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6,000 YEARS  
OF BABYLON  
VOLUME 4 PART 2

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**6,000 Years of Babylon: Volume 4 – Part 2**  
by Maurice Barratt

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BY MAURICE BARRATT



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Manchester M14 5QH, England

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6,000 Years of Babylon

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## INTRODUCTION

# WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And, if in the land of peace, wherein you trust, they wearied you, then how will you manage in the swelling of Jordan?

**Jeremiah 12:5**

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

**1 Peter 4:7**

This end part of the series has been by far the most enjoyable for me to write. In the earlier volumes, I have exposed the worship system of Babylon, which is almost a negative thing. Now I can now look at practical ways to help people to come out of this system and to understand the devious ways in which God's people are

deceived into accepting its practices and mind sets. To do this, I will look at examples from the bible starting with Israel – a whole nation who were deceived into worshipping God through a golden calf. Unbelievable as this sounds it seemed quite easy for them to do this and it just proves that people are not aware of deception when faced with, it or even after they have accepted it.

## The End of All Temptation

If Babylon is a system of counterfeit worship then the greatest temptations will be about this. Therefore, I look in detail at the temptations of Jesus, because at the end of them there is an offer of greatness for Jesus **if he will worship Satan**. This is the end of all temptation in whatever guises it comes, and it is always to trap a child of God in the counterfeit system of worship.

This part of the series is so important to all Christians for we will be tested in exactly the same way that Jesus was, and I believe in the same order. I suggest you read this part of the book slowly, and maybe a couple of times, so that you understand the principles for yourself.

After a few examples I show that it is not enough to come out of Babylon, because it will leave a person in the wilderness. There has to be a place to go to, and work for – this is also vital to understand. If you are in the position of leaving religion, or have already left, and are unsure of the next move this should help you. Finally I have added a short postscript for us to understand the consequences of being in the system, or out of it, when Jesus returns; for in this life we are only 'training for

reigning', and the rewards and punishments that will be administered when Jesus returns to this earth.

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PART 2

HOW ARE  
THE MIGHTY  
FALLEN?

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## CHAPTER 1

# THE CHURCH IN BABYLON

...But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would have none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.

**Psalm 81:11-12**

Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

**Proverbs 4:23**

**How is the faithful city become an harlot!** It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Your silver is become dross, your wine mixed with water: your princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loves gifts, and follows after rewards: they don't judge the fatherless, nor doth the cause of the widow..

**Isaiah 1:21-23**

Abraham, the father of faith, started the Church of God, for he was the first man to leave Babylon to look for a city whose builder and maker was God. However, it was not until his seed became a nation that God made a marriage covenant with them and called them his chosen woman – his wife (A woman in the bible always represents the church, whether the true or the false – the bride of Christ, the wife of God, or the whore of Babylon).

God put this nation in Egypt – a type of the world, just as he has put us in this world. It is part of his process to perfect us, because unless we come out of it we can never be perfected. Once Israel came out, by a mighty deliverance, they were taken by God into the wilderness to be tested. We know from scripture that they failed and did not enter the promised land, but where did the rot set in. Is it possible to actually learn the principles of their deception from the life and experiences of Israel so that we can examine our own lives in the light of it? Of course, it is gloriously possible, because God makes it very clear if we will only look closely, with an open mind and heart.

## The Heart – Not the Morals

Can we pin point the exact place and the mind-set where Israel went wrong after they became God's wife? I believe we can, and it was right at the beginning of this marriage. The devil will be allowed of God to test us the moment we make this discipleship covenant with God. Let me show you from an incident in the bible

how it all went wrong. The incident I will use to show the principles is the golden calf that Aaron fashioned for Israel to celebrate and have a feast to God. This making and worshipping of a golden calf was not the beginning of the backsliding but the exposure of it, for **backsliding is a condition of the heart and not of morals or outward behaviour**. We realise people are backslidden by their actions, but the heart has been deceived long before this – without exception.

## Not Back to Egypt

When God's people backslide, they are placed in Babylon by God. A child of God does not go back to Egypt, for when they desire Egypt in their hearts God puts them in Babylon. Israel were deceived and had the mixture of worshipping the real God through the wrong medium, so spiritually they were in Babylon when they were dancing around the golden calf.

First I think it will be good to look at the background to this event so that we have things in context and can understand what really happened. The incident is recorded in the book of Exodus and I have included the whole text so you can read it slowly, and then I will look at the background leading up to this point.

And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do

not know what is become of him. And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with an engraving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt. And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

**Exodus 32:1-6**

## Seeing the Real God

In Exodus 20, we read that God gave Moses the 10 commandments. People heard the audible voice of God and were terrified because his voice thundered, and the mountain they were looking at was burning with fire. There were thunders and lightnings and it says the people trembled. Of course, we can understand their reaction for they had never experienced God so closely. They had seen God's power against the Egyptians who were their enemies, but it says God actually came down on to the mount. It is a very rare occasion when God himself comes down to earth. It is one thing to see God's power, which is wonderful, but quite another thing to see God himself which is a fearful thing.

And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by a voice. **And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai**, on the top of the mount.

**Exodus 19:16-20**

God then asked Moses to go up into the cloud to be with him as he spoke.

...and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

**Exodus 19:20**

Immediately after God has finished talking audibly to the whole congregation, he asked Moses, Aaron, and 70 of the elders to go up the mount; Moses was asked to go up higher into the presence of God. God then spoke more things to Moses and he came down and told the people what God had said. This whole congregation, and those elected to be halfway up the mountain, accepted the words of the covenant and agreed to be God's people

and for him to be their God. I showed in my series of books on 'Israel, the Church and the Kingdom of God' that this was the marriage betrothal contract of God and Israel – his wife, so I will not repeat it all here (the readers who are interested can read it for themselves).

Footnote 1. This is recorded in Exodus 24:18.

## See God and Live

Then something happened which was unprecedented. I don't believe it has happened ever since. Even Paul who went to the third heaven was in a trance and did not know if he was even in his own body. Moses, Aaron, and 70 of the elders actually saw God on earth, in his glory, and did not die. I believe this was the betrothal feast and God wanted to share it with a representative of Israel. No one can see God and live the bible states in one place, but it happened here, and they survived only because God decided that he would not allow them to die. He wanted them to remember the experience as long as they lived; and how could they possibly forget it. This is how it is recorded.

Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: **And they saw the God of Israel:** and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. **And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand:** also **they saw God, and did eat and drink.**

Exodus 24:9-11

After this feast, God told Moses to go further up the mount and he would give him the commandments, written with his own finger in stone, so that the Children of God could have a record of the contract they had committed to. Moses had been up the mountain 40 days when God told him he had better get down quickly to the people for they had 'corrupted themselves'. In other words they were now a backslidden people. Sadly, they have never ever recovered their first love of betrothal to this day. They will have to wait until they 'look on him whom they pierced' – some date in the future.

## The plain facts

Let me explain the situation in a couple of simple sentences. The whole congregation had seen the fearful plagues on Egypt and walked through the Red Sea on dry land while the Egyptian army had been drowned in the same water. They heard the audible awesome voice of God, and Aaron and 70 of the elders had actually experienced the person of God in their midst and had eaten and drunk with him, but in 40 days they had forgotten all this and were dancing naked around a golden calf. Incredulous as it sounds these are the bare facts. My question is; how did it happen? What sort of deception was going on? Where did it all start? I am absolutely convinced I can pin point the exact place and time where the deception started.

Before I do, we need to remember backsliding starts in the heart – the subconscious part of our thinking, and that is where we must look – at attitudes and mind sets.

Read carefully the reaction of the people when they heard God speak.

And all the people saw the thundering, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, **they removed, and stood afar off.** And they said unto Moses, You Speak with us, and we will hear: but **don't let God speak with us,** lest we die.

Exodus 20:18-19

There are 2 keys to expose the motives of their hearts.

1. They withdrew themselves from God
2. They were frightened of the real God

## Give us a mediator

They wanted a human mediator to buffer them from the real God. Why? Because they were afraid. This was not the healthy fear of God, because Moses had told them not to fear.

Moses said, **Fear not:** for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, **that ye sin not.**

Exodus 20:20

God had done it on purpose to help them in the future so that they would not sin, but it was all too much for them. They withdrew still further away from God,

and Moses went nearer to God. Here was the separation. Moses nearer to God and the fearful people further away.

And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

Exodus 20:21

## The Root of all Backsliding

At this very point the die had been cast. All that happened afterwards was only a natural outworking of this fact. This is the root of all backsliding, and coldness of heart. When a person, nation, or leader does not want the real God then they will make an alternative to worship, and in this instance it was a golden calf, but the principle is the same in any generation or situation. **If you will not pay the price to accept the real God, you will make him in your own, safe, image.** How pathetic; and yet history has shown that people prefer the golden calf to the real God. If they had only listened to the instructions of Moses exhorting them not to be afraid, they would never have built the golden calf.

I could illustrate this in many different ways, but here is another way of looking at the process of backsliding. I have shared this in other writings but I will briefly share it here again. A person who has never had an encounter with God is naturally spiritually blind, because Satan has blinded them, as proved by this verse from Paul.

In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious

gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

**2 Corinthians 4:4**

However, when a child of God, who is in the light, does not want to walk in the light, then God withdraws the light and they become blind; not because of Satan, but by God withdrawing his light (revelation). This is more serious, and harder to heal, than a man who is blind in innocence. Jesus puts it so simply;

But if your eye is evil, your whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you becomes darkness, how great is that darkness?

**Matthew 6:23**

## Perseverance

The word 'persevere' comes from a Latin root *perseverus* which means 'continue steadfastly, or persist' and that word comes from two others, *per-* for 'very' and *'severus'* for serious. It makes me think that unless you are 'serious', you will never persevere as a disciple – in other words, pay the price. Israel were not willing to pay the price to be close to a holy God and so they withdrew from him and lost the revelation of what he was really like. God withdrew himself from them also to a safe distance and so they quickly made an alternative – a golden calf.

In 40 days after meeting with the real God a whole nation had backslidden. That is how quickly the rot sets

in after the deception, and it is not easy to get back in relationship, because there is a price to pay for that as well – and it is not cheap. You have to go through the fires.

I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint your eyes with eyesalve, that you may see.

**Revelation 3:18**

Notice that as well as the gold, which is only purified after going through the fires (the gold represents the glory of God), the blindness has to be dealt with as well. To lose sight means to lose revelation and once that is lost it is really difficult to see clearly again. It is a costly business to backslide after you have seen the glory of God – be warned.

Let me now come from another angle for there are many facets to this problem of backsliding.

**It could have been arrested.**

Israel could have been prevented from building the golden calf and suffering the wrath of God. God appoints leaders to stop the rot, purge away the dross, destroy the false prophets, and whatever else is holding the body of Christ from purity, and its true purpose.

Although people have to answer to God for their own backsliding, the leaders above them will also have to give an account for why they let it happen. Am I blaming

Moses in any way? Not at all, because he did not leave the people on their own – or he would have been at fault. He left his older brother Aaron, along with Hur and the 70 elders, all who had encountered God personally on the mount, to be in charge until he came down from the mount. They could have stopped the rebellion and they are the ones who would also have to carry the can for Israel's backsliding.

### When the Cat's Away...

Of course, God often takes away a top man to show what is in the hearts of number 2 and number 3 in the leadership. How many times have I seen it happen? A man of God will go on a long mission trip, only to come back to find that one of the elders, that he left in charge, has taken over the Church and he is out of a job – despicable conduct, but the cat has to be away sometimes to see if the mice will play. There is always a man near the top who has a lust for power. This was what happened in Moses' case. Let's read what the scripture recorded of this.

