

# INTERCESSION

Spiritual Warfare

Making His  
Paths Straight

Volume 3

MAURICE BARRATT

# INTERCESSION

## **Volume 3**

# Intercession – volume 3

by Maurice Barratt

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from  
the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-904592-83-9

First Published & Printed May 2016

by Barratt Ministries Publications

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## volume 3

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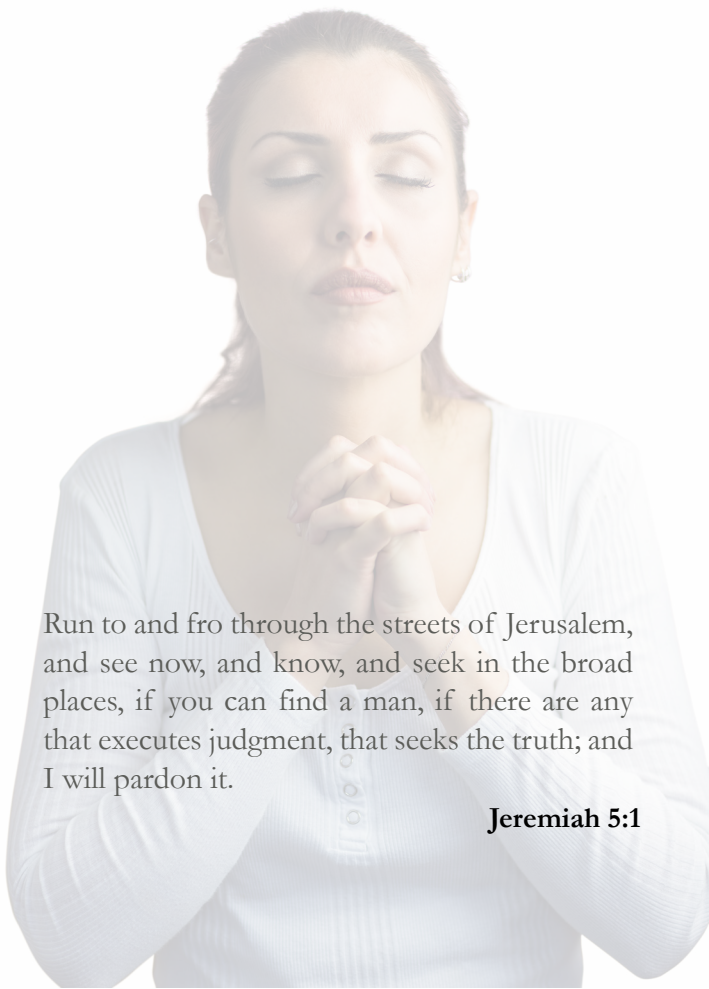
Barratt Ministries Publications  
Manchester. UK

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Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places, if you can find a man, if there are any that executes judgment, that seeks the truth; and I will pardon it.

**Jeremiah 5:1**

# Introduction

This

Present

Darkness

Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? Shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hasn't done it?

**Amos 3:6**

**I**ntercession is a word that conjures up different things to different people and many Christians have no idea of what biblical intercession is. In the

first part of this book I will discuss the subject of spiritual warfare, a popular subject in Charismatic circles, especially since 1986, when Frank Peritti's book 'This Present Darkness' was published. He went on to write more books on a similar vein and has sold over 15 million books to date. His books are all either horror, fantasy, or witchcraft and his first fantasy became the de facto blueprint for much of the Charismatic and Pentecostal thinking on spiritual warfare, taking our cities for Jesus, and many more unbiblical practices. Although, of course, much of what he said was true, it was a very misleading book because it vindicated and approved the concept that there is a battle between good and evil, God and Satan, and it introduced millions of Christians to a witchcraft concept and New Age beliefs despite the fact that they thought it was exposing these very New Age beliefs (Footnote 1).

## What Battle?

There is no battle between God and Satan, and therefore no battle of good against evil and I will look at this lie in chapter 1 as it is imperative to understand if any one desires to be a true intercessor. Although this false view is held almost universally in the Church and the world it does not agree with scripture. I will also show there is no biblical precedent for binding devils – Jesus never bound one in his entire ministry, nor is it recorded that any of his apostles bound demons anywhere in the New Testament.

Of course the world have always believed this lie that there is a battle of good against evil, and from the Masonic black and white chequer board flooring to the Yin and Yang symbol it shows that religions also believe in this duality in some form or other. President Bush believes in this battle of good against evil, and after the twin towers came down he gave his famous speech on the axis of evil – of course the USA are the good guys and Osama bin Laden and Isis are the bad guys (notwithstanding that the CIA trained the terrorists and supplied them arms); of course the West could stop making the arms that they supply to the terrorist world, but that would be to lose billions of dollars annually and, of course, the world is run by finance and not politics, and terrorism is big business to the arms dealers.

## **Not in the Bible!**

God's people have also accepted this dualism and the balance between good and evil. Even if they believe there is not an equal battle and that God has more power than Satan and cannot lose the battle it is still a deceptive and satanic concept for it supposes that God and Satan are locked in a battle, which is a lie. This thinking attributes a power to Satan that he does not possess, and diminishes God's true position of having all power. In the first chapter I will look at God's plan as a way to challenge this concept and then I will look at the scriptures that people use to justify the binding of devils and show that there is

no justification in the scriptures for this practice. I will also look at blessings and curses and show that both come from God and not Satan or his devils. I will end part 1 with a look at the legal implications of intercession and the real spiritual battle, because God is the judge of all the earth and nothing escapes his justice. The battle is all to do with legality and not emotional ranting and gesticulations at devils or Satan himself. I will show from scripture.

### Footnote 1

**Here are a few paragraphs taken from a secular writer, but he gives a shrewd assessment of these kind of so called biblical novels.**

While Christians have always believed in the power of prayer, the Darkness novels picture prayer as having a fantastic, magical efficacy against demonic warriors.

While Christians have traditionally believed in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the vivid picture Peretti draws of highly personal angels conveying guidance to the minds of God's saints makes "Christian" inspiration appear a close relative of New Age psychism. Peretti also pictures angels as capable of materialising to help God's chosen, as when the angel Betsy materialises to give one of the heroines, Bernice Krueger, a short motorcycle ride. Once Bernice has reached her destination, Betsy evaporates like some eerie figure out of an occult novel.

As with many of the events that take place in the Darkness novels, such eerie encounters reflect a fascination with

the supernatural and with supernatural powers. And the net effect, for readers who buy into Peretti's version of Christianity, is to bring Christians closer in spirit to the very form of occult spirituality they claim to despise: The New Age movement.

**Magical Religion and Modern Witchcraft**  
**edited by James R. Lewis Pages 347-348**



# Part 1

# Spiritual Warfare

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

**2 Timothy 2:20**

# Chapter 1

## God's Great Plan

The LORD says, your redeemer, and he that formed you from the womb, I am the LORD that makes all things; that stretches forth the heavens alone; that spreads abroad the earth by myself.

**Isaiah 44:24**

...For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

**Romans 13:1**

All Christians agree that God has a plan, but how comprehensive is it and could anyone, man or devil, thwart his plans? According to the bible the answer is a definite, No! I have written a whole chapter on this plan of God in my book *Israel, the Church, and the Kingdom of God Volume 1* (Footnote 1), but it is important to show briefly that this is so.

## God rules in the affairs of men

Before he started his creation, God planned in great and precise detail the whole history and the finale of this creation – he left nothing to chance. It will end exactly as he planned it to end, and eternity will start on the exact minute of the day he predestined it to start. The history of all mankind was decided and fixed in eternity before he even spoke his first words of creation, so this means that all that happens in this world – good or evil – is part of his plan (Footnote 1). Antichrist and a One World Dictator is not Satan's idea, or plan, because it was all prophesied by God 2000 years ago through the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos. Of course it was prophesied in the Old Testament, but John's vision is the obvious one that most people know about.

## The good and the bad

God uses good people and he uses bad people for his purposes. He chose a wicked man Cyrus and

used him in a remarkable way. He clearly did not know God, yet God used him for his own purposes, and to fulfil what he had already prophesied. This is what God said of this despot.

That says of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, You shall be built; and to the temple, Your foundation shall be laid. This is what God the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; ....that you may know that I, the LORD, which call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel my elect, I have even called you by your name: I have surnamed you, **though you have not known me**. I am the LORD, and there is no one else, there is no God beside me: I girded you, though you have not known me.

From Isaiah 44:28 – 45:5

King Cyrus is an obvious example of how God chooses wicked people for his purposes, but what about Pharaoh, whom bible scholars accept is a type of Satan himself? Read the following scripture in the light of this fact.

For the scripture says unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised you up, that

I might show my power in you, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

**Romans 9:17**

Amazing that God only raised Satan so that he could cast him eventually into the lake of fire to show the whole world his might and power. As Paul says in Romans 9, and I suggest the reader look at the whole chapter before reading further, God makes vessels of dishonour for destruction to show his power as well as vessels of honour to show his mercy.

## **Let's Get Real!**

I think Christians need to find the real God and stop listening to the false prophets who have relegated God to a benevolent father wanting to indulge his spoilt children. Away with all this nonsense and let us read what the bible actually says about this great and awesome God.

**Has not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?**

**What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: and that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels**

of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory.

**Romans 9:21-23**

What about Nebuchadnezzar who is a type of antichrist, and his system – Babylon?

And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appoints over it whomsoever he will.

**Daniel 5:21**

Babylon has been a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.

**Jeremiah 51:7**

And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him. And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the

same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, says the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

Jeremiah 27:6-8

## God's Eternal Damnation

Satan did not make the lake of fire. God created this punishment, not for mankind, but expressly for the devil and his angels. It was created before the heavens and the earth were finished for God has created nothing since the 6th day of creation. Satan will end up in this lake of fire. He does not send people to this fate, it is God who will judge and pass sentence and Satan, who is part of God's plan, will be sentenced to this lake of eternal torment.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, **prepared for the devil and his angels.**

Matthew 25:41

## Satan Versus God?

Satan is not against God he is against mankind. He is not God's enemy he is the enemy of the soul's of men according to the bible.

**Be sober, be vigilant; because **your** adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.**

**1 Peter 5:8**

In the book of Job we see that Satan and God had a conversation without anger or judgement and Satan had access to the very presence of God. God did not rebuke him or cast him out of heaven; he seems on friendly terms if you read without prejudice. This goes against most Christians' doctrines, but I am quoting the bible not some denominational bias or tradition of men.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Where have you come from? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that fears God, and eschews evil?

**Job 1:6-8**

Satan has never tried to usurp or overtake God in heaven – it is a myth – and I will show this to be true later in the book, it is all about God and God's plan. I have written a whole chapter on "The Lucifer

Myth' in one of my books if the reader is interested (Footnote 2). Everything created, and that includes Satan, is a part of that plan.

