9). When God says kill it, He means kill it – we are to take no prisoners.

a). We would do well to realize that God's thinking on this has not changed.

b). 1Sa 15:22 *Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 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."*

c). I am sure we cannot miss the consequence of Saul's action and understand the significance of this for us. There is much at stake here.

10). And that which is spoken here by God is graphically illustrated for us in the death of Saul

2Sa 1:6 *Then the young man who told him said, "As I happened by chance to be on Mount Gilboa, there was Saul, leaning on his spear; and indeed the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. 7 "Now when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' 8 "And he said to me, 'Who are you?' So I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' 9 "He said to me again, 'Please stand over me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me, but my life still remains in me.' 10 "So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."*

a). It is an Amalekite, one of those who should have been utterly destroyed at the start of his reign, who kills Saul and takes the crown from his head.

11). Let me ask the question – have any of you let Agag live? Because if we don't kill every Amalekite we come across the day will come when he will take the crown from our head so to speak.

12). Re 3:10 *"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*

a). We need to understand that the one who may take our crown is not a stranger, it's not our brother or sister in Christ, it is the Amalekite within, the man of flesh that we failed to put to death.

13). And again, our protection against the enemy within is the armor that God has provided for us. Our flesh will never penetrate our spiritual armor if we have it properly in place.

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. 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. 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-*

b). Rev 3:12 *"He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. 13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*