And he said unto the elders, Wait here for us, until we come again unto you: and, behold, Aaron and Hur are with you: if any man have any matters to do, let him come unto them.

**Exodus 24:14**

When the people told Aaron that they did not know what had happened to Moses and they wanted other

Gods he should have stopped them in their tracks and told them that his younger brother could be trusted to come down again as he promised. He could have calmed down the rebellion, but the incident showed that Aaron was an ambitious man with ulterior motives. He was a power seeker and he was exposed in this incident. He told them to bring him the gold and he would make them a god which he personally engraved it with a graving tool.

## A Feast to the Lord

When the people accepted this god who had brought them out of Egypt Aaron declared a feast to God – a celebration, and made an altar before it. It is incredible that he could do such a thing, but 'power seeking' blinds a man.

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don't know what is become of him. Aaron said unto them, **Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.** All the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron, and **he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool,** after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up out of the land of

Egypt. When Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and **Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD**, and they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

**Exodus 32:1-6**

## Aaron Was Seeking Power

Although Aaron was humiliated before Moses when he came down the mount, the secret power seeking was still in his heart and it came out in a later incident where he and his sister, Miriam, tried to claim equal authority with Moses – and God had to rebuke him (read it in Numbers 12). Aaron, without the intercession of Moses, would never have been the high priest for God intended to kill him.

And the LORD was very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him: and I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

**Deuteronomy 9:20**

Let me show you how the hearts of Israel and of its leadership under Aaron had become darkened and deceived. They were dancing around a golden calf and yet they thought they were worshipping God in the correct way. Aaron proclaimed a feast to the LORD. He did not ask them to worship Baal, Molech, or the gods of

Egypt, it was to Jehovah the 'existing one'. They actually thought they were pleasing God. They offered the right offerings; peace and burnt offerings, but it was all in vain – and blasphemy.

## Spirit and Truth or Not at All

Worship to God must be in spirit and truth. One part without the other is not acceptable. Spirit without truth will not be accepted and neither will truth without spirit. These Israelites had spirit, but not truth for they were deceived and so their worship was not accepted. Today Christians think they can use the devils music, entertainment, and mind effecting flashing lights to worship God so long as they have the spirit, but they are just as deceived. They may as well put a golden calf on the platform and dance around it.

**God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

**John 4:23-24**

## Fiddling While Rome Burns

The bible records that they were celebrating. There are 2 reasons people celebrate; in victory or backsliding. The time to celebrate is after a victory – as when Miriam led celebrations after the Egyptian army had been drowned (Exodus 15) and as David danced when the ark of the covenant came back to Israel (2 Samuel 6:14).

My dad was a commando in the last war and he told

me they never celebrated in the trenches when the bullets were firing and they were crawling over their dead mates as the rats were eating their bodies. After the victory of this war of course the buntings came out in every street in the country and all England celebrated.

When the church is in a mess and we are near the greatest persecution this world has ever know then it is time to batten down the hatches and prepare to suffer. To play the violin when Rome is burning is madness. However, a backslidden church love to celebrate.

Wherefore the Lord said, For as much as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

**Isaiah 29:13**

The present Church system is in a state of utter blindness and deception and we need some 'John the Baptists' to come in the Elijah spirit and tell God's people to repent for the coming of the Lord draws near. God help us in the days that are coming to this planet.

## Who Wants the Real God?

After my 60 years of walking with God, and my nearly 50 years of ministry, my considered conclusion is that God's people today, as throughout history, do not want the real God. They may be sincere and enthusiastic in their evangelism, worshipa and good works, but the bottom line is they do not want to pay the price that

Jesus asked of those who want to be a disciple and live the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle. They are not willing to forsake all to gain the kingdom of God. They want the benefits – the milk and honey – but do not want to fight the giants or face the cities walled up to heaven. They want the kingdom, but they want it now without enduring the cross first.

However, there is no resurrection without first a death and that death is you and me. We have to die to our own plans and ambitions, our desired destiny, and all our hopes and aspirations have to be forsaken if we want to gain the life of Christ. Modern Christians will not even give up their pleasures, never mind their houses, wife, children and their own lives, so they can never become disciples, and are blinded by the desires of their own hearts, just as in our example of Israel.

Backsliding is a costly business and although Moses pleaded with God and put his own eternal destiny on the line for God to forgive Israel, there was still a plague that must have killed thousands and the sons of Levi had to kill their own people so that about 3000 people were slain.

And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:) then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? Let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. And he said unto them, The Lord of Israel says; Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every

man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men ....And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

**From Exodus 32:25-35**

Let us examine our own hearts and motives in the light of all this and repent if we need to, so that we can again get back to our first love and revelation, and become serious about why we were chosen to be born in the last of the last days.

### **Footnote 1**

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## CHAPTER 2

# TROUBLE IN THE CAMP

Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

**Song of Solomon 2:15**

A little trouble now, saves a lot of trouble later.

**Anon**

Gold and silver are money, everything else is credit.

**Banker, J P Morgan**

I want to show how easy it is to be seduced into Babylon, and the next few chapters will look at examples from the bible of different aspects of this seduction. The first one will be to look at the incident of Achan, a man who live at the time of Joshua, and the conquest of Canaan by the Israelites. Achan is not mentioned

anywhere else in the bible and the story is only recorded in one short chapter of 26 verses, but God allowed it to be included as a warning to Israel, and to us today as the bride of Christ.

This is an interesting study for by the single act of one man out of millions taking some spoils from the Canaanites, the whole history of God's people could have taken a different course. Achan's name means 'trouble maker' and it turned out that he was true to his name.

## A Background

Here is the background to the incident. The children of Israel under the leadership of Joshua had just returned from their first conquest in the land of Canaan. The battle of Jericho was won because of a supernatural intervention from God where the walls fell flat with only shouts and trumpet blasts. The inhabitants had been destroyed and the whole town raised to the ground. The Israeli army killed all that had life, whether men, women, children, or cattle. The spoils of silver and gold and the vessels of brass and iron were all put into the treasury in God's house because just before the walls fell down, on the seventh day, Joshua gave a charge to Israel. He told them that the city was cursed, and only Rahab the harlot, along with her family, who had helped the Israeli spies, was to be saved.

**And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people,**

Shout; for the LORD has given you the city. **And the city shall be cursed**, even it, and all that are in it, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

And **you must keep yourselves from the cursed thing, lest you make yourselves cursed, when you take of the cursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it**. But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

Joshua 6:16-19

## No Excuse

They were clearly warned that to take anything of the spoils would be a curse to them and a trouble to Israel. This was not a precedent because Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils to Melchisedec, which meant he kept nine tenths for himself. The mandate was because the city was cursed, and so to take of the spoils would be to take the curse and be contaminated, and this is the key: contamination, mixture, adulteration = Babylon.

Joshua then gave a prophecy and cursed the man who would rebuild this city of Jericho.

And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed is the man before the LORD, that rises up and builds this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.

Joshua 6:26

## God's Intervention

Without the help of God in exposing Achan as the man responsible for violating this edict, Israel would have carried on not knowing that they had been deceived into a compromising situation. They would have had to flee from the Canaanites and would never have taken the possession that God had planned for them. How sad it will be if we do not learn our lesson from this incident, and miss our own inheritance that God intended for us, our ministry, or the bride of Christ. (You can read the whole story in the book of Joshua chapter 7.)

Achan not only took the cursed things, but was also deceitful; for he hid them in his tent. I want to look at the reason why Achan disobeyed the order of Joshua. The following verse reveals to us his motive.

When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then **I coveted them**, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

**Joshua 7:21**

This verse shows us that covetousness was the hidden motive for his sin. This was the sin of Balaam who loved the rewards of his ministry. So many men of God fall for this temptation even though we are warned in the bible very clearly against it.

If a follower of Christ is wealthy and does good with his wealth he will be commended by Christ when he

faces him at the judgement seat, but for a man called of God into the ministry it is a different thing entirely. In his letter to the young minister, Timothy, Paul instructed him to be content with food and raiment and the whole context of the passage is that money will corrupt a man of God and so he should flee it. It could not be any clearer and yet we have foolish ministers boasting about their wealth. By Jesus' own definition they must be false prophets for the fruit is wrong. They may have wonderful and powerful gifts and they may preach righteousness, but it is the fruit that makes them a false prophet, and covetousness is bad fruit.

**And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things;**

1 Timothy 6:8-11

What were the things that Achan coveted after, for they are significant?

### **1. A Goodly Babylonian Garment**

This is strange for I would have expected it to be a wonderful Canaanite garment that he came across – they were in Canaan not Babylon – but this garment

caught his eye and he took it for himself. What does this signify? Well, because Babylon represents the counterfeit woman (the false church) I believe this represents false or counterfeit religion.

## Vestments

The Babylonian religion uses ecclesiastical garments to denote status; blue, red and purple all denote rank and position. Can you in your wildest imagination see Paul, or Peter, with these garments preaching the pure gospel to the early church. Vestments came in when the church was paganised by Rome. Whenever Christians don these robes they show they have started to convert to Babylon, however sincere they seem to be. Religious status is the bane of our modern church and it only shows how backslidden it is.

### **2. 200 Shekels of Silver**

What does this silver represent. Well it certainly represents Babylon for it is the second metal in the statue of the time line of this system – the empire of the Medes and Persians. It also represents wealth, as gold and silver were the earliest forms of money and the only ones to survive to this day as currency. In fact only gold and silver are true currency in this world. All else is fiat money. The bankers of the world certainly know this.

Gold and silver are money, everything else is credit.

**Banker, J P Morgan**

It also has a godly significance for some of the vessels in the temple of God were of silver, but of course so were many pagan statues made from silver so it has a dual symbolism as usual. Take note, that in the passage below, it was exactly the same amount, 200 silver shekels, that were to make an idol – Achan had the exact amount to make an idol. Babylon is all about 'image worship' instead of the correct 'creator worship'.

Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took **two hundred shekels of silver**, and gave them to the founder, who made with it a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.

Judges 17:4

In the New Testament, Demetrius the silversmith lost much of his trade when Paul preached at the centre of Diana worship (same goddess as Isis, Columbia, Britannia, etc.).

For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which **made silver shrines for Diana**, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen.

Acts 19:24

It is interesting that Gahazi also converted silver and garments from Naaman after Elisha had healed him of his leprosy.

And he said, All is well. My master has sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount

Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, **a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.**

2 Kings 5:22

## Redemption Money

Another things that silver represents is redemption, for it was the metal that God asked the children of Israel to use to redeem. For example; when God killed all the firstborn of the Egyptians, he told Israel that the firstborn of their children were now God's as that was the price he paid to bring them out of bondage. Instead of the firstborn sons being sacrificed to God he said he would take the tribe of Levi as his inheritance. Israel were told to number both the firstborn sons and the tribe of Levi. Amazingly, there was very little difference between the two numbers, but God is an exact God in all his dealings and 'near enough' is not one of God's ways of working. The actual difference in number was 273 and God asked them to pay 5 silver shekels for each to redeem them and make up the balance.

Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle; and the Levites shall be mine: I am the LORD. **And for those that are to be redeemed** of the 273 of the firstborn of the children of Israel, which are more than the Levites; you shall even take five shekels apiece by the poll, after the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel of the sanctuary was silver), and you shall give the money,

wherewith the odd number of them is to be redeemed,  
unto Aaron and to his sons.

**Numbers 3:45-48**

Jeremiah was asked to redeem a piece of land from his relative and he paid him in silver.