## Spiritual Light

In the record of God's creation in the book of Genesis, on the first day God separated the light from the darkness. I believe this was a spiritual separation, because the natural light for the earth, the sun and the moon, he made of the 4th day. God made the possibility for us to chose between spiritual light and spiritual darkness, before he created the earth and the seas or anything else (Genesis 1:1-19).

Adam could make the decision to be his own god and exercise his own morality concerning what is good and what is evil ...but God made it all possible for it was part of his plan.

**I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.**

**Isaiah 45:7**

The bible uses day and night not only to talk about the physical light and darkness but about the spiritual light and darkness. For example:

**You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:5**

## For God's Pleasure

All principalities and powers were created by God, and for God, to accomplish his great purposes. This includes Satan and all his agents

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for you have created all things, and **for your pleasure** they are and were created.

Revelation 4:11

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they are thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, **and for him.**

Colossians 1:16-17

## All Power in Heaven and Earth.

Christians accept that God is almighty, which of course means he has all power. If this is true then we have to conclude that there is no power left for anyone else – including Satan and his angels. We also have to accept, if this is true, that Satan, or any evil person, can only use the power that has been ascribed to them by God. We can therefore use or abuse God's power for there is no other power in the universe.

If only Christians could grasp this fact it would free them from so many unnecessary battles and stress that they seem to carry. Jesus said that his yoke is easy and his burden is light, so there is something very wrong with a Christian who is constantly under duress and pressure.

Throughout the bible God does not have a problem with Satan, he has a problem with his people. Satan was created a liar and a murderer from the beginning. Mankind was made in God's image but has rebelled. We are God's burden and problem not Satan. Satan is doing the job he was created for, but mankind is not. That is why we need redeeming and aligning to God's will and purposes and freeing from the desires of Satan.

### **The Plan Includes Us**

'God's plan includes mankind', is an obvious statement, but it is an important one. It is a plan of love and God wants us to love him from our own free will. That is why we have a choice – Satan and his ways of thinking and acting, or God and his plans and instructions – and why God created this adversary to give us free will. There is no freewill with only one choice. Love is always proved in adversity and that is what the plan is all about; to find a remnant who will love God against all odds including their own fallen, adamic nature. If we do not understand this plan then how can we pray, or intercede, according to the will of God. That is why

in the first volume I stressed that intercession is about people who know God intimately and become his friend. To not know and understand God's plan is to not know how to really pray or intercede. I am convinced that much of what is prayed is ineffective because it is against God's plan and purposes, and the reason why so many Christian's prayers remain unanswered.

## **It's a Burden**

To be out of God's will is actually to be against him, and to pray and think we are interceding when we have chosen what to intercede for is unprofitable and against the will of God. Intercession is a burden that God puts upon a person and not something that they believe needs praying for. Most prayers of Christians go unanswered so it is obvious they are not praying according to the will of God. Intercession is beseeching God to bring about what he has already purposed – even when we change his mind – as Moses, and others did in the bible.

Creation, the lake of fire, and our salvation are all part of God's plan and he is looking for people who will understand his plan and be a part of the process and not a consequence of it, or God forbid, actually against it. That is why we are exhorted by Paul to always give thanks in all circumstances for it is the only safeguard to staying in the perfect will of God. To complain about circumstances is to be against the will of God according to Paul.

In every thing give thanks: for **this is the will of God** in Christ Jesus concerning you.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

If this chapter has caused the reader to rethink their understanding of God's plan this is surely healthy and I am happy to provoke this situation. Please check the scriptures for yourself and accept what it plainly says.

In the next chapter I will look at the subject of spiritual warfare and the scriptures Christians use to justify this practice.

### **Footnote 1**

Israel, The Church and the Kingdom of God , Chapter 1  
ISBN 978-1-904592-41-9

### **Footnote 2**

'The Lucifer Myth' in 'Israel, the Church and the Kingdom of God' Volume 6 Chapter 7. ISBN 978-1-904592-59-4

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To know truth we have to compare scripture with scripture. A single statement of scripture can never stand alone or be true exegesis.

# Chapter 2

## The Scriptures

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

**Ephesians 6:12**

**T**here are phrases that I hear from Christians that make me believe that many are misguided, although I have never doubted their sincerity. Phrases like "I was in heavy warfare last night" or "We really need to attack the forces that are over our

church", or "We need to pull down the strongholds over our city".

This 'warfare' usually includes telling the devil that he had no right to be in the location or position he was holding and demanding that he relinquish his position in the name of Jesus. However, if the devil is in a position, you can be sure he has a legal right to be there, or he couldn't claim that position. It might be because of deception, or lies, and would have to flee if the lies were exposed, but devils can only operate on their legal rights as I will discuss in a later chapter. Shouting at the devil without taking away that right will not move him. He is not frightened of our shouting or biblical phrases if we do not have the authority, or legal right, to cast him out. The sons of Sheva in the book of Acts demonstrates this – and they used the name of Jesus too (see Acts 19:13-16).

## **Plead the Blood**

Pleading the blood is another practice that seems to accompany this activity. It never seems to achieve much except the feeling of superiority in those who practice all this and I don't know of one village in the whole of my country that has been freed from its territorial spirits. My country, England, has steadily declined in moral values since I was a teenager in the 1960s and shows no sign of reversing this trend, in fact it seems to be escalating towards anarchy and World War 3. Therefore, I conclude that my scepticism is founded.

'Pleading the blood' is an unbiblical practice. I understand fully the reason behind why people do it, but it is unnecessary. Those who have accepted the sacrifice of Jesus have applied the blood and never need do it again. The blood that Christ shed was not to protect a person from the devil, on the contrary, it was to protect them from the wrath of God. The story in Exodus where Moses was to put the blood on the door posts and lintel was not to protect them from Pharaoh, but to protect them from God's angel of death.

## All in the Mind

When the 'devil is attacking us' he is attacking our minds and there are plenty of scriptures to show we should 'gird up the loins of our mind' and none to say we should apply or be covered under the blood. The practice is justified by only one scripture from the book of revelation and is taken to mean something it does not say or imply. This is the scripture:

**And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

**Revelation 12:11**

This scripture surely does not instruct us, or indicate to us, that we should plead the blood when we feel an attack of the devil. I cannot find one incident in all of the New Testament where anyone

## The Scriptures

practised this. As I have stated, to be covered under the blood would be to protect a person from God and not Satan. Am I saying the blood of Christ is not powerful? Certainly not, but the power of the blood is to forgive sins and redeem us according to scripture, not as a protection against evil spirits. I conclude that these practices are not scriptural and therefore nothing to do with intercession and almost counter productive although I accept that God looks at the heart and sometimes answers because of the motive rather than the misguided doctrine.

## The Scriptures

I now want to look at all the scriptures that mention warfare or fighting in the New Testament to see if the belief that we are to wage spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness will stand up to the word of God. I believe that intercession has nothing whatsoever to do with casting out of devils or binding territorial spirits over cities. Do I believe there are territorial spirits over cities or countries and do I believe in evil spirits, and that we should cast them out? I certainly do, but let me take you through the scriptures and you can make up your own mind. Please be open and look at them without your doctrinal bias as I am trying to do. I will look at the context of each passage to see what the subject is and how it is applicable to us practically. First, I will look at all the scriptures that mention fighting.

## Scriptures on fighting

### 1. Corinthians 9:25-27

Don't you know that they which run in a race run all, but one receives the prize? So run, that you may obtain. And every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; **so fight** I, not as one that beats the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Nothing about devils or warfare in this passage. Paul is talking about discipline and temperance – an attribute of the fruit of the spirit.

### 2. 1 Timothy 6:12

**Fight** the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto you are also called, and have professed a good profession before many witnesses.

The context is Paul's advice to a young minister, Timothy, to flee riches and be content with food and raiment, so nothing about spiritual warfare here.

### 3. 2 Timothy 4:5-8

But watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of your ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought **a good fight**, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

This is similar to the last scripture in that Paul is talking about his fight of faith and the reward he will obtain for doing so. No mention of spiritual fighting against devils; it is Paul's personal battles with his faith.

### 4. Hebrews 10:32-33

But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after you were illuminated, you endured **a great fight** of afflictions; partly, while you were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, while you became companions of them that were so used.

This is obviously not about spiritual warfare, but about fighting reproaches and humiliations.

## 5. James 4:1-4

Where do wars and fighting come among you? Don't they come, even of your lusts that war in your members? You lust, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you **fight and war**, yet you have not, because you ask not.

You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts.

The context is the fighting in a Christian's mind and body against of the lust the flesh, so nothing about fighting devils here.

## Scriptures on Warfare

I will now look at the scriptures that mention war and warfare to see what the context is and if they are about fighting devils.

### 1 Timothy 1:18-20

This charge I commit unto you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on you, that you by them might **war a good warfare**; holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.

No indications of binding devils or fighting evil spirits here.

## 2. 2 Corinthians 10:4

For the weapons of our **warfare** are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.

This is a common scripture used to show that we are fighting devils and not people, and that the strongholds are over cities and countries, but it is completely out of context. Here are the verses surround it. The verse before says:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not **war after the flesh.**

Verse 3

Obviously this is showing the fight is not with devils, but with our own lust of the flesh. The verses after this quote also show that the battle, although a spiritual one, is in our mind and not against devils. It is the rebellious imaginations in our minds that have to be fought and cast down. It is about fighting the disobedient thoughts in a person's mind. It is not about casting down powers of the air.

Casting down **imaginations**, and **every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God**, and **bringing into**

**captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.**

Verses 5-6

## Rebellion is Natural

This is the real spiritual warfare of a Christian – against the thoughts that the devil puts in our mind and our own natural lusts, desires, and rebellion against the things of God. Our old nature will always be rebellious for this is its natural state and this is the spiritual battle that a Christian has. The battle is all in the mind, which, of course, is spiritual. I am not talking about the brain which is only the biological computer of the human body. Our thinking is spiritual – our emotions and ambitions, secret thoughts and fears emanate from our hearts – the spiritual part of the human make up.

### 3. 1 Peter 2:11

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, **which war against the soul.**

This scripture is about the war against our own lusts and not against devil.

At this stage in our study of spiritual warfare it would be good to look at the scriptures that mention devils. We will find that far from binding them we

are told to cast them out which is a very different matter. It is clear from Jesus teaching that when a devil is cast out it is not bound, but free to enter the same person again or obviously some other person or animal.

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walks through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, I will return unto my house where I came out.

And when he comes, he finds it swept and garnished. Then goes he, and takes to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

Luke 11:24-26

## Casting out Devils

All the scriptures from the Gospels below show that we should cast out devils. There are no scriptures to imply we bind them. I have not repeated the scriptures from other gospels that are the same incidents.