So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even **seventeen shekels of silver**.

**Jeremiah 32:8-9**

Perhaps the most important symbol in this story of Achan is that silver is betrayal money. It is interesting that the bible records that both Joseph and Jesus were betrayed with silver.

Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for **twenty pieces of silver**: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

**Genesis 37:28**

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said [unto them], What will you give

me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for **thirty pieces of silver**.

**Matthew 26:14-15**

I believe that when Achan coveted the silver, he betrayed himself, his family, his tribe, and the whole of Israel. This is how serious it was. Babylon was trying to enter the holy wife of God by this act of one weak and deceived man, and it could well have brought the whole nation of Israel into slavery to the Canaanites; a very serious and grievous sin. He was also, by coveting the silver, bringing in idol worship instead of worship to God. No wonder he had to be destroyed along with his family and all his belongings. You cannot court Babylon and its seductions without serious consequences; not only for yourself, but your family, your Church, and the bride of Christ. We should take this warning very seriously indeed.

### **3. A Wedge of Gold**

Gold is the ultimate symbol of wealth, but it is more than just that. It completely enshrines the whole Babylon spirit, because the head of Babylon is Gold. The love of money is the root of all evil. Gold is the power behind the control of all governments, business, and religion. The fact that the Roman, Babylonian, Catholic Church is the wealthiest of all religions is not by chance. Gold, as a good symbol, speaks of the glory of God and so the counterfeit will be the glory of Satan. Babylon is his glorious church and the whole world will belong

to it soon and they will worship him. Remember that Nebuchadnezzar built a whole statue of gold to be worshipped in the time of Daniel. I can imagine that the statue that antichrist will erect to the Beast in the future will also be of gold.

And deceives them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that **they should make an image to the beast**, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

**Revelation 13:14-15**

To put all I have said into focus, I can sum it up like this. Gold, silver, and Babylonian garments represent **religion over relationship**. It is a simple fact that whenever a person, or church, lose the intimate relationship with God then religion takes over and, as all religions and religious spirits are a part of Babylon, we can see how dastardly this deception is. This is what God said about the situation of Achans sin;

Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, **and dissembled also**, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

**Joshua 7:11**

Dissembled is not a common word but it means 'to deceive or conceal the truth', and that always happens when a person starts to lean toward Babylon. When they are being seduced and deceived, they also start to deceive others and do not reveal the direction they are going in. A good example of this is of a well know Charismatic leader in Sweden called Ulf Ekman. He has one of the biggest churches in the country and a world wide ministry. He has been moving toward the Catholic Church for a while but has kept it concealed. Suddenly, to the shock of his members and most Pentecostals who hold him in high esteem, he stood in his church this year (2014) and told his congregation he was joining the Catholic Church. This must have been happening over a long period, but as he was being seduced he also hid what he was doing from most of the world.

## The Spirit of Balaam

This greed of Achan is the spirit of Balaam that keeps cropping up in the bible. It is 'using the ministry, or calling of God, to gain wealth' and it is about covetousness. Whenever a man or woman use the calling and gifts of God to gain wealth, this spirit of Balaam is working and covetousness is at the root. This wicked sin of covetousness is the key to Achans sin and it is rampant in the body of Christ today. It is being taught as a good thing and that God wants to supply all our covetous desires. These 'Balaams' teach that by faith **we can get what we want**. If that isn't covetousness I don't know what is. This teaching is absolutely contradicting

all that Jesus and the Apostles taught. How far has the Church entered into Babylon, or maybe it would be better phrased as, how far has Babylon penetrated the church of Christ?

Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and **ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward**, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Jude 1:11

Paul says covetousness is idolatry; they always go together.

Mortify therefore, your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness: which is idolatry**.

Colossians 3:5

What do we need to be aware of if we are not to be deceived by this Balaam spirit?

### **1. The Love of Pomp and Ceremony**

Beware of religious trappings in whatever form they may come; even using candles in the church or a special ornate table for communion is the thin end of the wedge.

### **2. Idolatry**

Beware of putting men on a pedestal. The greatest must become the servant of all. Beware when all men

Speak well of you – that's what they did to the false prophets. Even the love of worship can be idolatry and a golden calf. We should love God not the worship of God. This is a subtle deception, for it is easy to 'worship **the worship**', just as we can have 'faith in **our faith**' instead of faith in God. So many Christians tell me how much they love worship, but I can discern by their lifestyle that they do not love God because the test is; 'If you love me, keep my commandments', and so many are in violation of his instructions in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 5-7.

### **3. Covetousness**

**Beware of wealth if you are in the ministry.** Live a simple life. Don't seek position or fame. For Christ to increase we will have to decrease.

## **Here Comes Jezebel**

The spirit of Jezebel is the same spirit, they both use the same methods for seducing God's people – fornication and false prophecy – but from different motives. Balaam is from covetousness and Jezebel is from rebellion. It is interesting that this trespass of Achans had to be completely eradicated because God's people were entering the promised land, and it was vital that this spirit was not allowed to take control. The whole family, and all his cattle, were first stoned, and then burned with fire along with all his goods. They were taken to the valley of Achor to do this and the name 'Achor' means – trouble.

When ever this spirit comes into the church, or a persons life, there is trouble in the camp.

Let's be ruthless when we see this creeping into our lives, or our communities, and be as ruthless as the children of Israel had to be. It is the little foxes that spoil the vine, and we shall see that the vine represents God's people in the next chapter.

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## CHAPTER 3

# JEZEBEL – THE WOMAN WHO STEALS GOD'S VINEYARD

And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of your mother **Jezebel and her witchcrafts** are so many?

**2 Kings 9:22**

Clever and attractive women do not want to vote; they are willing to let men govern as long as they govern men.

**George Bernard Shaw**

I now want to look at the Jezebel seducing spirit that ensnares God's people in Babylon. This is the spirit that

seduces the church, and causes it to lose its inheritance and seeks to hand it over to Satan. She is the witchcraft in the church and always has been. I will use the story of Naboth's vineyard so that we can learn the principles of this seduction. The story is in the second book of Kings.

## The Most Wicked King

Ahab was king of the northern 10 tribes of Israel with its capital in Samaria. He was the most wicked king of Israel up to that time and had married Jezebel, who was the daughter of the king of the Zidonians, and she introduced him to Baal worship. He was already backslidden and Ahab provoked God more than any other king.

Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, **and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.** And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a grove; and **Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.**

1 Kings 16:30-33

In the last chapter we saw that Jericho was a cursed city, and after it was destroyed Joshua said that any man who rebuilt it would also be cursed.

Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that rises up and builds this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his first born, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.

Joshua 6:26

It surely cannot be by chance that it was rebuilt in the time of Ahab and Jezebel (hundreds of years later), thus connecting the two incidents and the 2 spirits that work to deceive God's people – the spirit of Balaam and of Jezebel. The next verse after it records that Ahab was a wicked king says:

In his days (Ahab) did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, **according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.**

1 Kings 16:34

## Still God's Anointed

We must not forget that although this wicked king was backslidden, he was nevertheless God's anointed and before this incident God had used him to win a battle against the Syrians and their king Ben-haddad. This is important to note because many a man of God has been in a backslidden state, and yet had a ministry that brings people to Christ, and has power to heal and bless people. God's gifts and calling are without repentance. Of course

their sins will catch up with them just as Ahab's did, but we must be very discerning in these situations and judge a man by his fruit and not his gifts.

## Naboth's Vineyard

This incident is about a man who had a vineyard close to the palace of Ahab. King Ahab realised that it would make a wonderful herb garden and asked Naboth, the owner, if he would accept a better vineyard in place of it in another location, or he could name his price and the king would buy it. Here is the subtlety; Ahab was not trying to steal it or take this vineyard for a song, he was very generous with his offer. This was the deceit; for there is nothing we can outwardly criticise about Ahab regarding this offer. The only problem for Naboth was that this vineyard was his inheritance from his fathers. Here is key and the deceit of Satan – he is always after our inheritance.

In the Old Testament the vineyard symbolises what God has planted in the land of Israel, The Children of Israel were Gods inheritance.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah,  
judge, I pray you, between me and my vineyard.

**Isaiah 5:3**

Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have  
trodden my portion under foot, they have made my  
pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

**Jeremiah 12:10**

## What About the New Covenant?

What is our inheritance now under the new covenant; It is still the same? Yes, the same principle, but now the vineyard is the church of Christ and Jesus is the vine in the centre of the vineyard. Because the kingdom of God is a spiritual one and not to do with material things, our personal inheritance is now in Christ and his kingdom. It certainly isn't lands, and vineyards, buildings and wealth. The New Testament makes it clear that our inheritance is in the future when Christ returns to rule on this earth. We are coheirs with him. At this present time, Jesus is at the right hand of God waiting to come and claim his inheritance. Peter puts it very clearly in his letter to the church.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that doesn't fade away, **reserved in heaven for you.**

**1 Peter 1:3-4**

Peter says it is reserved in heaven, so it is not for this dispensation we are in. It is for the millennial reign of Christ when we will inherit all things with him.

The temptation was for Naboth to give up his material inheritance. For us in this age it is to be deceived into giving up our spiritual inheritance in Christ – in other words; the coming kingdom. Satan will do anything to

rob us of this inheritance and he is so experienced at using this Jezebel spirit. Even though Naboth was bold, and resisted the Kings advances toward his inheritance, he still lost it because Ahab had another way of obtaining it.

## Did Ahab Initiate the plot?

Everyone blames Jezebel for killing Naboth and stealing the vineyard and they are right, but if we understand the way of a 'man with a maid', we can see that Ahab played a part in this plot, and without his actions Jezebel would not even have known of his desire to obtain this vineyard.

Naboth would not sell or swap his vineyard because it was his family inheritance. Oh, that followers of Christ today would be as diligent with the inheritance of the coming Kingdom instead of the lackadaisical and frivolous way they allow it to be stolen from them by this Jezebel spirit.

And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto you.

**1 Kings 21:3**

Let me show you the cunning of Ahab. When he was refused the vineyard it says he went into the palace and laid on his bed and would not eat – he was sulking. Why would Ahab, or anyone else for that matter, sulk? **It is very simple; to obtain sympathy.** Whenever anyone shows sadness in public it is for this reason. He knew

if he did not eat that his wife would notice and ask him the reason. Men are very good at this method of manipulation with their wives, especially if their wives have a Jezebel spirit, because they know they will get what they want when she takes up their cause. This is exactly what happened. Jezebel noticed and asked the reason for his sadness. When told she said, "Leave it to me. Cheer up darling, don't worry about it and I'll sort it all out for you".

Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: and he laid down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is your spirit so sad, that you eat no bread? He said unto her, Because I spoke unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give you my vineyard. And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Do you now govern the kingdom of Israel? **Arise, and eat bread, and let your heart be merry: I will give you the vineyard** of Naboth the Jezreelite.

From 1 Kings 16:4-7

What did Jezebel do to obtain the vineyard for Ahab? She was very cunning. She did not want to be implicated in the plot at all. She signed letters in Ahab's name and sealed it with his seal. She took no responsibility for the death of Naboth. (You can read the whole story of how the letters, arranged for Naboth to be killed on a trumped

up charge, achieved what she had planned in 1 Kings 16). I will just say that she used a 'fast' to accomplish her wicked deed – how cunning and bizarre is that?

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth.

1 Kings 21:8

## The Head or the Neck?

Here, the mind of this spirit of Jezebel is exposed, for she does not want to be the head, the one in authority, she wants to be the neck. She wants to be the one to control her head. Very subtle. How many weak pastors are in this position. Their wives are running the church, but their husband is the pastor. He does what his wife suggests and often he is not even aware of it, he is so used to having his head turned for him by some one else. No wonder we have so many women in leadership. It is because we have so many weak men. This spirit of Jezebel is rampant in the church today and men are afraid to stand against it.

As soon as Naboth had been murdered (According to the law of Moses of course), Jezebel came to Ahab and said. "Go and take possession of the vineyard. Naboth is dead".

And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite,

which he refused to give you for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.

**1 Kings 21:15**

## The Key

That is what this incident is all about. Jezebel stealing the vineyard and giving it to Ahab, and we must learn from this incident because Jezebel is still stealing the inheritance of the saints and they are not even aware of it. She is seducing thousand of believes in Christ, who have accepted him as their saviour, into Babylon because that is how we lose our inheritance and she is handing them over to Satan. When we are in this system of Babylon we are worshipping him through mediation whether we realise it or not. When she cannot seduce them, she kills them and the blood of all the martyrs are in this system.

And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

**Revelation 17:6**

## Don't Lose Your Inheritance

When we stay in close and intimate relationship with God, and live in the way Jesus taught us in the 'Sermon on the Mount' we are safe. But if we hanker after a worldly inheritance then there is a Jezebel to look at our sadness and give us what we want.

Once we start on the track of covetousness, even in our secret desires, we are in grave danger of losing our inheritance, and we are on a down-hill slope. We are on the broad way that leads to utter ruin, and have been seduced out of the narrow way that leads to life. Ahab did not stop his backsliding and the verse below tells us how far down the road of rebellion he went. Jezebel is a spirit of rebellion and those who are seduced by her fall into rebellion with her.

But there was none like unto Ahab, which sold himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, **whom Jezebel his wife stirred up**. And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

1 Kings 21:25-26

Let me conclude what I have taught from these last two chapters as they are the most deadly seductive processes that we can encounter in our walk with God. They will move us into Babylon, and cause us to lose our inheritance. The spirit of Balaam and Jezebel manifest in God's people in every generation to seduce it into the system of false worship – the religion of Babylon.

## Still Going Strong

40 years after Jesus died these 2 spirits had invaded the Church of Christ, and John in his letters to the 7 churches specifically points them out so that we can see

how quickly they manifest. These 2 spirits have made the church ineffective and weak, and unless they are removed there will be never be a true revival of holiness.

But I have a few things against you, because you have there them that hold **the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Barak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

**Revelation 2:14**

I have a few things against you, because **you suffer that woman Jezebel**, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

**Revelation 2:20**

Notice that they use the same methods

**1. Fornication** - which under the new covenant is 'love of this world'. To love the world with all its toys and tinsel, its status and pride, is to commit spiritual adultery.

You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

**James 4:4**

**2. Eating things offered to idols** – which under the new covenant means 'taking the poisonous spiritual food

that has come through the idolatrous system of Babylon with its idol worship'. Most of the church doctrines came from Rome, for Rome formulated church doctrine under men like Thomas Aquinas, who based his world view on the Greek pagan Aristotle. No wonder the church is ineffective, and unable to produce the holy nation that Peter talks about in his letter to the Church, when the 2 very basic deceptions are not even realised.

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**1 Peter 2:9**

## Balaam and Jezebel

The spirit of Balaam – covetousness – always seems to come in at the beginning of our walk with God or the beginning of a revival of his holiness. Achan manifested this right at the beginning of the conquest of Canaan and it could have thwarted the whole campaign. Ananias and Sapphira also manifested this spirit of Balaam right at the beginning of the early Church and it had to be dealt with just as ruthlessly as with Achan (see Acts 5).

It also seems that the spirit of Jezebel comes in when the vineyard is mature and there is fruit and established ministry and this time it is much more subtle, although the same methods are used. Israel were already established as a nation and had finished the conquest of Canaan when Jezebel came on the scene. I think David

in his mature years was seduced by this spirit when he committed physical adultery (he was under the old covenant), and he went further into deception for he murdered and lied to himself about his deception.

## Let us Stay Pure

I am sure the reader will think of many instances throughout the old and new covenants where these 2 deceiving spirits manifest themselves through God's people. Let us be diligent, for this system is far too clever for us to fight or even detect on our own. The Holy Ghost will guide us but only if our hearts are clean and pure – and the fires of our trials and persecution are the only safeguard that will keep our hearts protected and pure.

In closing this chapter it is interesting to note 2 things. The first is that Naboth lost his early inheritance because he would not fall for the seduction of Ahab. He was murdered, but gained a far greater inheritance, reserved for him in heaven, ready to be revealed at the return of Christ. It is clear from scripture that most Christians will take the 'Mark of the Beast' and will lose their inheritance at the judgement seat of Christ. Those who refuse will be beheaded, but will gain the kingdom and reign with Christ - the battle is always for the kingdom!

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast,

neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

**Revelation 20:4**

The second thing is that Jezebel comes in another form for she is the one that supports the false prophet and kills the true ones. She fed, clothed and protected 850 false prophets that were in Israel, God's people, but that another interesting subject that I will not include in this book.

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## CHAPTER 4

# WHY THE WILDERNESS?

We all want Canaan without going through the wilderness.

**Ravi Zacharias**

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy.

**1 Peter 4:12-13**

For 30 years Jesus lived in obscurity in the backwoods of Galilee. He did no miracles or healing. He did not preach a single sermon. He did not prophesy, or lead worship. He was the village carpenter and if you were sick you would not go to him. If you were needing guidance you would go to a Rabbi. Only if your furniture

was broken or your plough needed renovating would you encounter Jesus. We do not know much about this period of his life between the age of 12 and 30. Why is this? Why is the bible silent about these years? I believe it was because he was learning to be in obedience to his parents and this is not done in public. The bible says that after he had been to Jerusalem at the age of 12 he went back to Nazareth and was subject to his parents.

And Jesus went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

**Luke 2:51**

## Understanding Submission

This is a valuable principle if we can only understand it. Before we are called into the ministry it is important to learn to be subject to those in authority. For those who have not mastered this, it will be a painful road in the ministry, for if you go into the ministry and have not learned to come submissively under those who are over you, it will be hard to obey God.

We learn the principles of the kingdom in our everyday life. The bible says if a man cannot control his wife and children then how will he control spiritual children. In fact this is part of the C.V. for a man who desires to be over God's people.

One that rules well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to

rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

**1 Timothy 3:4-5**

How foolish for a young man to be over the household of faith. The bible says it is not for novices with good reason. That is why those who are in authority are called 'elders', and not 'youngsters'. It is because they are mature and have experiences that a young man cannot have. Wisdom only comes with experience and experience takes time.

## Entering the Ministry

At 30 years of age Jesus was baptised by John, his cousin. My wife Joanna has studied baptism in relationship to circumcision and she believes it is the New Covenant equivalent. I will not put the arguments here, but I do agree with her that baptism for a believer is a death to the old life and a resurrection to the new. It is an outward sign of circumcision of the heart and a cutting off of the flesh – the old Adamic nature. Under Moses, Israel had left Egypt; but under Joshua they would enter the promised land and start their ministry. The time of temptation and testing in the wilderness had finished and Joshua was told to circumcise all those who were born in the wilderness before they crossed the Jordan to start the conquest. God said that the reproach of Egypt had to be rolled away. So it is with us, baptism is a cutting away of the flesh life and the reproach of this world

When they had finished circumcising all the people, they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.

Joshua 5:9

## Before the Ministry!

So, Jesus was baptised as a sign of the cutting away of his flesh before he entered the ministry. He was then led of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. We also need to go through this process before we enter the ministry, for Jesus is our example and we are following in his footsteps. How many disasters have men brought upon themselves and how much scandal and embarrassment have they brought to the body of Christ because they would not wait and go through the testing in the wilderness. How foolish to think we can go straight from the world to ministry, from Egypt to the promised land, without passing through the wilderness. What folly and what an indictment on our bible schools who do not teach these principles and throw young men into the ministry before they are ready. How many good men have ended up in Babylon because they were not taught to wait for the testing in the wilderness.

## The Temptations of Jesus

In the next few chapters I am going to look at the 3 temptations of Jesus before he entered the ministry,

because they will be our test, and in the same order and for the same purpose. The bottom line of all 3 temptations Revelation 17:6 is to see if we will accept the offer of being a part of Babylon, but we will have to wait until the last temptation to see how it will manifest in our lives as it did to Jesus.

## Led of the Spirit

The bible says that Jesus was led of the spirit into the wilderness, so I must first establish which spirit it was that led him. It can only be the Holy Spirit because, according to his own words, Jesus only ever did what his father showed him.

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgement is just; because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which has sent me.

**John 5:30**

To be led or driven, as Luke records it, of Satan would contradict this. It could not have been Jesus' own human spirit for no man in his right mind would look for temptation. A wise man would run from it as soon as he foresaw what was coming.

It is interesting that Jesus was led by the spirit of God to be tempted, or tested, of the devil – not tempted by God. This is important to understand, because God has a reason for this. God wants to know how we will react to the wiles of the devil. However, the devil has his own agenda which is different to God's and in each

of the temptations put to Jesus I want to contrast these 2 agendas of God and Satan.

I must make another point before I discuss them. A man is only tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires. Therefore Jesus was offered what he desired or it would have been no test. If the bible says he was tempted then we can accept this to be the case and we do not have to try and mitigate it in any way. It is not a sin to be tempted, for the temptation is only a suggestion in our conscious mind. The sin is when we allow it to enter our sub conscious thinking, our heart, and we begin to dwell on it and secretly work out how to obtain the illegal desire and it conceives into sin.

## What is Success?

I can only say that if Jesus, being sinless and determined to do his father's will, was tempted with these 3 suggestions of the devil then these must be the ultimate and most devious temptations that can be brought to man and must embody all others. Therefore, we must be diligent in understanding the principles and motives of God, and Satan, in this vital time of Jesus' testing in the wilderness prior to his wonderful and successful ministry. (Success in ministry is to do the perfect will of God; it is not to do with events or situations)

Order is very important and we must take note, as we look at the temptations, how Satan places these tests in the order and manner in which he presented them. I am looking at the temptations as recorded in the gospel of Matthew (I am stating this because in Luke's gospel the

order of the temptations is different). The devil came to Jesus after his 40 day fast.

When Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterwards hungry And when the tempter came to him...

**Matthew 4:2-3**

Why didn't he tempt Jesus with there 3 temptations during the fast when he was weak? It was because the Devil is cunning and knew exactly the best time to strike. During the fast Jesus was focused because he wanted to please his father. So it is in any battle. Whilst the bullets are flying and the enemy could strike at any moment we are vigilant and alert. The danger is just after a victory. Standard war tactics use this fact and sometimes an army will feign defeat and withdraw troops so the enemy will be off his guard and rush ahead sensing victory. Then when the enemy have stretched their lines of communication and are off guard, the withdrawing army will stand and those hidden ready for ambush will strike, Satan knew that after Jesus has pleased his father and it was time to eat again he was at his most vulnerable. Let us learn from this and be very careful after we have had a great blessing or victory. Pride and carelessness, often precede a mistake or calamity.

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## CHAPTER 5

# MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE

How good is good if God forbade the knowledge of it?

**Arthur Burt**

There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

My sheep hear my voice and I know them , and they follow me

**Jesus Christ**

This first temptation of Jesus covers just 1 short verse from the bible, but what hidden venom lurks behind it?

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If you are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread?

**Matthew 4:3**

Jesus' answer was also just 1 short verse, but what revelation and insight are in his few words.