### Matthew 7:22

Many will say, Have we not **cast out devils** in your name?

## Matthew 8:16

..and he cast out the devils with his word.

## Matthew 8:31

So the devils besought him, saying, If you **cast us out**, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

## Matthew 9:32-33

When the **devil was cast out**, the dumb spoke.

## Matthew 10:1

...when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, **to cast them out...**

## Matthew 10:8

And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, **cast out devils**: freely you have received, freely give.

## Mark 1:34

Many that were sick of diverse diseases, **and cast out many devils**; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

### Mark 1:39

And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and **cast out devils**.

### Mark 3:15

And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to **cast out devils**.

### Mark 16:17

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they **cast out devils**; they shall speak with new tongues.

### Luke 13:32

And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I **cast out devils**, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.

## Binding the Strong Man

There are scriptures that Christians bring about binding the strong man, and use them to justify binding devils, but these scriptures are not referring to devils and are taken out of context as usual. Let me go through them.

## Mark 2:27

No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

The context is about casting out devils. The scribes accused Jesus of casting out devils with the power of Satan and his illustration, or parable, as the bible states is to show that this cannot logically be true.

And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He has Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casts he out devils. And he called them unto him, **and said unto them in parables**, How can Satan cast out Satan?

Verses 22-23

It is obvious that Jesus is not referring to himself when he cast out the devil for he is not trying to spoil the man's house (his body). On the contrary he is trying to restore him to normality.

If this explanation does not satisfy you then it is enough to say that this is the only scripture that mentions binding, and it is a parable and not a statement of fact. All other scriptures say that devils are cast out so it is not good exegesis to make a doctrine or principle out of one scripture.

The same incident is in Luke's gospel and Luke does not use the word bind.

When a strong man armed keeps his palace, his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he takes from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divides his spoils.

Luke 11:21-22

## All About Forgiveness

Another scripture brought to substantiate the binding of devils is in Matthew chapters 16 and 18, but they are out of context because the subject is not about devils, or deliverance, but about forgiveness. This is of course a common error among Christians. They bring a verse that seems to confirm their beliefs, when the verse is in the context of a completely different subject.

Here is the one from Matthew 16. It is in the context of Peter's commission as head of the church (not as the first Pope of course).

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed are you, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood has not revealed it unto you, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto you, That you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever

you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**Matthew 16:17-19**

The passage does not mention evil spirits so we have to be careful not to put our own interpretation on what Jesus meant here. Fortunately, Jesus says the same words in another passage in chapter 18 and it is much clearer as to what is bound and what is loosed.

Here are verses surrounding the statement.

Moreover if your brother shall trespass against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone: if he shall hear you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear you, then take with you one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto you as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, **Whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven:** and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**Matthew 18:15-20**

It does not make any sense to say it is about devils; for if we bound a devil on earth, is God going to bind one in heaven? Surely not.

The context is clearly about being reconciled to the brother who has sinned against you. If he will not listen to you, or to witnesses, or the Church, then you treat him as one outside the faith – a heathen. Jesus emphasises this by saying the following

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:19-20

This is another scripture that is constantly taken out of context and used to show that if 2 or 3 Christians meet together then Christ is in the midst, which is clearly nonsense. Many times Christ is a long way away from some Christian gatherings when there are thousands of believers never mind 2 or 3. The context is about forgiveness. If we forgive, our heavenly father will forgive in these cases, and if we do not free them then our father in heaven will hold it against them. We cannot forgive the sins of other people, but we can forgive sins personally against us. Stephen did it when he prayed. "Lay not **this sin** to their charge", when they were stoning him as a heretic (see Acts 7:60).

I believe in the casting out of devils and have witnessed personally many devils being cast out so I am not against the practice, but it is important

to know that the commission to do this was only to those whom Christ personally sent out. It is not for every believer and is a dangerous practice if you have not been 'sent by God'. You need to have been given the authority personally for this ministry. I have witnessed so many disasters and damage done by well meaning Christians.

## **Dangerous Practices**

Let me share just one such incident. A good friend of mine had been brought up a Catholic, but accepted Jesus as a personal saviour and had left the Catholic Church before the renewal when many Catholics received the Holy Ghost. A Catholic priest known to my friend had been to a 'John Wimber type seminar' where he was taught how to discern devils and cast them out. He started to practice on his parishioners and invited my friend to visit him in his vestry.

## **Really Frightening**

After being there for a few minutes the priest told him to sit still for something was happening and spirits were ready to manifest. My friend did so and then an amazing thing happened. His body contorted and he fell on the floor in a position and contortion that he described as 'impossible to do naturally'. He was really frightened at this demonstration, but could not move as his body was

locked in this position. The priest then cast the devil out of him and he returned to normality.

## Rituals or Authority

What had happened? There were no devils in my friend, but in his desire to see a manifestation the priest had invited devils into my friend so that he could exorcise or cast them out. Exorcism is not the same as casting out demons. Exorcism is about rituals and incantations and is an occult practice and not the power and authority of the Holy Ghost, so be careful if you do not know the difference. I told my friend to distance himself from the priest and he did so and has never had any manifestations since that time – around 20 year ago.

The priest was actually putting devils in people so that he could show his power by exorcising them. I am willing to believe that the priest in question was a sincere man but was dabbling in things he did not understand, and when that happens the devil has a field day. He is too experienced and clever to play with and he only understands the authority of almighty God. If you do not have it stay away from this ministry.

There is a popular chorus where we command the devils to bow down and confess that Jesus is Lord, and no one seems to question it, yet it is a dangerous thing to do.

**So you powers in the heavens above bow  
down!**

And you powers on the earth below bow  
down!  
And acknowledge that Jesus, Jesus  
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.

Graham Kendrick

## Faith or Presumption

Of course, one day every devil in hell, and all created beings, will bow down and confess that Jesus is Lord, so the song could be a prophecy. Sadly, most Christians believe that they can demand it happens now, but for us to demand that it happens now before the time is presumptuous in the extreme. Be very careful what you sing for it is a confession of your belief, and God will hold us accountable for what comes out of our mouths.

Jude tells us that false prophets do not understand the power of evil spirits or of Satan and says they speak evil of dignitaries – in this case the powers of the air. He calls this presumptuous.

Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke you.

But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally,

as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

**Jude 8-10**

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption.

**2 Peter 2:10-12**

Not one devil has been bound in the pit or damned to the lake of fire up to this present time in world history. The bible says that even the angels that came to earth and mated with women are held in chains waiting the judgement. God has not judged the world and, until he does, sentence has not been passed on any one – man or devil.

The bible says that one day every one on earth and every devil in the world will have to bow down and confess that Jesus is Lord, but that day has not happened yet, so at the best the song is a prophecy, and if not it is a dangerous statement to the devils that abound in this world, in that they can laugh at it because we do not have the power to demand they do this at this period in history. Devils know

their rights and will stand on them; before God if necessary. They even did it to Jesus on one occasion.

And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with you, Jesus, you Son of the most high God? **I adjure you by God, you torment me not.**

Mark 5:7

To finish this chapter I will look at a scripture in Ephesians for many use it to show we fight against devils.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:10-12

The battle according to the above passage is about the wiles of the devil. This again is in the mind. It does not say we fight against the devil but against his cunning plans and imagination that he puts in our mind. This is the mother of all battles for a Christian.

The armour that we need to put on as described in the verses that follow show that it is mostly for

protection not fighting. Armour hinders our fight, but is necessary for protection and the shield of faith is to protect us against the fiery darts of the enemy which would pierce our most vulnerable member – our hearts. The sword, of course, is to fight with, and Jesus used the word of God when he was being tempted in the wilderness. When Jesus became angry at the third temptation, which was aimed to stop Jesus going to the cross, he did not bind Satan but told him to 'Get behind me'.

## Wrestling

It is also interesting that Paul talks of our fight as a wrestling match. When you wrestle you are not trying to destroy an enemy or knock him out as in boxing, but it is to see who will stand and who will be put on the floor. This fight is all about us and if we will stand when we are attacked by the wiles of the devil.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, **that you may be able to stand** in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand. Stand therefore**, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of

salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

**Ephesians 6: 13-18**

To conclude – there are no scriptures that instruct us to fight with devils, only to use our authority and cast them out. I will show in following chapters that there is a spiritual battle in the 'heavens', but it is not between men and devils.



When we as human beings curse anyone we are playing at God not Satan – which is much more serious.

# Chapter 3

## Blessings and Curses

I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; a blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: and a curse, if you will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which you have not known.

**Deuteronomy 11:26-28**

I cannot write about intercession and spiritual warfare without addressing the subject of 'blessings and curses', because many Christians do not understand the principles involved. My first seemingly controversial statement is that Satan has never cursed anyone and indeed has no power to curse. There is not one verse in the whole of the bible where Satan, or a devil, cursed anyone; or anything for that matter. Our beliefs must come from the bible and not traditions of our denominations or bible colleges.

## All From God

All blessings and curses come from God, or man who is made in God's image. The opening verses in this chapter show that it is God who gives us the choice to obey or disobey and it is God that will bless or curse us. In the bible, blessings are the consequence of obedience, and curses are the consequence of disobedience – it is as straight forward and simple as that.

There are hundreds of verses to demonstrate that God cursed people, countries, and nations. The very first curses in the bible are the ones God administered to Satan, Eve, and then the ground (for Adam's sake). According to the following verse Satan himself is under the curse of God.

**And the LORD God said unto the serpent,  
Because you have done this, **you are cursed****

above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, **I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in sorrow you shall bring forth children; and your desire shall be to your husband, and he shall rule over you.** And unto Adam he said, Because you have hearkened unto the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for your sake;** in sorrow you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

Genesis 3:14-17

## All Conditional

When God chose a nation (Israel) he told them that he was the one who was to bless or curse them.

There is a famous chapter from the old Testament that the faith and prosperity preachers like to quote (Deuteronomy 28). They list all the blessings that God said he would shower on his people. There are 14 verses of these great blessing. Unfortunately they do not read on, for following these verses, in the same chapter, are 43 verses of curses that God said he would bring on his people. Blessings in the Old

Testament were always conditional on obedience to God's commandments, and disobedience always brought God's curses.

And it shall come to pass, if you shall hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD your God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command you this day, that the LORD your God will set you on high above all nations of the earth: and all these blessings shall come on you, and overtake you, if you hearken unto the voice of the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2  
+ 12 verses of blessing

...But it shall come to pass, if you will not hearken unto the voice of the LORD your God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command you this day; that **all these curses shall come upon you, and overtake you.**

Deuteronomy 28:15  
+ 43 verses of cursing from God.