...it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

**Matthew 4:3**

First, we must see what is behind the devils words. He asked a simple question. If you are the son of God? Why would he say this? Was he saying this to cast doubt, in Jesus mind, that maybe he was not God's son? I doubt it, for I have never once doubted that I was a child of God since I was 6 years of age, so I am sure that Jesus had never doubted it. I believe the insinuation was because **Satan wanted to know** if he was the son of God, that is – the promised Messiah. Let me put my arguments forward before you dismiss this.

## He Knows Nothing

For my first point I must ask the reader a question. Does Satan know everything? The answer obviously has to be. Of course not; for even Jesus said there were things he did not know; such as when he would return to earth (as it was in his father's hand). Can I make a seemingly outrageous statement and say that Satan does not know anything? He is a liar from his creation and a

liar does not know the truth. Compulsive liars deceive themselves and believe their own lies and yet think they 'know'. Satan is a 'Walter Mitty' character, and believes his own lies. That is why he often gets things wrong and it backfires on him. When Satan used the Pharisees to cause Jesus to be put to death he didn't realise he was part of God's plan to take away the sin of the world.

We speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: but we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: **for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

1 Corinthians 2:4-6

## Herod was Deceived

I am convinced that when Herod killed all the babies in Judea he was doing it because Satan had put it in his heart and he thought that the potential King of the Jews and Messiah, that the wise men had informed him of, had been killed in this genocide. If he had known that Jesus has been smuggled into Egypt because of information his father received from an angel, then Herod would have had all the babies under 2 years of age killed in the land of Egypt (he did it the time of Moses using Pharaoh). He obviously did not know this fact.

Maybe now, you can realise why God chose a woman like Mary who could 'keep all these things in her heart'.

Satan does not have access to our hearts, and that is why he tries to make us into gossips. He is looking for information all the time and often we are too proud and blind to realise it and we share all God has secretly told us. Commit the following verse to memory – it will keep you safe.

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

**Proverbs 4:23**

I am sure what must have alerted the ears of Satan was when John, after baptising Jesus, made the following statement.

The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.

**John 1:29**

## Was Satan Surprised?

It must have shocked Satan to hear those words, if he thought he had done away with the threat. The passage states that immediately after his baptism Jesus was led into the wilderness for his time of testing.

Maybe another reason Jesus did not manifest his true identity until after he had been baptised was that if he had have done Satan would have tried to destroy him before he ever entered his ministry. He was just so ordinary that even his family did not detect he was the

saviour of the world. In fact when he started his ministry his own brothers did not believe in him.

Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart, and go into Judaea, that your disciples also may see the works that you do. For there is no man that does any thing in secret, and he himself seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world. For **neither did his brothers believe in him.**

John 7:2-5

Now, after hearing the statement from John the Baptist, Satan wanted to test this man and see if he really was the Messiah; hence the question and suggestion that he turn the stones into bread.

## Not Sinful

Satan did not ask Jesus to do anything sinful. There is nothing wrong with turning stones into bread, in fact Jesus turned water into wine as his first miracle. After fasting 40 days it would be reasonable, as he was still in the desert, to do this miracle and break his fast. So what was the temptation? It was very subtle for it had nothing to do with turning stones into bread.

Here is the subtlety of the Devil. If you are pursuing holiness and only want God's will, you will not be tempted to do something sinful, because it is not what you want and, therefore, will not tempt you. Remember, you are tempted in what you desire. I am sure what Satan

suggested to Jesus was desirable because he was tempted. He had finished his fast and was ready to eat again.

What was the temptation or test then? The answer is in Jesus' short statement (a quote from the Old Testament).

And he humbled you, and suffered you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you knew not, neither did your fathers know; that he might make you know that **man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD** doth man live.

Deuteronomy 8:3

This was a test to see if Jesus could differentiate between the voice of God or the voice of Satan – **if they both said the same thing**. Jesus answered, 'I only do the things that proceed from the mouth of God'. This 'good suggestion' came out of the mouth of Satan – it is as simple and profound as that. If God had asked him to turn the stones into bread it would have pleased his father and he would have been obedient.

## What about us?

Let me ask you, the reader, if you can differentiate between the two voices. If you had a thought to do a good deed, would you automatically think it was God – most Christians would for sure. They think the good thoughts come from God and the bad thoughts come from the devil, so they are ready to be deceived when

the devil tells them to do something good that is not God's will. To do God's work when it is not God's will is actually a work of iniquity. Jesus confirmed this and it is frightening in its implications.

Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that does the will of my Father** which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And in your name have cast out devils? And in your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, **you that work iniquity.**

**Matt 7:21-23**

These man had done the good works of God, but they had not done his will. Contrast the above verse with 1 Corinthians 11:1-3 and you have the same warning.

This is always the devil's fist line of temptation just before you go into the ministry and God allows it. He will suggest you do something that God has not told you to do, but **...it will be a good thing.**

## Different Agendas

So, what are the different agendas of God and Satan in this first temptation?

**The devil wanted to know** ...if Jesus was the promised Messiah who would fulfil the prophecies and restore Israel.

For us, the devil will use this test to see if we are really called of God. If the church has called us, or a we had decided to become a 'Christian' out of our own desire, we will fall for this first temptation and the devil will know that he can deceive us anytime he wants and does not need to tempt us further. We are already on our way to Babylon and on the broad road.

**God wanted to know** ...if Jesus could obey only his voice and not the voice of the devil – even when it was a 'good thought'.

**For us** God wants to test us to know if we can recognise his voice from the devil's before we enter the ministry he has planned for us.

The answer that Jesus gave is the one that we need to give when we are tempted to do something that God has not told us to do – I only obey God's voice. Remember that the ultimate aim of Satan is always to seduce us into Babylon so that we will end up worshipping him and so miss out on God's plan for us as we shall see as we continue to look at these 3 universal temptations.

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## CHAPTER 6

# FULFIL YOUR DIVINE DESTINY

It is written again, you shall not tempt the Lord your God

**Matthew 4:7**

And are you seeking great things for yourself? Seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, says the LORD:

**Jeremiah 45:5**

I felt I was walking with destiny, and that all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and trial.

**Sir Winston Churchill**

This second temptation of Jesus is a progression from the first and is the second tactic of the devil to seduce

us into Babylon. As with the first one it does not cover a long dialogue, just one verse.

The devil said unto him, If you are the Son of God, cast yourself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning you: and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest at any time you dash your foot against a stone?

**Matthew 4:6**

The insinuation, 'if you are the son of God' is the same as in the first temptation and I believe that the devil was still testing the anointing of Jesus as the Messiah who was prophesied hundreds of years before.

## Did it Really Happen?

In the preceding verse it says the devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple in God's holy city, Jerusalem.

Then the devil took him up into the holy city, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple,

**Matthew 4:5**

Did he really take him to the temple and, if so, why take him out of the wilderness for this temptation? I first thought the devil must have given Jesus a vision rather than physically taking him, but the devil told Jesus to cast himself down off the pinnacle. You can't jump out of a vision and be dashed to pieces on the ground; although of course you could imagine it, but it is not the same as being in the actual situation. Whatever you, the reader,

think it was surely real in the spirit and mind of Jesus; for he was tempted to do it, in reality.

It is not by chance that the devil chose the temple. He was slowly moving to his final temptation if this one failed. The temple in Jerusalem is where Jesus will one day rule the world when he returns. It was the place of authority for God's people and will be for the rest of the world in the millennial reign of Christ. Of course, it will also be the seat of the Man of Sin as Paul clearly stated.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; **so that he as God sits in the temple of God**, showing himself that he is God.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

## It is Written

Jesus quoted a verse from Deuteronomy to the devil's first temptation, and now the devil quotes a verse to Jesus with the same words 'it is written'. Here is a wonderful example of how so many Christians are deceived – they believe the word of God, whoever speaks it. Let me explain this because it is vital to our understanding of how the devil tries to deceive us. When God speaks then it is his word, but when the Devil speaks God's word it becomes the Devil's word. **Truth is not a statement of fact it is who speaks it.** When God speaks it is always the truth and when the Devil speaks, even when

he quotes what God has said, it is a lie because it is said with the motive to deceive. Paul understood this when he told the Roman Christians that some vain reprobate Christians had turned the truth of God into a lie.

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

**Romans 1:25**

So many Christians, when they hear someone quote from the bible, even when it is taken out of the context and used to say something completely different than the context, will accept it without question. This is surely dangerous and naïve. The devil has been studying the bible for thousands of years and he knows all the prophecies and promises that are contained in it, and he will use them to deceive us if we can not distinguish the voice of God from the seductive voice of Satan.

## The Same Progression

The progression the devil used for Jesus will be the same for us in our wilderness experience. First the devil will suggest something that is not sinful for us to accept as the voice of God, and if that does not deceive us he will quote what God has said as though God is saying it to us at that moment. It is more subtle and seductive than the first temptation.

What is this second temptation all about? What is the hidden agenda of the devil in asking Jesus to cast himself

down from the temple and for the angels to protect him and let him gently down to earth? Again the answer from Jesus will be the key, for he addressed the root of the temptation as we must surely do if we are not to be deceived. His answer was again short, and he quotes from the word of God.

**It is written again, you shall not tempt the Lord your God**

**Matthew 4:7**

## **The Act is Not the Key**

So the act that Jesus was asked to do was not the key, it was the fact that if he did it he would be tempting God. Let us look more closely at this act that Jesus was asked to perform. The verse the devil used is taken from one of David's psalms and is not taken out of context for David is talking about Jesus. I am convinced that all the psalms of David are prophetic and this one is not an exception.

**For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

**Psalms 91:11-12**

Here is another lesson for us to take note of; the devil here is not using the word of God out of context for he does not need to. It is much more deceptive if it is actually a word that applied to Jesus himself and not a general word for everyone. I would think that all Christians who have been baptised in the Holy Ghost

would have had a specific word prophesied over them at some time in their lives, and I am meaning a true word, and not from someone's imagination, so we should be able to understand this temptation that Jesus was confronted with.

## Before the Time

Jesus was asked to fulfil his divine destiny before the time. To do what God has told you to do before he tells you when to do it is putting God to the test. In other words he has to fulfil what he has promised before he intended.

Let us ask ourselves this question. What would have happened to Jesus if he had obeyed the Devil and jumped off the pinnacle of the temple? Would the angels have taken him down gently to the ground so that he would not have been injured, or would they have had to scrape his body from the ground because it had been smashed to pieces? Maybe you would have to think about that, but I have already considered it and am convinced that the angels would have performed what the prophecy said and taken him gently down. However, Jesus would have put God to the test, because he would have done it at his own initiation – or rather at the suggestion of the devil. How many times have we done things that came into our minds, good things that would fulfil what we are destined for, and yet it was not inspired by God. This is to fall for the second temptation.

I want to bring some scriptures to show that it is God who tests us and not we who put God to the test. The

difference between faith and presumption is that faith is obedience to God's word and presumption is acting in faith without the instruction of God to act. God may answer our presumption, because we use faith, but we have moved out of God's will and it is sin.

## Abraham

God called Abram, and his obedience proved his faith and was counted for righteousness. Abraham came through many tests until he was ready to fulfil the final and most important one. I believe Abraham was being trained all through his life, from leaving Babylon to the time God woke him up and told him to kill his only son and child of promise, for this one ultimate test. The bible records that God tempted, or tested, Abraham when he asked him to sacrifice his only beloved son.

And it came to pass after these things, that **God tempted Abraham**, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

**Genesis 22:12**

The way many preachers portray things I can imagine that they would see it differently. The preaching would go something like this. Abraham the great and mighty man of faith wanted to show God how much he loved him and how his faith was strong so he decided to sacrifice his son to God and would believe by faith that God would raise him from the dead. (It does say that Abraham, because of the promise of his seed filling the earth,

believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead.) That would be presumption and not faith, because he would be acting in faith when he had no instruction to do so.

Abraham had no idea at all of God's plan and destiny for his life in this respect and it must have been a very real surprise when God asked him to kill the child of promise; the one who would fulfil his destiny.

Abraham's obedience to the word of God was his key to pleasing God. Let us learn from this father of faith.

## Joseph

It was God who tested Joseph. Joseph never tempted God or 'put him to the test'. He had a wonderful promise from God by his dreams that one day his whole family would bow down and worship him. There is never any mention that he tried to bring this destiny about by faith. He was meek and did not resist all the happenings that came upon him that were opposite to the dream, and we are talking about big things. He was sold into slavery, by the very brothers who were prophesied would bow down to him, and was imprisoned for the alledged attempted rape of his boss's wife. Heavy stuff indeed.

The verse below indicates that he waited patiently for God to bring the destiny about and the word of God (his destiny) was tested and tried severely. What an example for us in these days of false teachers who tell **us** to fulfil **our own destiny**. Shame on them!

He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was

laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: **the word of the LORD tried him.**

**Psalm 105:17-19**

## Moses and Israel

The children of Israel tempted God many times and although he answered their requests, he was not pleased with them. Here is an incidence just after they had been delivered from Egypt.

And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, How is it that you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? Wherefore, the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide with me? **Why do you tempt the LORD?**

**Exodus 17:2**

David in his Psalms, when giving the history of Israel's rebellion and backsliding, says this;

How often did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yes, they turned back **and tempted God**, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

**Psalm 78:40-41**

Notice it says they limited God. How can you do this, for surely God is not limited? It means that, God could not do what he had planned to do for Israel because of

their murmuring and rebellion, and because they put God to the test – they tempted God.

There is an interesting verse in Galatians showing that Paul understood this principle – that it is God who tempts us, but so often we tempt God with our presumption.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which **I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 2:20**

Versions of the bible other than the 'King James' say '..faith **in** the son of God', not the faith **of** the son of God. There is vast difference and both cannot be true. Most versions say that it is Paul's faith in God that he lives by, but the King James translation says it is Christ's faith deposited in Paul; which is very different. A dead man cannot have faith so Paul now lives by the faith of the son of God and not his own faith. In other words he exercises what God instructs him to do like Abraham did, not his own desires and faith to fulfil his own destiny as Israel did in the wilderness.

## I Will not Tempt God

Jesus came through this temptation because he would not tempt his father in heaven, but what were the different agendas of God and the devil in this second test?

**God wanted to know ...if** Jesus would use the gifts and power of God for his own desires or wait and only do what the father showed him. Thank God we have the word of scripture to show this to be true.

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what things the father does the Son does likewise.

**John 5:19**

It will be the same for us. God will test us to see if the gifts he has given us will be used for his glory or ours – it is that simple.

**The devil wanted to know ...if** Jesus would use the power of God for his own benefit – to prove he was God's son and show the world his power.

For us the devil will test us to see if we will use God's gifts and power to seduce his people into the false religions of Babylon. How many good men have fallen for this temptation. When God has graciously given them gifts and power, they use it to demonstrate their status in God and use this power to gain wealth, fame, and the glory that only belongs to God, to show they are men of power and influence. Christendom is full of these men. How sad that millions of Christians actually admire and look up to these false prophets. How much we need discernment in these last of the last days. I have never seen so many conferences and seminars aimed at showing us how to fulfil our divine destiny, or

how to discover our destiny. This is promoting gullible Christians to fall for the 2nd temptation and for them to try and use God to bring about the desires of their own covetous hearts.

Jesus' answer was short and to the point. 'I do not tempt God'. Let this be our answer when we have thoughts of proving ourselves by using the gifts God has given us. They are to minister to others and not elevate and vindicate ourselves or our ministry.

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## CHAPTER 7

# ONLY ONE ANSWER

Then Jesus said to him, Go away, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.

**Matthew 4:10**

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

**Matthew 6:24**

Jesus came through the first 2 temptations with flying colours. The devil had not been able to seduce him into Babylon. In each of the temptations he had said to Jesus, 'If you are the son of God'. I believe the devil now knew that he was the Messiah and he changed his tactics completely. When Satan realised that Jesus

was the Anointed of God he came with a different approach. There was still an 'if' in his temptation, but in a completely different way.

As soon as the devil knows that we will not be seduced by the first two tests he has a trump card up his sleeve ready to use. It is his last chance; for if we do not fall for his third temptation there are no other options for him to use. He can only repeat this last temptation throughout our life as a disciple on the narrow way. I will show that he used this last temptation at least two other times on Jesus, later in his ministry.

## The Final Assault

This temptation was very different from the previous two, but again it was very brief – just 15 words, and the devil did not quote any scripture this time. It was just a simple statement.

**All these things I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.**

**Matthew 4:9**

What things was the Devil offering Jesus? The verse preceding will tell us. It was a very enticing and powerful temptation for Jesus.

**Again, the devil took him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them.**

**Matthew 4:8**

I first have to pose a question and ask if the devil was bluffing? Is it possible that he had the legal right to make this deal? Was it in his power to make Jesus this amazing offer? The answer is a very definite, 'yes'. He could make this offer because he is the god of this world and, as he claimed in another gospel, he could give it to whoever he wanted.

And the devil said unto Jesus, All this power will I give you, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; **and to whoever I will I give it to them.** If you therefore worship me, all shall be yours.

Luke 4:6-7

If it was not in the devil's power to give this world and its power and glory to Jesus, I am sure Jesus would have laughed at him knowing it was no temptation. Remember that you cannot be tempted by things you do not desire and you do not desire things that are already yours. This was the last and greatest temptation that Jesus faced in the wilderness, because it was what he greatly desired.

## What's Ahead?

Paul said that Jesus endured the cross for the joy of things that were ahead of it.

...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

What were the things in Jesus future that he desired to go through the cross for? It was his inheritance. The Psalms tell us that he would one day rule this earth and reign over all its inhabitants. He would be the rightful heir if he was an obedient son and allow himself to become the lamb of God sacrificed for the world. He would receive all the glory, praise, and honour that this world can give. He would rule this planet for 1,000 years whilst his father was taking his Sabbatical rest. He would inherit the names reserved for him of Wonderful, Councillor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace – but only if he was sacrificed on the cross to take away the sin of the world (see Isaiah 9:6)

## **An Offer You Can't Refuse**

The difference in this temptation is that the devil tried to make a deal with Jesus, and a very lucrative one at that; fame, fortune, power, wealth, in fact all that his soul could desire. An offer that was very difficult to refuse. He was offering him the job of antichrist, King of Babylon, and it must have been appealing or it would have been no temptation! All he had to do was to worship the devil and all the world could be his. It was just waiting for him to claim if he accepted the deal. I can imagine the thoughts of the devil in the mind of Jesus.

"Think about it carefully Jesus, the people of this world have always worshipped me. I seduced the first woman who was pure and perfect. I seduced Israel, God's wife, so many times that God divorced her. Whenever God restored them through another prophet, it was not

long before they came my way again. They are not worth dying for. I know you will inherit it all after you die for them but you can have the kingdom now without any pain or suffering and without dying for those rebellious people who do not deserve it. Think of yourself for once and for what you really want. You can have it all now with one little act" ....and so on.

It was a simple deal – have the kingdom now without the cross.

## Have you Fallen for This Temptation?

What a temptation! So many great men of God who have resisted the first 2 temptations have fallen for his one. To look at it another way, anyone who has obtained the glory, status, and wealth of this world in this dispensation as a man of God has fallen for this temptation and has worshipped Satan. It is as simple as that, for the epistles and writings of Jesus make it clear that for a disciple to 'deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me', should be the norm and not the exception.

You may protest that these famous, and wealthy men of God still preach the gospel and still worship God, and I would have to agree with you, but it does not change the facts. Most people who read this passage of scripture about the temptations of Jesus fail to note that the Devil did not ask Jesus to stop worshipping God and start worshipping him. The devil is happy with dual worship. You can have all your idols and false Gods, and

still worship the real one. Israel did it all the time and the devil was happy, knowing that God would not accept the dual worship. He made it clear to Israel that they could only have one God as soon as they had been delivered from Egypt.

**You shall have no other gods before me.**

**Exodus 20:3**

The devil loves dual worship as it is more blasphemous than just worshipping him.

James calls it spiritual adultery:

**You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

**James 4:4**

Physical adultery warranted the death sentence under Moses law and it is the same in the spiritual realm. Spiritual adultery is death to the spiritual man. It is very serious; God would rather have us hot or cold than have a mixture, and dual worship is the ultimate abomination and mixture.

I can understand many readers of this book thinking that the men of God who are famous and rich are not worshipping the devil, but that would be rather naïve. To love the things of this world is to commit spiritual adultery, as I have shown, and the other lover than God

is the god of this world – Satan – which makes you the enemy of God.

## Jesus Used the Word

As with the first two temptations, the answer of Jesus addressed the real issue, and we can see from his answer that it was about worshipping the devil. He used scripture again as he did in the first two responses.

Then Jesus said to him, Go away, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and **him only shall you serve.**

**Matthew 4:10**

It is interesting that the bible versions which give the 3 temptations, Matthew and Luke, both use the word 'devil' for the three time he spoke to Jesus. I have shared in another book that the devil is the tempter, or serpent, that deceives, but the word Satan means accuser or adversary, so when Jesus spoke in this last temptation he addressed the devil as Satan. In my bible it never uses a capital letter for devil, but always does for Satan and it is not without reason. Satan is his name, and the devil is how he comes to tempt and seduce.

## Only one Answer

When Jesus realised that this was a temptation to stop the cross he became angry. He did not reason with Satan, he rebuked him and turned his back on him. If you say

'Get behind me', it is the same as turning your back on someone.

There is only one answer to give when we are tempted by this devious ploy and offer. To use a vernacular phrase we would say, 'Get lost' or 'Clear off'. We have to be ruthless with this temptation because it appeals to our very basic desires of self satisfaction. My advice is to keep away from listening to sermons of how we can be successful or rich through God; for they are very seductive and convincing. If you do not, then the cross in your life will grow dim and you will lose your kingdom inheritance when Jesus comes. You cannot have treasures on earth and in heaven at the same time – be warned and go through the Sermon on the Mount again to see what discipleship really is.

## He Never Gives Up

I will show how the devil did not leave Jesus alone after failing to seduce him with this temptation, for he tried at every opportunity to repeat this wiles in as many ways as he could – he only left Jesus for a season!

And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him **for a season**.

**Luke 4:13**

In Matthew 16, Jesus began to reveal the reason he had come to earth, for it was not only to heal the sick and show the world his father's character, it was to suffer, die, and rise again on the third day.

From that time forth began Jesus to show to his disciples, how that he must go into Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

**Matthew 16:21**

## A Great Shock for the Disciples

This was the first time the disciples had heard of this suffering and death and it shocked them. Peter, as ever the first one to react, rebuked Jesus for his negative thought.

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from you, Lord: this shall not be unto you.

**Matthew 16:22**

Jesus knew that this was the devil speaking through Peter and he used exactly the same words as he did in the wilderness, showing it was another attempt to seduce him into Babylon with this same temptation; to forget the cross and receive his inheritance immediately.