All throughout the Old Testament God cursed his own people with famine, plagues of sickness, and attacks from their enemies. How Christians can ignore the multitude of instances I do not know. It only shows how easy it is to be conditioned to believe what is blatantly not true. In the last book of the Old Covenant God, through Malachi the prophet,

told them that the whole nation were cursed with a curse.

**You are cursed with a curse:** for you have robbed me, even this whole nation.

**Malachi 3:9**

## Satan Does Not Curse!

The reason Satan does not, and indeed cannot, curse is because it is outside his remit. He is the accuser and not the judge. Only the judge can administer the punishment. Does this mean that Satan has no involvement when we are cursed? Definitely not. What he cunningly does is to deceive us into disobeying God's laws and then he accuses us to God and because God is just then he does what he promises and curses us. **Satan's power is in his deception** and when we believe his lies and disobey God we come under the wrath of God not Satan.

The blood of Christ is to protect us from the curse of God and not Satan. Israel applied the blood to the lintel and doorpost to protect them from the wrath of God not the wrath of Satan (see Exodus 12:12-13). In fact, it was Satan in type (Pharaoh) who was being cursed with all his people (devils – in type). We have more power than Satan because we can curse people for the simple reason that we were made in God's image; Satan was not. Of course if we do curse another human being

without God telling us to do so we are 'playing at God' – not Satan, which is far more serious. Think about this!

What about the New Covenant, surely blessings and curses are not conditional on the same criteria. Well, I have to tell you that the bible records that they are indeed the same. Obedience or disobedience are still the ways we are blessed – or cursed.

## Don't Seek Blessings

The bible never tells us to seek blessing in the Old or New covenants because blessing is a consequence of obedience. We are always instructed to be obedient and the blessings will follow. The beatitudes in Matthew's gospel are a good example of this. We are told to be humble and the blessing follows – the kingdom of heaven will be ours. The meek will inherit the earth so we do not seek to inherit the earth, but to be meek and the blessing of inheritance will follow.

**Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.**

**Matthew 5:3-4**

Will God still curse us under the New Covenant? Yes he will, and here are the verses after the blessings of the beatitudes from Luke's gospel. It uses the word Woe, which means 'cursed am I'.

But woe unto you that are rich! For you have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full, for you shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Luke 6:24-26

I think that Ananias and Shaphira were cursed when Peter pronounced the death sentence on them. I think that Peter cursed a man when he pronounced blindness upon him.

And now, behold, the hand of **the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind**, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Acts 13:11

I have to conclude from the evidence in the New Testament that blessings and curses from God are still applied.

## Still Applicable Today

However, we are now under a New Covenant and we cannot apply the same principles that are under the Old Covenant universally unless the New Testament confirms them. The promise of blessings under the Old Covenant were material blessings

of wealth, status and security, but under the New Covenant it is spiritual blessing that are promised along with the promise of persecution.

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.**

**Ephesians 1:3**

## **Godliness Brings Persecution**

Status, and material wealth are not a promise of blessing in the New Testament. A holy life does not bring wealth and status but rather persecution, misunderstanding, and false accusation. Read the following scriptures to confirm what I am stating. The Church have listened to men who have been promoting the doctrines of devils and not of the New Covenant.

**Yes, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

**2 Timothy 3:12**

**But the God of all grace, who has called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, *after that you have suffered a while*, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you.**

**1 Peter 5:10**

**Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have**

persecuted me, **they will also persecute you;**  
if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours  
also.

**John 15:20**

There are many scriptures however that promise prosperity and status in the New Testament, but they are all promised when the coming kingdom is established at Christ's return. We should be putting treasures in heaven in this period of history as an investment for the treasure that Jesus will bring to earth with him when he returns along with the status.

## The Coming Kingdom

The kingdom is not the Church, it is the coming kingdom that Christ will return with and set up on this earth.

**Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.**

**Matthew 5:5**

**Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Matthew 5:3**

**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 fades not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation **ready to be revealed in the last time.**

1 Peter 1:3-5

And, behold, I come quickly; **and my reward is with me**, to give every man according as his work shall be..

Revelation 22:12

And he said unto him, Well, you good servant: because you have been faithful in a very little, you have authority over ten cities.

Luke 19:17

## We Have to Pay the Price

I have heard preachers say that Jesus paid the price so that we do not have to pay any price, and that is true of course for our salvation, but not true for a holy life, for there is much sacrifice demanded of a disciple in the New Testament. Notice the scripture below is to disciples.

Then Jesus said 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.

**Matthew 16:24-25**

Verse 26 says '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?' Pastors preach the last verse (26) as a gospel message and yet it is to disciples and a challenge not to seek the things of this world, but alas as with all hard sayings to disciples the church preach them as gospel messages to those outside of God's grace.

What a mixed up and watered down Christianity we have in these last days. Oh to get back to what the bible actually says – especially the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

## **Didn't Jesus Take all the Curses?**

I have had people protest at my teaching with words like. "But didn't Jesus take all the curses on the cross so that we could receive all the blessings?" No, he did not. He did take the curse of the law away, but the curse of death to Adam still stands and every faith and positive affirmation preacher will expect to die under this curse and rot in the ground as was told to Adam. A woman still has a painful monthly cycle and a painful childbirth, which was the curse to Eve. The ground still brings forth weeds and has not been redeemed by the cross.

All the remaining curses will be lifted in the millennial reign of Jesus, but until then they remain. As Paul told the Christians in Rome; the whole creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God.

**For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, that is, **the redemption of our body.****

**Romans 8:22-23**

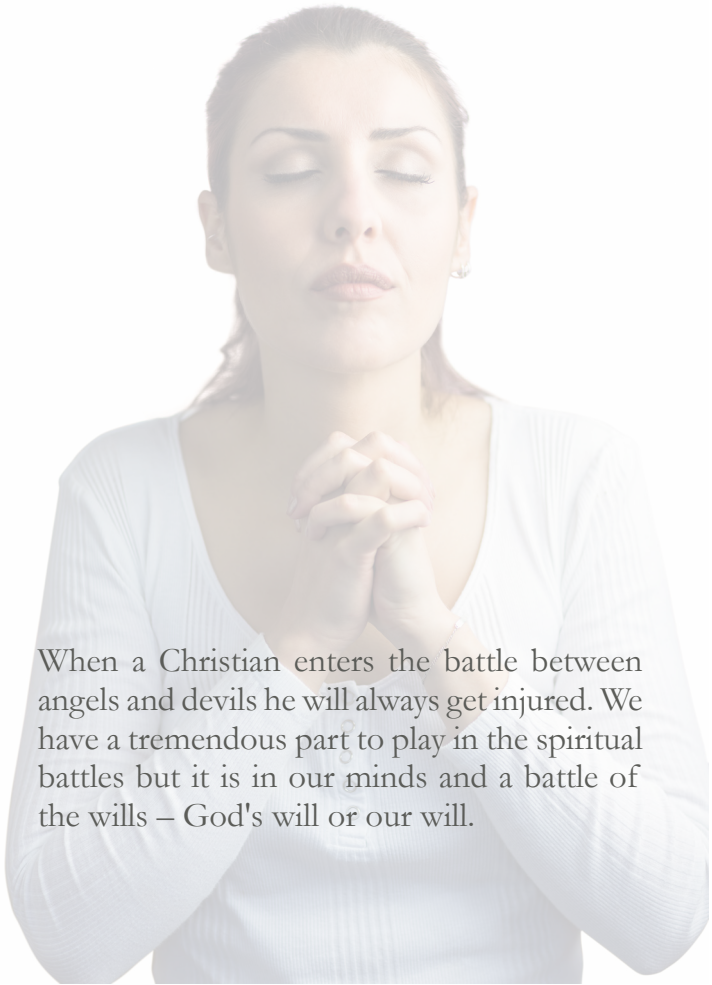
Our physical bodies are still under the curse of death and corruption and the ground is still cursed. When Jesus returns the whole creation will be redeemed along with our bodies, and we will be changed into an incorruptible and immortal body – but not until then.

### Appealing to the Judge

Is all this relevant to spiritual warfare? Very much so because if God hands out both blessings and curses then it will have no effect to try and bind devils or to curse Satan. Intercession is our appeal to the judge and not to shout at the prosecution. True intercession is always an appeal to God to avert his judgement and for him to pronounce what we do not deserve – mercy. While we are binding devils

over our cities we are being diverted away from the cause of the problem – God's people. For if God's people meet the 4 conditions we have looked at in volume 2, from 2 Chronicles 7:14, God says he will heal the land. Repentance is required from God's people as all students of revival will confirm, and has nothing to do with the devil – he is only administering God's judgement and not his own. It is us who give Satan the legal right to do his dirty deeds. We have to humble ourselves before God as the first move. Judgement and mercy belong to God, blessings and curses belong to God. Satan is only the deceiver and accuser of the brethren.

Am I saying that there is no battle and no spiritual warfare. Certainly not, and in the next chapter I will look at the spiritual battle that is raging in these last days.



When a Christian enters the battle between angels and devils he will always get injured. We have a tremendous part to play in the spiritual battles but it is in our minds and a battle of the wills – God's will or our will.

# Chapter 4

## The Battle

is

the Lord's

And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

**1 Samuel 17:47**

I have shown that we are not supposed to fight devils, only cast them out, and yet it is clear there are spiritual battles, according to the bible, and

there are evil powers controlling people, cities and nations, so who conducts the warfare? Christians quote from the first book of Samuel where it says the battle is the Lord's (1 Samuel 17:47), but what does it really mean?

## A Game of Chess

Well, if we accept that God is sovereign and has all power then he must ultimately be in control of both sides of the battle or he is not sovereign. Things may happen outside of his control and he may even lose some of the battles. I think all Christians would dismiss this possibility and I would agree with them. It is like a game of chess but with the same person controlling both the black and the white pieces. There may be casualties on both sides, but the final outcome and all the moves are controlled by the same person and so the controller of the pieces determines the end result and not either of the 2 sides. I believe all earthy battles are only a reflection of the spiritual battles with their subterfuge and tactics.

What are the 2 sides in the spiritual battle? They are angels and devils; they are the ones who wage spiritual warfare not human beings. But how does one side get the victory over the other. We need to ask the question; can a devil kill an angel or can a demon cut an angel's head off and kill him? Do they use bows and arrows or atomic weapons to destroy each other. It is impossible to kill a spiritual being

and so I don't believe there are any less angels than God created and that there are the same number of devils that were created. If this is true then how does the battle conclude with a win or defeat? I will answer that question in the next chapter, but let us look further at the scriptures to gain more insight.