But he turned, and said unto Peter, You get behind me, Satan: you are an offence unto me: for you don't savour the things that are of God, but those that are of men.

**Matthew 16:23**

It is interesting to note what Jesus then said to his disciples who were confronted with a suffering saviour rather than a successful and victorious one.

Then said Jesus **to his disciples**, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

**Matthew 16:24-26**

Most preachers use this passage about gaining the world and losing their soul as a gospel message to unbelievers, but this is a miscarriage of what Jesus was saying and uses the word of God deceitfully, for it is clearly addressed to his disciples who were already believers and following their master. Be careful to always read the context when you hear a man preach or you will be misled and believe something entirely different than you are supposed to believe. Whenever a man preaches the prosperity, success, and status gospel you are hearing the devil offer you the 'kingdom now' without the cross in your life and it will put you straight into the Babylon system as soon as you take the bait. As Jesus said, 'If you keep **your self-life**, you will certainly lose **his life**'

## Satan's Last Chance

I believe Satan made one last attempt at the very end of Jesus' life just minutes before he gave up the ghost. Satan never gives up on this temptation and however old, or mature you become in your discipleship life, you will never be free from this heinous ploy of Satan.

As Jesus was in agony, and dying on the cross, the devil spoke through everyone who was there – apart from his disciples. He was desperate and used all that could be used; the crowds (who didn't really know what was going on), the Pharisees, Scribes and Elders, and lastly the very thieves who were being crucified with him. The devil, speaking through them all, offered Jesus the same deal – 'save yourself' and forget the cross.

## You Can be Antichrist!

Jesus could have become antichrist even on the cross – as this scripture proves.

And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, saying, You that destroyed the temple, and built it in three days, **save yourself. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.** Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, **He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he is the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross,** and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. **The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.**

**Matthew 27:39-44**

Thank God he did not submit, but allowed death to take him into the kingdom he was destined for. He will return as King of Israel with all the power and glory, and will inherit all things because he refused to become

antichrist, King of Babylon, while he was on this earth – what a wonderful saviour we have. Let us follow in his footsteps for the battle is always about the cross in our lives, and the greatest temptations will be about this once we decide to be a disciple and not just a follower. We are coheirs with him, if we will only die to self, and will inherit all things with him.

As with the other temptations we need to see the agendas of God and Satan. I believe in this last temptation they were both the same

**God and Satan both wanted to know** ...who Jesus would serve when offered a straight choice of the kingdom now, or the kingdom later through the cross.

May I remind you that the whole of this series has been about worship (for that is what Satan wants) and his system of counterfeit worship. Babylon, is to procure that worship by deceit or force. Satan does not want all mankind to become atheist; he wants them all to have faith in him and worship him, for he is the counterfeit of the true God.

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## CHAPTER 8

# FROM BABYLON TO JERUSALEM

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yes, we wept,  
when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon  
the willows in the midst. For there they that carried us  
away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted  
us required of us mirth

**Psalm 137:1-6**

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down  
from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned  
for her husband.

**Revelation 21:2**

I have shown in my writings that Egypt is a type of  
the world and that we have to be redeemed out of it

for our salvation. I have also shown in this series that Babylon is the place where God puts his own people, either spiritually or physically, when they do not want the real God. It is the place of mixture. Babylon is a cup of abomination, filth, and confusion. God likens it to a pure woman who commits adultery, all kinds of perversion, and becomes polluted and defiled.

## Whose Woman?

A woman in the bible represents God's or Satan's, church; the bride, or the polluted whore. The bride of Christ is a city – New Jerusalem, just as Satan's whore is a city – Babylon. God's people who backslide always end up in Babylon and sadly that is the state of much of the modern Church. Once a Church loses its family life, and substitutes it with politics, financial systems, business practices, and becomes an organisation instead of a living organism, it has prostituted itself and becomes the whore. Throughout history, after every revival of God that brought his people back to purity, God's people have gravitated to this unholy state.

Many Christians throughout the years have seen the system for what it is and come out of it. The problem is that many do not know what to do when they come out of this system and, therefore, end up trying to expose it or fighting to destroy it. This is never what God intended and there is no scriptural support for this stance. Of course, at times we need to expose the false, but we can easily become bigoted, or even bitter if we have had painful experiences in this system. This is the

negative side, but what is the positive side, and what are we now to do when we leave this system? Can we find biblical principles to help us with this question? Yes, the bible has all the answer to all our needs and questions on any subject. The fact that we cannot find the answer in the bible in no way suggests to me that the answer is not there. We just need revelation to discover the keys.

## Coming Out to Go In

God came down to earth to deliver Israel en-mass from the iron furnace of Egypt.

Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying...

**Jeremiah 11:4**

The LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey...

**Exodus 3:7-8**

Why did God deliver Israel? What was his purpose; for God never takes you out to leave you out? He takes you out to put you in. He took them out of Egypt to place them and establish them in the promised land.

Canaan was to be their final destiny and still is to this day. (The 'Canaan' of the church is when they reign with Christ over all the earth.) When Jesus returns, Israel will end up possessing the land God promised to them thousands of years ago, and Jesus will be their king for a thousand years.

It is important to know the end of a matter so that you can understand the process that gets you there. The children of Israel had to go through the wilderness for that was the mediation between Egypt and the Promised land – and that was the problem. The whole nation, excluding 2 men, could not get into their inheritance in Canaan because they could not endure the hardships of the wilderness and learn their lessons. It is the same for Christians today; the principle doesn't change and our time of testing in the wilderness (this present life) is only the mediation to get us into our 'Canaan', the land of milk and honey, the millennial reign of Christ, and our wonderful inheritance.

## From Babylon to... ?

We are told to come out of Babylon, but if the principle and examples just stated is true then where do we go into when we leave Babylon? Allow me share some differences between the two situations under the old and new covenants. God's people came out of Egypt en-mass, with signs and wonders and marvellous victory over their enemies, but when they came out of Babylon it was an individual decision and there were no signs, wonders, or marvellous victories.

Under the New Covenant, God took us out of Egypt when he saved us and we became followers, but we have to make our own decision in the cold light of day with no supernatural help if we want to be disciples and come out of Babylon.

## A Selective Exodus

Let's look to scripture for confirmation on this; to the time Israel came out of Babylon under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. This was a selective exodus. Cyrus, king of Persia, invited those **who were willing to leave Babylon**.

The LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, The LORD God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he has charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. **Who is there among you of all his people?** His God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (he is the God), which is in Jerusalem.

From Ezra 1:1-3

All those who made the decision to leave Babylon and rebuild Jerusalem were named and the total came to 42,360; it even numbered the servants and singers.

The whole congregation together was forty and two thousand three hundred and threescore, beside their

servants and their maids, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty and seven: and there were among them two hundred singing men and singing women.

Ezra 1:64-65

## Not before the Time!

You cannot come out of Babylon unless there is a 'Cyrus decree' and only God can initiate it. In fact, if God does not take the scales from a person's eyes they will not even believe they are in Babylon; even if they are shown the facts. Babylon is for punishment and until the time has been fulfilled there is no way out.

In 1948 Israel tried to go back to the promised land before God told them, and before Jesus (their Joshua and commander) had returned to lead them into it. Their return, far from bringing the promised peace, has caused untold bloodshed and they still have not obtained the peace that they were promised when they were restored. It was a false 'Exodus', and in the flesh.

Timing is so important with God and it was not by chance that Cyrus made his declaration after exactly the end of 70 years of Israel's exile, for it was prophesied that this punishment had to be fulfilled.

The LORD says, that **after seventy years** are accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

Jeremiah 29:10

Daniel realised that the time was at hand and he fasted and prayed, and his intercession brought about this release for those of God's people who had ears to hear and hearts to obey.

In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish **seventy years** in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

**Daniel 9:2-3**

We are told to come out of this system especially in the last days because God will destroy it. The warning is clear in the book of Revelation, but we need to have ears to hear and hearts to perceive.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that you are not partakers of her sins, and that you don't receive her plagues.

**Revelation 18:4**

The reason this warning comes in the book of Revelation is because God is ready to judge this whore just prior to the return of Jesus to earth, and God does not want any of those he has called to come under his judgement. What happens after this judgement is vital to our study and the key to another reason we have to leave before Babylon is judged. When Babylon is destroyed a great multitude make this statement; "Let us rejoice for

the marriage of the lamb is come and his wife has made herself ready".

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thundering, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and **his wife has made herself ready.**

**Revelation 19:6-7**

This is the reason we must leave Babylon at this time in world history; it is to go back and build the walls of Jerusalem, just as in Ezra's time. We are now under the New Covenant and so we do not go to the Middle East to build the physical walls in Jerusalem, but we are called to build the spiritual Jerusalem, the bride of Christ. These are the walls that have been broken down and are in urgent need of repair. The bride (New Jerusalem) must make herself ready. It is imperative that we see the future and stop living for the present – as the world and most of the Church do.

## A Spiritual House

The real buildings we should be planning and working for are the spiritual ones and not those made with bricks and mortar, soft furnishings, and electronic paraphernalia. The present bride is ragged, naked, and needs to be clothed with humility and chastity, and true faith, but only those who are not in the system of religion

can do this. **You cannot build Jerusalem whilst you are still in Babylon.**

## Father of Faith

Faith always sees the future, not the present time. True faith will see past our ministry, our achievement and our goals, and see the end of the plan – the bride. This is what the father of faith saw all those thousands of years ago. Abraham was not looking for the promised land and city of God on earth, he was looking through the eyes of faith, to a city whose builder and maker was God. Abraham, by faith, actually saw past all the prophets and even Jesus. He had his eyes fixed firmly on the bride, the New Jerusalem that will come down from heaven as a bride adorned for her husband.

What faith Abraham had, and what little faith we have if all we can see is our next miracle or deliverance. It is time to look up and see what really is important in these last days.

For Abraham looked for a city which had foundations,  
whose builder and maker is God.

**Hebrews 11:10**

Paul saw this future and told the Corinthians;

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your

minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

**2 Corinthians 11:2-3**

Read carefully how these men and women, who are examples of faith, thought as revealed in the classic chapter of faith, Hebrews 11. They did not receive the promise that they looked for, even though they were examples of faith. Their ultimate miracle of faith was to be part of that heavenly city.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: **for he has prepared for them a city.**

**Hebrews 11:13-16**

## Satan is After the Bride

We need to be aware that in Revelation 12, the dragon was after the seed of the woman, and not the woman herself. He is not interested in the woman, because she is already his. He has seduced the woman, but the child that comes from her is pure – it is the bride and that is

what he is after in these last days. The Church is already his, but he can never get the bride, for she will be caught up to heaven as soon as she is born. Make sure you are in that number that is caught up.

I have now establish that when we leave Babylon we are to return to Jerusalem, but as with Israel of old it was not a stepping from one city to another, but through the wilderness, and so it is with our journey today. It is a long way from Babylon to Jerusalem. The straight line distance from Babylon to Jerusalem is about 500 miles, but Ezra and his group would have to cover about 900 miles because they would have to go north west along the Euphrates river then south to Jerusalem; a journey of many weeks.

## Intercession is the key

The journey was a dangerous one for there were robbers on the way, and it was a slow journey. They carried all the materials they needed for the temple in Jerusalem, gold, silver and brass, which is very heavy. They needed protection, but it is interesting that Ezra did not ask for bodyguards as he had told the king that God would look after him.

The only alternative to protecting yourself is for God to protect you and that is why Ezra called for prayer and fasting. God was entreated of them and the journey was a safe one. Intercession is the key to this journey and the next series of books that I intend to write will be on the subject of intercession – a much misunderstood subject in my opinion.

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. **So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was entreated of us.**

Ezra 8:21-23

Those Christians who rely on the world for their protection, are not yet on the road to Jerusalem I am afraid. Only people of true faith, like the ones I mentioned listed in Hebrews can leave Babylon for Jerusalem. The gate is restricted and the way is narrow, and Jesus said that few find it – sobering thoughts indeed.

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## CHAPTER 9

# PREPARING THE BRIDE

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

My little children of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.

**Galatians 4:19**

This being the last chapter of the whole series, I want to end on a practical note to help those readers who are in the process of leaving this religious system, or have

already left and are wondering what to do next. There are only two things that should dominate our minds and actions.

**The first is to warn the Church** ...that the system they are in is Babylon and to leave before they are judged with it. This is urgent because the 'Fall of Babylon' (the religious systems of this world) is close at hand. The book of Jude, which is the book of warning just before the book of judgement (Revelation) warns the church about the false prophets of Babylon and gives this exhortation at the end of Jude's short letter.

But you, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: **and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.**

Jude:20-23

## Trials Await the Faithful

Peter sent a letter to the saints that were scattered throughout the Gentile world to encourage them. He told them that trials and persecutions were their portion if they want their incorruptible inheritance that awaits those who are faithful. I exhort you to read the whole letter in the light of this series on Babylon. I have just put a few verses in the text. Please read them slowly.

Beloved, don't think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are happy; for the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a busybody in other men's matters.

Yet, if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. **For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God:** and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1 Peter 5:12-19

Notice, Peter says judgement begins at the house of God. This means that Babylon, the counterfeit bride, must first come under judgement and that is why we are asked to leave her before the fire falls to destroy her. There will be no time when it happens for Babylon will fall in 'one hour' and the whole world will be shocked at the sudden destruction (the true church will be judged at the 'judgement seat of Christ' after his coming).

## No Room for Self Righteousness

It is important to note that when we warn Christians of the dangers of staying in Babylon it must not be with a self-righteous attitude or judgemental tone of voice, for all those who have come out of this system were once in it. Therefore, we have no excuse if we are hard and bigoted rather than compassionate, and entreating.

**The second thing we must do** ...is to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem; in other words, prepare the bride. How do we do this? Well, I believe the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5-7 will prepare people to be exposed to themselves and the religious system they are in. I have observed this over 40 years and am confident that this is the teaching that is missing in these last days. I have spent the last 30 years teaching it verse by verse and seen so many dear people freed from this system. I have written 6 books and filmed 65 teachings on this subject and it never fails to bring people to themselves if they are open to truth. If you have not been through these teachings I suggest you look into them and if you have been through them, a refresher course will always challenge you. Each time I teach this series I am also challenged in my own life.

You cannot have the Sermon on the Mount as your lifestyle and stay in this religious system. A person can read and believe all that Jesus instructed us to do, but unless they are willing to put it into practice in their daily living they do not believe it in their heart. To believe it and not observe it practically is to reject it, and to build

a life on sand according to what Jesus said at the end of his sermon.

And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and doesn't do them, shall be like a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand.

**Matthew 7:26**

There are two analogies in the bible for the bride of Christ. One is a building, and the other is a body. New Jerusalem is built out of living, precious stones and this is what we must produce in ourselves and in others. Gold, silver, and precious stones make up this building, and what is not precious, such as wood, hay, and stubble, will be burned up and will not be part of the heavenly city.

## The Perfect Man

The whole purpose of ministry is to produce the perfect man, in the stature and fullness of Jesus Christ. This is the other analogy the bible uses for the bride of Christ – that of the body. The purpose of all ministry is not to save the world or build the church; it is to produce the bride, according to what Paul told the Ephesians. Evangelism is not one of the aims and is not mentioned in this following passage about the 5-fold ministries given for the body of Christ – evangelism is only a consequence of living this discipleship life. If we live like Christ we will act as he did. It is very simple, but to try and do the acts without the life of Christ in us will not get the results and we become hypocrites.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:** That we are henceforth no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:11-16

## A Time of Great Deception

In finishing this chapter I should warn the reader that there is always the counterfeit at work, and Satan is building the whore as fast as he can. It will be bigger than it has ever been since the days of Nimrod, and will encompass the whole world again in one religion soon.

I have never seen so much deception in mainstream Churches as I have in the last 10 years and it is escalating at an alarming rate. The bride will always be the remnant and so beware of the world's motto, 'Big is Beautiful'. God is looking for purity and obedience and these

qualities are never found in the multitudes. Be prepared to be part of this remnant, for the rewards are great if we faint not.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**Galatians 6:9**

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CONCLUSION TO THE WHOLE SERIES

# THE BATTLE FOR THE KINGDOM

For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.

**Romans 8:19**

My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, would fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

**John 18:36**

Wherever God rules over the human heart, there is the Kingdom of God established.

**Paul W Harrison**

I started this series of volumes by showing that Satan created this system of Babylon as a counterfeit to the true worship of God in spirit and truth, because that is the consuming passion and the purpose of Satan's whole plan.

The bottom line is that Satan craves worship. It is not about power, politics, or wealth, it is about religion, which is simply the counterfeit of relationship with God. The One World Order is not about world political domination, or control of all resources and wealth, it is about One World Worship to Satan. Of course, Satan needs the wealth of this world, and the political and military clout, because he plans to force this worship if he cannot seduce everyone.

At this present time most of the world, and the Church, have been seduced by this system, but he knows the remnant will need the 'fiery furnace' as a threat, and many who will not bow the knee now, will fear and fall when this ultimatum is enforced.

## Who's Running the Show?

We do not need to know who is at the top of the One World pyramid. It matters little if it is the world bankers, the military, the Jesuits, the politicians or an individual country. All of these are only pawns to the one who organises and dictates how the world is run. Satan alone is god of this world, according to the bible, and that is all we need to know. It is all a part of God's plan and true Christians should be confidently rejoicing that their redemption is drawing near.

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws near.

**Luke 21:28**

This has been a difficult series to write, because most of it had been to expose the counterfeit system of worship – Babylon. I would always rather teach about the lifestyle of a disciple, or the character of one of the great men of the bible, but God laid it on my heart many years ago and I did a series of 10 teachings on this subject. I always intended to write it down one day and the result is this series of books. It expanded itself quite naturally as I studied to update the original series and it has now become 45 teachings which have all been filmed and are available from the Barratt Ministries web site for download as MP4 for video, MP3 for audio, or as physical media such as DVD or CD. (See details at the back of this book.)

## Prepare the Way of the Lord

I am convinced that the end times message is the same one John the Baptist preached to prepare the way for Jesus' first coming. John's ministry was not one of signs and wonders, but of the need for God's people to repent, and bring forth the fruits that this would bring. His message also had a terrible warning; that Jesus would come with his fan in his hand and thoroughly purge his floor, gather the wheat into the garner, and burn the chaff with unquenchable fire. Jesus did not come the first

time to judge and condemn, he came to forgive and to reconcile us back to God, and so it should be obvious, if we only think about it, that this last part of John's message needs to be preached before the return of Jesus, to prepare the way for his second coming to this earth. That is, to repent and bring the correct fruit.

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance ...Now also the axe is laid to the root of the trees: therefore every tree which doesn't bring forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance: but he that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

**From Matthew 4:8-12**

God's present day church are no different, than God's people were, in the times that Jesus walked this earth the first time; they are looking for signs and wonders, which only show they are an adulterous generation.

A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah...

**Matthew 16:4**

However, this generation will get what they are looking for because the false prophets will meet their

desire for the supernatural, and bring fire down from heaven in the sight of the world, with many signs and wonders to deceive them (I have covered the 2 beasts, mentioned in revelation 13, in this series, but here is a verse to remind you of this fearful fact).

And he does great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceives them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast,

**Revelation 13:13-14**

## Not for Atheists

This series was not written for atheists, agnostics or sceptics, it was written for God's people, who are in a religious system instead of being in a relationship with God. Of course those in religion would say they also have a relationship with God and I can understand that this is true in part. They are children of God, but that in no way implies that they are not in Babylon. When you are in the system it does not stop you being a child of God, but it does hinder your relationship with God. Israel in Babylon were still God's people, and backslidden Israel in the wilderness were still protected by God with supernatural provision and miracles. You can be 'saved' but on the wide road that leads to destruction (utter ruin at the judgement seat of Christ for producing wood, hay, and stubble). The majority are on it according to Jesus

and I find that those who are in the system trust the world for their security and use its methods and values to live by. The standard of holiness (separation from the world) is pathetic at this present time and the church seems to be building their own empires and ego's and not preparing themselves for the judgement seat of Christ. At a time when the morality of western societies is the lowest I have experienced, I find this quite sad and tragic.

## Battle for the kingdom

My own perception of this last great spiritual battle for 'Christians' in these last days is very simple. It is a battle of the kingdoms. On one hand there is a kingdom that you can aspire to now. That is, the kingdoms of this world that the devil will offer you without any cost. Any Christian who is looking for status, power (either spiritual or political), wealth, and possession, are living for this world and will not obtain the coming kingdom of Christ.

On the other hand there is another hidden kingdom that is not obtainable until Christ sets it up when he returns. There will be power, status "be over 10 cities", and all the things that Christ will inherit will be ours also, for we are coheirs with him. What he receives, we will also receive. Here are some of the things he will receive when he brings his kingdom with him.

...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive **power**, and **riches**, and **wisdom**, and **strength**, and **honour**, and **glory**, and **blessing**.

Revelation 5:12

To a disciple, the kingdom of God in this dispensation is not a visible one, for Jesus said it does not come with observation but is within you. They are waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God.

For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.

**Romans 8:19**

## Only One Kingdom is Allowed

It is impossible to be part of both kingdoms at the same time, and now is the time to choose which one you will pursue; the outward kingdom now, or the kingdom within, which will purchase the Kingdom when Christ comes. I have decided to give up all this world can offer to obtain the coming kingdom for I know if I suffer with Christ I will also reign with him.

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

**Romans 8:17**

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

**2 Timothy 2:12**

I think it a small price to pay and I am in good company for all the apostles thought this way. This is what Paul said:

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

**Romans 8:18**

## Pay the Price Now

It is vital that those who will pay the price to be disciples, and not just followers of Jesus, adjust their thinking and lifestyle to be ready for his return so that they can hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter the joy of the Lord".

I pray that you and I be among them!

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— NOTES —

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— NOTES —

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## POSTSCRIPT

The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

**Malachi 1:1**

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

**Ezekiel 22:30**

A major part of God's people leaving Babylon and preparing the bride is to do with intercession, and I intended to have at least a couple of chapters in this volume on this subject. However, it became clear as I was writing the last few chapters that I should do a new, separate book all about this vital subject. The connection between restoration and intercession is a very strong one and I believe the most important. Revival of God's people never happens without intercession.

By intercession I am not talking about a type of prayer

for what most people call intercession is actually petition. No, intercession is not a type of prayer, it is a lifestyle and a burden that is carried by the intercessor; as I intend to show from scripture and examples of great men of God.

I was asked by UCB radio many years ago to prepare a few 15 minute talks on this subject and I did a series of 14 talks for them. I expanded them at a later date and did a series of live teachings and now have 21 studies. This will be the basis of my next book.

Without intercession the bride will never be formed and without intercession the return of exiles from Babylon will never take place. It is vital that those disciples who have a heart for those who are still in Babylon know this much misunderstood ministry and I am really looking forward to this project. I sincerely value the prayers of all those who know me or have read this book.

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