## Angels and Devils

I cannot find any battles between humans and devils, but I can find battles between angels and devils. The war that will take place when the bride enters heaven and Satan and his angels are cast down to the earth and lose their place in heaven is a good example.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

**Revelation 12:7-9**

Notice, it is not a rebellion against God, but a removing of Satan from his position and it is in the future because it is after chapter 4 of Revelation where the angel tells John he will show him future

events. Michael is the aggressor in this battle not Satan.

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up here, and **I will show you things which must be in the future.**

Revelation 4:1

There was also a battle recorded in the book of Daniel between angels led by Michael, an archangel, and a powerful devil called the prince of Persia.

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

Daniel 10:13

This archangel had a dispute with Satan himself over the body of Moses.

Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Jude 1:9

## Men Fought Angels

There was an instance where a man fought with an angel. Jacob wrestled with one all night before God changed his name from 'twister' to 'prince with God'. Although the scripture says a man wrestled with Jacob it is accepted that this must have been an angel because of what happened in the story. Angels often appeared as men throughout the bible.

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

Genesis 32:24-25

## Angels Destroyed Men

In the Bible angels destroyed men, both God's people and God's enemies.

And I will send an angel before you; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

Exodus 33:2

And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD

repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now your hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing place of Araunah the Jebusite.

2 Samuel 24:16

It came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

2 Kings 19:35

The LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria...

2 Chronicles 32:21

We find in scripture that angels protected Men.

Then Nebuchadnezzar spoke, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Daniel 3:28

My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch

as before him innocence was found in me; and also before you, O king, have I done no hurt.

**Daniel 6:22**

It is a mistaken belief to think that angels are on the side of God's people for it is not true if you read the bible with an open mind. A really good example of this is in the story of Joshua, just before he went to conquer Jericho. Joshua saw an angel, but as he appeared as a man he did not realise it until he had talked with him. He asked the man, who had a sword in his hand, whose side he was on. Was he for them or against them? The answer this angel gave is very revealing. He said that he did not take sides because he was captain of the Lord's hosts – the army of the angels of God.

It came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Are you for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, No; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What does my lord say unto his servant?

**Joshua 5:13:14**

Angels are neutral in their motives and actions and only do the bidding of God. The army of

angels may protect God's people, or they may destroy God's people – both happened on different occasions in scripture, so we cannot presume that they will always protect or fight on our behalf; for if God instructs them to destroy us they will destroy us. Surely it was an angel that struck Ananias and Sapphira with instant death when Peter prophesied it. I have already given a scripture where an angel was destroying the people of Jerusalem in the days of King David

I have shown that men have cast out devils in a previous chapter; this is not a battle, but a word of command and authority because they had the legal right.

I cannot find instances in the bible where:

1. Men fought with devils.
2. Devils destroyed men.
3. Devils appeared to men as devils
4. Devils appeared as humans in the way angels did.

Many years ago my wife had a vision and I have never forgotten it, because it confirms what the bible says 'The Battle is the Lord's'. We had started on the journey to be intercessors because God had called us, although we knew very little about this subject. We would meet together for prayer and fasting and

it was at such a gathering of a few folk when she saw this vision.

She saw a football match between players in white and players in black. She instinctively thought that we were part of the white team, and were battling against the team in black. The game was aggressive and both teams scored goals and the crowd would give their applause. On one occasion both teams went to kick the ball and so strong was their kicking that the ball burst and had to be thrown aside and another ball introduced into the game so it could continue. This happened with a few of the balls and each time another was introduced and the burst ball discarded.

## A Valuable Principle

Eventually the game was won, but God did not reveal who were the victors. Then God surprised us for he said, 'Don't think you are on the white team, and you are not on the black team. YOU ARE THE FOOTBALLS'. Wow, that really shocked us. God said that it was his game and his battle and we were just to be used as he wished and if we could not take the pressure then we would be replaced with someone who could and the game would always continue to the conclusion because he was in charge of both sides.

We learned a valuable principle. The Battle is the Lord's and we are just like the footballs. We have to take whatever is thrown at us. In the book of Job we find that Job did not know what was happening to him because the argument was between God and Satan and he was just the man the argument was all about.

He did not win or lose the argument. God won the argument for he proved his point to Satan and because Job took the pressure without cursing, God was vindicated. How important for Christians to stay out of the battle and let God do what he is best at – running the whole show. When we learn this principle then we understand that whatever happens to us will work out for our best in the end. As Paul says, all things – good and bad – work together for our good.

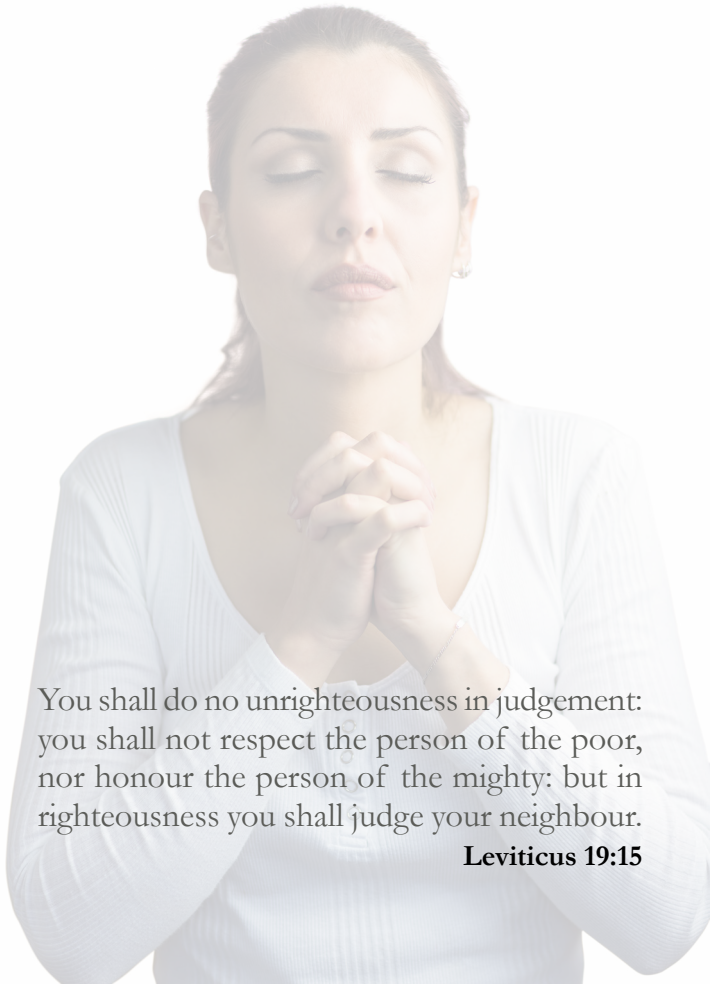
## **Keep Out of The Battle**

When a Christian enters the battle between angels and devils he will always get injured. We have a tremendous part to play in the spiritual battles but it is in our minds and a battle of the wills – God's will or our will. We are told to take every wrong thought captive and the strongholds we have to take are the ones in our mind that would exalt themselves above God. The biggest battle a Christian will have is always with pride. This is the damnable thing that always exalts itself against God and it will always keep us out of the coming kingdom

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 5:3**

It is now time to look at how the spiritual battles between angels and devil are won and lost and I will address this in the next chapter.



You shall do no unrighteousness in judgement:  
you shall not respect the person of the poor,  
nor honour the person of the mighty: but in  
righteousness you shall judge your neighbour.

**Leviticus 19:15**

# Chapter 5

## The Courtroom

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened.

**Revelation 20:11-12**

**H**ow do angels and devils do battle? It is a legal battle because neither a devil nor an angel cannot kill each other, they have to win a legal fight for one side to win and the other to be defeated.

The judge in any legal battle will have the final say despite what the prosecution or defence may wish or plead for.

## God is the Judge

I do not think any Christian would doubt that God is the judge of all heaven and earth and that his judgement seat at this time is in heaven and will be until the new creation. Jesus will of course reign on this earth and his throne will be set up on this present earth when he returns.

He will then judge the nations and the 12 apostles will also sit upon 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he shall sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

**Matthew 25:31-32**

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That you which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Matthew 19:28**

Thrones are to rule and to judge from and because the earthly thrones only reflect the spiritual ones it must be obvious that there are more people attending the court other than the judge. Let us consider the different attendees of any court. We are talking about a court of law and God will only use his laws to judge us, just as an earthy law court would do.

Any courtroom would have:

**1. A judgement seat:** the place where the judge would sit to make his assessments, judgements, and pass sentence.

**2. A judge:** who would make the final judgement and pass sentence, after hearing evidence from both sides. It is essential that the Judge is impartial and would not favour one side or the other, but judge only on the evidence. An earthly judge can not judge on the truth alone for he has no way of knowing who is telling the truth as both sides claim to be revealing it. They can only judge on the evidence that is placed before them. God, of course, does need evidence, but he also knows the truth from both sides of the court.

**3. The accused:** If no one is accused there is no need for a court to determine guilt or innocence.

**4. A prosecutor:** to bring evidence of his accusation, speak against the accused, and demand justice from

the judge. They would never ask for leniency, but the greatest sentence possible for the offence.

**5. The defence lawyer or advocate:** who brings evidence and mitigation and always asks for leniency or mercy, even if his client is guilty.

Let me show you who these people are in the heavenly throne room of God, and bring scripture to support my claims.

## 1. The Judgement Seat of God

The court is in heaven and therefore so is the Judgement seat of almighty God

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. and I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20-11-12

## 2. The Judge

It is obvious the judge can be none other than God himself.

For promotion comes neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he puts down one, and sets up another.

**Psalm 75:6-7**

Christians seem to think that God will favour them in some way in his judgement. He will not, for he is not a 'respector of persons'. The phrase is used in the bible in the context of judgement and not of relationship. With love there is always favour and impartiality, and from an unbiased reading of the bible God clearly does favour one person over another. Without discrimination one can not show love, for to treat everyone the same is to love no one, for love has to express itself in favour not equality.

## **Love is Showing Favour**

The world and the church have been deceived to think that 'love equals equality' in relationship, but is it a lie and impossible to achieve in reality. It is a concept that is not based on any logic and so very dangerous as it gives a distorted view of God. This one-sided view of a lovey dovey, sentimental God is ruining the Church and making it soft and easy prey for all sorts of sins and indulgences which contradict what the epistles and teaching of Jesus state clearly.

In the law of Moses God instructed Israel not to respect in judgement as that is his character – an impartial judge.

You shall not respect persons in judgement; but you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgement is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

Deuteronomy 1:17

These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgement.

Proverbs 24:23

To have respect of persons is not good: for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

Proverbs 28:21

And if you call on the Father, who without respect of persons judges according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

1 Peter 1:17

## Only Justice Will Do

If I were a judge and my enemy came before me and was guilty of murder I would not be considered a bad judge to send him to the gallows, for I would only be executing what was just, according to the law, and I could rejoice that my enemy was no more.

However, if my son came before me for the same crime I would be a bad judge to give a lesser sentence.

So, if I wanted to be just, I would have to send my own son to the gallows, and I would grieve the rest of my life for him. A judge cannot show favour and discrimination, and God is the ultimate just judge so he cannot respect a Christians more than a mass murderer when he judges. The punishment will always fit the crime with God irrespective of who is before him.

Abraham challenged God in this respect.

**That be far from you God to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from you: shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**

**Genesis 18:25**

### **3. The Accused**

Who is in the dock to be judged? The answer is simple. Every single human being, every angel that God created, and every devil that was created. Everyone who has broken God's laws will be punished ...unless someone has already paid for their crime. In our case Christ has paid the price that a just God demanded for the sins of the world to be taken away, and we only have to acknowledge our sin and accept what has already been paid for in full, to have our case dismissed at the Great White Throne judgement. If our name is in the book of life, it is the evidence we have been justified and we

will be freed from the fate we deserve – the lake of fire – the second death.

## All the World is Guilty

Now we know that whatever things the law says, it says to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:19

## Angels who Sinned are Guilty

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement...

2 Peter 2:4

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day.

Jude 1:6

## Satan and His Angels are Guilty

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, **prepared for the devil and his angels:**

Matthew 25:41

It would be good to note that in the millennial reign of Christ, God will not be the judge, for he will hand the judgement to Christ until after his 7th day of rest. Christ will reign for 1000 years and then, after heaven and earth pass away, God will set up his Great White Throne judgement.

Christ will not judge anyone for salvation for that will be reserved for the Great White Throne judgement of God. Jesus will be judging the works of the Christians and even if all our work is burned up as useless we are still saved and will stand before the Great White Throne, and as their names are still in the book of life they will be saved.

If any man's work abide which he has built upon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but **he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**

1 Corinthians 3:14-15

Jesus will smite the nations and destroy his enemies, but not to damn them to the lake of fire. He will judge and punish them physically, but God himself will send people to the lake of fire which is spiritual death after heaven and earth pass way and the Great White Throne is set up.

#### 4. The Prosecutor

The prosecutor can only be Satan according to the scriptures. He is the accuser of the Christians.

His very name means slanderer, adversary, or one who withstands.

And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

Zechariah 3:1

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren** is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:9-10

## 5. The Advocate or Defence Lawyer

This can be none other than Jesus himself for the bible makes it very plain. An intercessor is one who pleads for, or stands in the gap for another, and there are many scriptures to say that this is a role that Jesus now fulfils.

My little children, these things I write to you, that you sin not, and **if any man sin, we have**

**an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ**  
the righteous.

1 John 2:1

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:5

## Our Saviour

It is clear from the following scriptures that the advocate of mankind sits at the right hand of God to intercede on our behalf.

Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yes rather, that is risen again, **who is even at the right hand of God**, who also makes intercession for us.

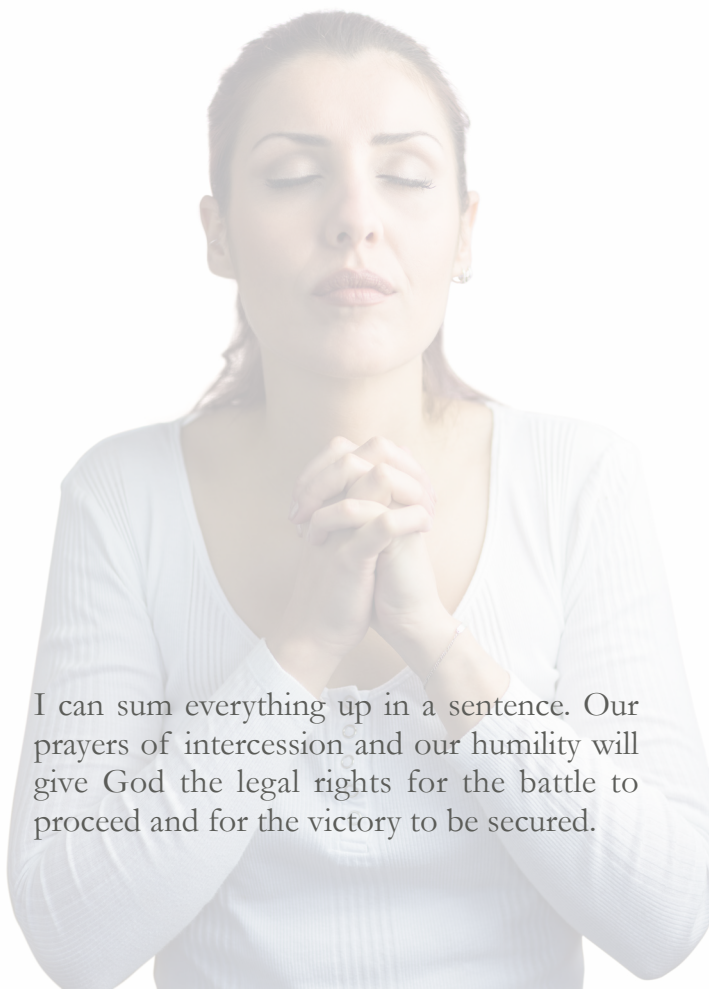
Romans 8:34

Could it be possible that the left hand of God is the place for the accuser of the brethren, Satan, to sit? I will leave the reader to come to their own conclusion to that one. He certainly has access at this present time to accuse the saints.

## What About Us

If we accept that the battle is a legal one between angels and devils and that we are represented by Jesus and accused by Satan before God who always makes the final decisions, then what part do we play in all this? Have we no bearing on God's decisions and can we not have any effect on those decisions. Very much so for that is what intercession is all about; changing the judge's mind to choose mercy over judgement. That is why I have stressed in volume 1 that we must become the people that God will listen to and be close enough in relationship to influence him to show mercy.





I can sum everything up in a sentence. Our prayers of intercession and our humility will give God the legal rights for the battle to proceed and for the victory to be secured.

# Chapter 6

## Our Part in the Battle

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**

**O**ur part in spiritual warfare is not to fight, but to be an intercessor and stand with Jesus our great intercessor who is seated at the right hand

of God. We are told that spiritually we are seated in heavenly places with Christ.

And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6

If you are then risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

## Pleading for Mercy

If this is true then we are in the spiritual place, or should be, of intercession; pleading for God to have mercy and not shouting at Satan to release our cities: he has a legal right to possess them if God's people are backslidden.

Read slowly the following few verses from the book of Jeremiah where God tells the prophet to stand in God's house and talk to God's people who have broken God's laws. (Sin is a transgression of the law.) If they repent God will also repent of the curse he will pronounce on them.

This is what the LORD says; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command you to speak unto them; diminish not a word:

If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, **that I may repent of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them** because of the evil of their doings. And you shall say unto them, This is what the LORD says; If you will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you, To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but you have not hearkened; Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.

Jeremiah 26:2-6

## Carrying the Burden

So the first thing we can do as intercessors is to carry this burden of the sins of his people in our present age who are on the brink of Jesus' return to earth to set up his kingdom. We must be a voice in the wilderness, and ask God's backslidden people to repent of their wicked ways. This is in itself an act of intercession, for it is trying to reconcile God's people to God, or as the bible says to 'turn the hearts back again'.

This is what Elijah said just before the fire fell and the prophets of Baal were slain by God's people. Calling for repentance from God's people is one of the things we can do and is part of the intercession. Elijah stood between a people cursed of God with a famine and God himself, and he brought about

reconciliation. He stood between the Judge and the people condemned; this is intercession.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that you are the LORD God, and that you have turned their heart back again.

**1 Kings 18:37**

## **We Need to Become the Right Person**

The second thing we can do is to appeal to the Judge, but how do we do this. Well we can identify with the sins of the Church and ask God not to administer judgement, but to set it aside and show mercy. Daniel's prayer of intercession for Israel, who were in Babylon for their backsliding, was effectual and a good blueprint for us. Of course we need to remember what I stressed in my first volume on intercession; that we need first to become the person that God will listen to. Daniel was a man 'greatly beloved'. The first thing he did was to humble himself and that is the key.

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes.

**Daniel 9:3**

Read the rest of his prayer, for it is an example of all that I have been saying about the legal aspect, and the just judgement of God upon his own people.

Notice that he includes himself as part of the problem and not as one praying outside of it – this is an important principle.

And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments.

**We have sinned**, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from your precepts and from your judgements:

Neither have we hearkened unto your servants the prophets, which spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

O Lord, righteousness belongs unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries where you have driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against you.

O Lord, to us belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you.

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he

set before us by his servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel have transgressed your law, even by departing, that they might not obey your voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven has not been done as has been done upon Jerusalem.

As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet we did not make our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand your truth. Therefore the LORD has watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he does: for we obeyed not his voice.

And now, O Lord our God, you have brought your people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have got yourself renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O Lord, according to all your righteousness, I beseech you, let your anger and your fury be turned away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of your servant, and his supplications, and cause your face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. O my God, incline your ear, and hear; open your eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by your name: for we do not present our supplications before you for our righteousness, but for your great mercies.

O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for your own sake, O my God: for your city and your people are called by your name.

**From Daniel 9:4-19**

Daniel does not mention Satan or his devils once in his prayer, neither does he hint that the calamities that have happened to God's people are anything other than to do with God's judgement. Of course, God often uses the devil to do his work but Daniel's appeal is to the judge and so our prayer should also be addressed to God and not accusations against the prosecutor – the devil. Satan is the one who accuses and to be an accuser is to do the devils job for him, when ours should be with the advocate as an intercessor. The bible says that even the archangel Michael would not bring an accusation against Satan.

Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of

Moses, dared not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke you.

**Jude 1:9**

## **Pleaders not fighters**

Jesus is not fighting for his kingdom at this present time, he is at the right hand of God interceding for it, and for the people who will occupy it with him – his bride. I suggest we should be doing the same. If the head is interceding and not fighting, shouldn't the body be doing the same? Intercession is about pleading to the judge not about fighting devils. Intercessors are people who submit not fight. The world and carnal Christians fight for their own rights and their own battles, but God's way is to submit to God and the devil will not be a problem.

**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

**James 4:7**

The key to our part in intercession is to submit and humble ourselves before God. The Devil will only flee when we submit to God. I looked at the 4 conditions for God to heal the land of his backslidden people from the scripture in 1 Chronicles 7:14 in the last volume and not one of them was to blame Babylon, or its system, or Satan himself, and yet they all had a part in the calamities that Israel

found themselves in. Here are the conditions God requested:

1. If my people humble themselves
2. Pray
3. Seek God's face
4. Turn from their wicked ways

Why is it inappropriate to fight the devil when things go wrong with God's people? We need to look at the verses before and we will find that it was God who had cursed them and caused the evil to come upon them so they had to deal with the roots and not the symptoms – even if the devil was used by God to bring the curse about. If God curses us we need to appeal to him and not curse the curse.

**If I shut up heaven** that there be no rain,  
**or if I command the locusts** to devour the  
land, **or if I send pestilence among my  
people...**

2 Chronicles 7:13

Maybe for many Christians it is hard to understand how God and Satan work together, but an illustration from the book of Samuel compared with the same incident recorded in the book of Chronicles will perhaps help those who are confused.

And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and **God moved David** against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

2 Samuel 24:1

If we read the context the scripture clearly says that God moved David to number the people so he could punish them when David did so.

Now for the scripture from Chronicles. This says that Satan provoked David to number Israel, so which scripture gives us the true picture.

And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

I chronicles 21:1

## Embrace Them Both

Both of course, because they are both scriptures from God's word and we cannot, and dare not, choose one over the other to suit our doctrines. Our doctrine must always come into line with what is clearly stated. How do we reconcile the 2 opposing scriptures? We do not try; instead we embrace them both and ask God for revelation. It is simple. God wanted to punish Israel and so he used Satan to provoke David. Many times Satan is used for God's purposes. When Satan entered Judas to betray Jesus it was part of God's plan not Satan's and when the devils, who were in God's people, crucified Jesus

they did not know that they were part of a plan to shed the blood of an innocent man as a means of Salvation for the whole world. Can I support this from scripture? Yes, read what Paul said in Hebrews. This is the hidden mystery that God planned before he even created this earth.

**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 2:8

## Part of God's Plan

Satan is only a part of God's plan. I find no scriptures to say that Satan ever rebelled against God. It is we humans that have that capacity. Satan is only the one who tries to deceive us to rebel. He is just doing the job he was created for. To deceive and then accuse. We have attributed far more power to Satan than we should and that, of course, is a part of his deception. We should have no fear of Satan or of men; our fear should be of God.

**And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

Matthew 10:28

Men in the bible who were known as intercessors were passive against the enemy. They all pleaded with God to save them. We win by losing and this is the key. We surrender to God and he defeats the enemy. Jesus defeated Satan because he allowed Satan, in wicked men, to crucify him and is our example. Here are a few more examples

## 1. Moses

When Moses and Israel had the Egyptians at their rear ready to kill them, the mountains on each side to trap them, and the Red Sea in front to drown them, what did Moses do? He went to God with the problem and God opened the Red Sea and destroyed the Egyptians without Israel raising a sword and God received the glory, not Moses or Israel. (Read the song of Moses that Miriam sang after they had been delivered.)

While Joshua was fighting the Amalakites. Moses was up the mount with his hands held toward heaven. We often raise our hands in praise and victory, but when a gun is pointed at our body we also lift our hand in surrender and that is what Moses – the meekest man on the earth – was doing. Surrendering to God so that God could give them the victory.

## 2. Daniel

When Daniel humbled himself the battle in the heavens raged. Daniel did not even know there

was a spiritual war between angels and devils in the heavens, but his humbling and intercessory prayer allowed the battle to continue and give the angels a legal right to bring victory; in this case a wonderful revelation about the end of the age we are in now, and many things that were revealed to Daniel have not even manifested yet (account in Daniel 10).

### 3. King Hezekiah

When the enemies of Israel would have prevailed, this king humbled himself with sackcloth and fasting and God sent an angel to kill 185,000 of Israel's enemies. That is spiritual warfare: Hezekiah humbled himself and the battle was not between his army and the enemy. An angel did the work. He did not have to fight one devil or one human being. When, oh when, will Christians' learn not to fight but submit to God. What wonderful deliverances and victories would be wrought and what glory would go to God instead of the nonsense that we talk about in this age about mighty men of God. It is God that is mighty and not men – we are only sinners saved by grace (account is in 2 Kings 19).

### 4. Jesus

In the wilderness Jesus had a spiritual battle for sure, but he was not fighting Satan, he was fighting the thoughts that Satan had put in his mind. The temptation was what it implied – a temptation that

is always a battle of the will in our minds and it is not about fighting devils (the account of Jesus' temptation in Matthew 4).

## We Win by Submission

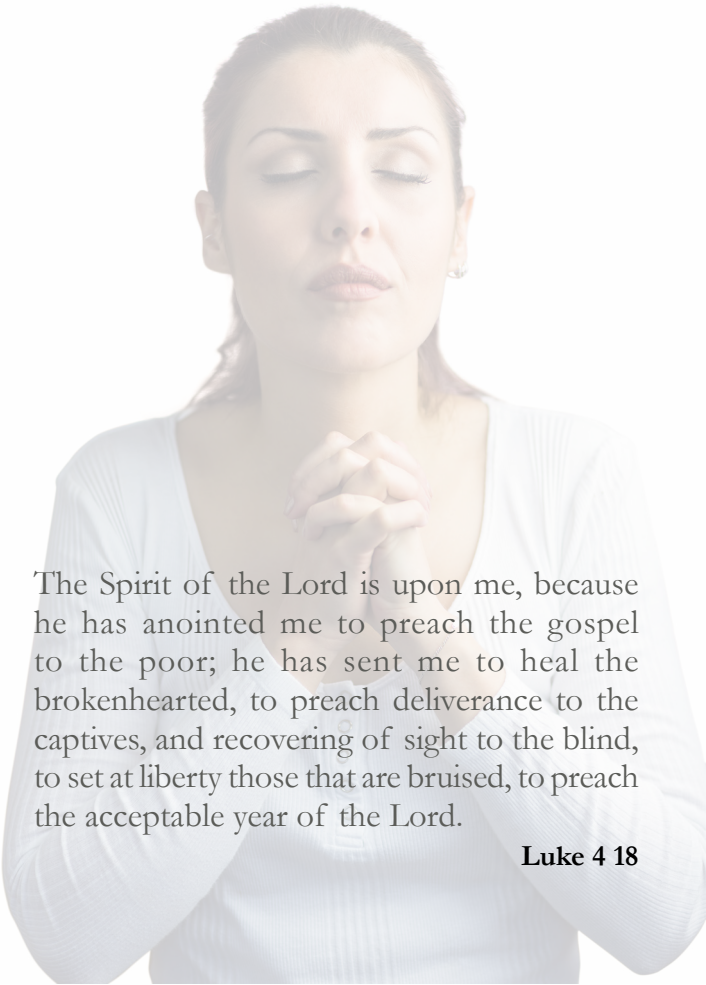
It was the same battle in the garden of Gethsemane, and on the cross he submitted to God's will and did not fight the devils who were gleefully killing him through wicked men. He said, 'Into your hands I commend my spirit'. That is submission, and that was the victory of the cross. He did not die fighting, he died surrendering. What a difference and what a revelation to those who think they win in this battle by fighting devils.

And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into your hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

**Luke 23:46**

To conclude this chapter I can sum everything up in a sentence. Our prayers of intercession and our humility will give God the legal rights for the battle to proceed and for the victory to be secured.





The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

**Luke 4 18**

# Chapter 7

## Destroying the works of the Devil

You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

**John 8:44**

**T**he scriptures say that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil so if we are followers

of him, and he is our example, then we should also be destroying the works of the devil. This is the scripture from the letter of John to the Church.

**He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

**I John 3:8**

Notice it does not say that Jesus came to destroy the devil. He is alive and well on planet earth and doing a great job of causing rebellion in its inhabitants and blindness to God's people. What it does say is that he came to destroy **the works of the devil** which is another matter entirely. We are not instructed to destroy devils or to bind them. However, we are implicitly instructed to cast them out and free the people who are inhabited by them. A devil cannot be destroyed; just as a human spirit cannot be destroyed. Our bodies can be destroyed, but that is just the house we live in. Because a devil does not have its own house, but seeks a body to dwell in, we can never destroy any part of one. We need therefore to ask; what are the works of the devil that Jesus, and now us, are to destroy?

## **God is Hard Working**

It is an interesting fact to note that everything God created seems to be industrious and hard

working. It seems as if God hates laziness and many verses of scripture show this to be true. This is because industry and hard work are the very nature and character of God. He worked when he made creation and then he rested from his labours. There is a balance between work and rest; rest would be impossible if there were no activity to rest from. We are instructed to work by God and we are told to rest by God and without the balance our bodies will not function as they were created to work and we cannot please God if we are not balanced.

**And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.**

**Genesis 2:2-3**

Spiritual beings, such as angels or devils, work and are industrious, so what are the devil's works, for we cannot destroy them if we do not know what his work is?

The bible tells us Satan's character and this is one of the clues to his work. I believe Satan was created with the character he now has. If you disagree and believe he was created perfect and sinned then you need to explain who it was that tempted him to rebel against God, for a perfect being would need an outside thought to tempt them.

The scripture below says that Satan was a murderer from the beginning.

**You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

**John 8:44**

In the bible 'the beginning' often means 'at creation', and I suggest that was the purpose for his creation – to be man's opponent, an adversary and tempter. This above verse also says Satan was a liar and if he were the father, or founder of lies, he was the first one to lie. I suspect it was to Eve in the garden, when he promised her she would not die if she ate of the fruit.

Satan is not God's opponent and has no power to thwart God's plans; indeed he is a part of his plans for God is all powerful and omnipotent. Satan is the enemy of men's souls according to the bible.

**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.**

**1 Peter 5:8**

If we do not understand the origin and the purpose for why God created this being we call

Satan, we will not understand how we can destroy his works.

Whatever guises and temptations Satan uses his end work is always the same and very simple in its aim.

## Separation from God

His aim is to separate mankind from God by rebellion against God's law. That is what he accomplished in the garden of Eden and that is what he has been doing ever since. Satan wants people to rebel against God and conform them to his own character so that they suffer the same fate that awaits him – and he knows it very well – eternal damnation in the lake of fire. The reason he seduces mankind to break God's laws is only a means to an end, for he knows that when anyone breaks God's law they also break relationship with God. When Eve disobeyed God she was, along with Adam, put out of the garden and God exiled himself to heaven and no more came daily to see and have fellowship with them. Satan had done his work. It had nothing to do with sin – it is to do with separation. Sin is just the reason that God separates himself. If swimming in the sea was a reason for God to cut us off, Satan would ask us to swim in the sea – the sin is a means to an end. The end is always to separate us from our creator. Another way of seeing his work is to use the word 'divide'. When we sin we are separated and there is a division between us and God. This is

Satan's fundamental work. To separate man from his maker, man from his wife, man from his family, pastors from their congregations, children from parents, bosses from workers, ad infinitum.

## Not Difficult to Understand

To destroy the works of the devil should be easy to understand. It is to reverse what Satan has done. That is what Jesus did in his act of intercession on the cross – reconcile man back to God and close the division that Satan had made with his devious work. We have been given that same commission to reconcile men to God and then conform them to the image of God's son that they may be transformed from the character of Satan to the character of God. This in itself is an act of intercession – to make people holy, submissive, and obedient. This will always endear God to those people and he will become a friend and not a distant impersonal saviour. This is destroying the devil's work. Whenever we bring reconciliation we are destroying what Satan has achieved – division.

**And all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.**

**2 Corinthians 5:18**

The process of destroying Satan's work starts with evangelism, for the message is that man can be

reconciled to God, but this is only the start of the process. To be close to God is more than having our sins forgiven, it is to become like him; true oneness is to be lost in another, to be indivisible, whether in a human relationship or with God.

How does Satan achieve his mission to separate people from God? It all starts in the mind. We are tempted to disobey God and if we listen to our temptation and agree with it, then it is not long before we find ourselves acting out his suggestions, and because it is against God's instructions we are separated in some measure from God. For a Christian Satan's main areas of attack and deception are:

## 1. Pride

Pride is always at the root of our disobedience because it presupposes that we know best. Independence and anything prefixed with the word 'self' is an entrance into our proud minds and starts the process of rebellion.

## 2. Worship of anything created over the creator

This is an easy one for Satan to deceive any Christian with. Israel had only just been redeemed from Egypt when they fell for this wile of the Devil and were dancing around a golden calf 40 days later because their minds had been corrupted, and

they believed they were worshipping God in an acceptable way. They were not worshipping Satan in their minds because it was not a pig on the altar and they declared a feast to the LORD and not Baal. Nevertheless it was Satan worship, for their minds had been corrupted and they listened to Aaron who only spoke the words of Satan. It could have been Satan himself who said the following words, and indeed it was, through the mouth of Aaron. They were deceived in their minds and acted on the instructions Satan had placed in their minds.

**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 to me. And all the people broke 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 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 32:2-6**

It is no different today with the Church disco type worship; flashing lights, loud music, and the sensual dancing, and yet modern Christians would defend it. Their minds have been corrupted and they have believed the lie of Satan.

### 3. Treasures on Earth

Materialism is the bane of true discipleship and the modern Christians have been deceived in their minds that gain is godliness, when the bible says the exact opposite.

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strife of words, which brings envy, strife, railings, evil surmising, perverse disputing of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness**: from such withdraw yourself. But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 6:3-6

Jesus told us to put treasure in heaven and not to store treasure on earth. Surely this is not difficult to understand. Yet, because of deception in the minds of God's people they are doing the opposite to what was instructed and refuse to separate themselves

from the world and separate themselves to God. They are saved for sure, but their hearts are far from God himself. Disobedience causes spiritual blindness and when we know the light and walk in darkness we are separated from God and need reconciliation.

**The light of the body is the eye: if therefore your eye is single, your whole body shall be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**

**Matthew 6:22-23**

## Reversing the Process

How do we reverse this process and destroy his works. It is easy for it is the same process. It starts with the mind. That is why Paul tells us to be renewed in our minds and we will know the acceptable will of God.

**And don't be conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

**Romans 12:2**

That is why we have to battle in our mind and cast down every thought that would make us

disobey God's laws. Our minds have to be changed to think differently. Instead of self and pride we have to change our thinking to deny self, learn to be submissive, meek and humble. This brings us close to God and shortens the gap between us and is another step towards full reconciliation to God as a bride to Christ

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; **casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

The epistles are full of instructions of how to think as a disciple and every time we obey them we are destroying the work of the devil, because we are undoing what he has worked in us and in this world.

How do we deal with the 2 main ways that our minds have been corrupted?

## 1. Pride

We replace pride with humility and denial of self. Pride is a way of thinking just as humility is. Humble acts can make us proud, for it is a way of thinking

or disposition, not outward acts. The acts should be because of our inner life and not just religious actions. Hypocrites can act in a humble way, but it is only a covering for their pride.

## 2. Worship of Created Things

We can worship God in spirit and truth, but it is a costly business. It has nothing to do with singing or lifting hands or praising God. It is a way of thinking and if the thinking of our hearts is correct then the true worship will automatically manifest in obedience and sacrifice.

The first mention of worship in the bible is when Abraham went to sacrifice his son. This is so far away from our concept of worship because our minds have been corrupted by the god of this world.

**And Abraham said unto his young men, stay here with the ass; and I and the lad will go further and worship, and come again to you.**

**Genesis 22:5**

Job, when he had lost everything that was dear to him except for his wife, worshipped God. What sort of mind-set is that? So contrary to modern Christianity. No wonder the faith preachers criticise him for his lack of faith; it is so alien to their thinking. They say that the Lord will never 'take away'. It just shows they do not know God or his word.

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, Naked I came out of my mother's womb, and naked I shall return again: the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Job 1:20-21

This does not mean that we can not sing when we worship. It means our mind and heart must be conformed to the thinking of Christ or we will do what God accused Israel of. This is what Jesus said in his day.

You hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draw near unto me with their mouth, and honour me with their lips; but **their heart is far from me**. In vain they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Matthew 15:9

### 3. Treasures on Earth.

We can change our mind-set to treasure in heaven; treasure that is incorruptible and secure, ready to be enjoyed in the millennial reign of Christ. Covetousness is a way of thinking just as self sacrifice and treating our neighbour as ourselves is. It is never the action because the correct action can have a wrong motive. The heart motive has to be

correct and the action will follow, but it has to be this way around. The mind is always the root of our actions and that is what we must deal with if we want to be an intercessor and someone whom God will listen to. This battle of the mind is fundamental in the life of a true disciple and intercessor, and as we progress and change, we must also teach others to renew their minds, for this is where the real spiritual warfare starts and ends and it is the great stronghold of Satan that needs pulling down.

## Starting the Ministry

After Jesus had been baptised and the Holy Ghost came upon him he was tested by God and tempted of the devil in the wilderness. He came through the test and started his ministry of destroying the works of the devil. His first sermon in the synagogue in Nazareth declared what his ministry was all about.

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

**Luke 4:18**

Let me encourage you to seek God and adjust your thinking to the mind of Christ that you may

also be a partaker of this ministry and not be part of a religious system that has no power to destroy Satan's works. It demands a radical lifestyle and crucifying of self, but the rewards bring a lifestyle and satisfaction that is beyond comparison with anything this world or 'The Church' can offer.



Part 2

Making  
His Paths  
Straight

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

**Luke 3:4**

# Introduction

## Preparing the Way of the Lord

The voice of him that cries in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**Isaiah 40:3**

**T**o be an intercessor is to stand in the gap between the judgement of God and his people who have erred from his pathways. Our job

as intercessors is not to pray for lost souls, but to go into all the world and tell them the good news – that the intercession was accomplished on the cross by Jesus and there is nothing needed to be done by them or the Church to purchase their eternal life and reconciliation to their creator. An intercessor's appeal is not to sinners but to God himself, the judge of all the earth, and must therefore always seek to turn God's heart from judgement to mercy. I covered this in volume 1 of this series.

## Our Last Chance

I now want to look specifically at the times we are living in and what we must concentrate on if we are to be aligned with the plan and will of God. We have a mammoth job on our hands because this is the last chance of the Church to come out of Babylon and become the bride ready for the return of Jesus. The message of John the Baptist, which was only the same as that of Elijah, was to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and while this applies in the natural realm, with restoration of families, it is far more important to reconcile the modern church to our spiritual fathers. We have drifted so far away from the early church model that these early disciples had that today's Christians have no idea of the freedom they had in Christ. They were free from any Church doctrine for it had not been formulated, and they had no new calendar to replace the calendar that God instituted through Moses; that all finished after

Jesus died and the temple ceased to exist.

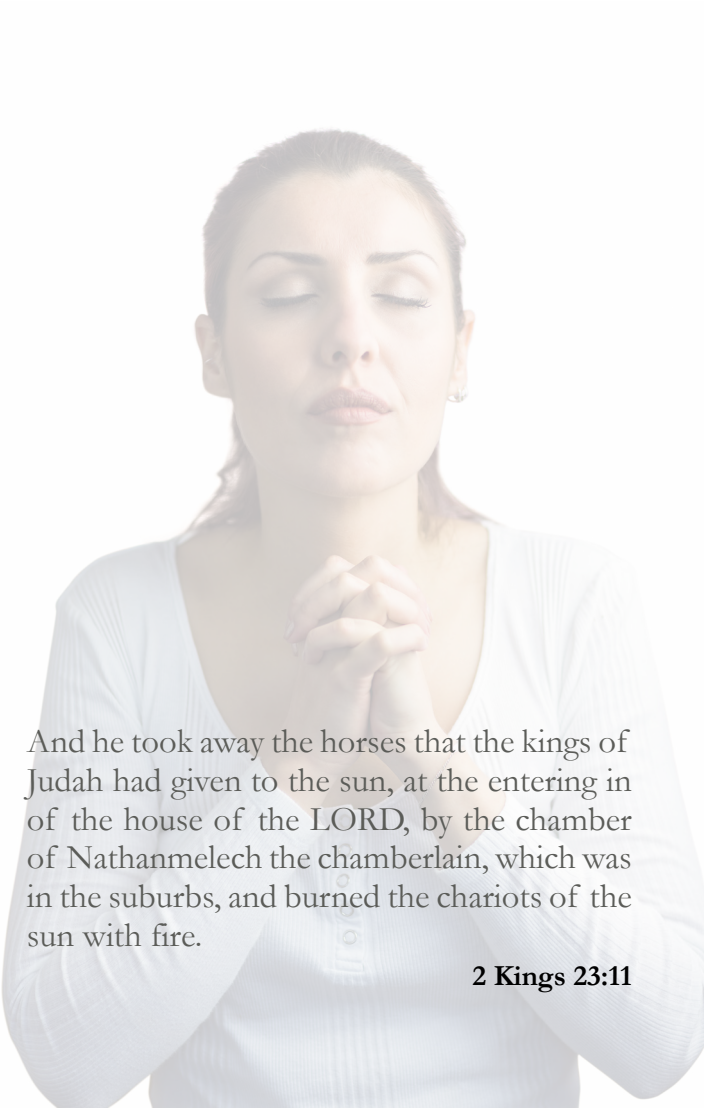
The mixture that now exists of paganism and truth is so intertwined that hardly anyone knows the difference after 2,000 of traditions and heresies. If, in the book of Revelation, God says 'come out of her my people' it only proves the fact that God expects his people to be in Babylon just before the return of his son. The Laodician Church, which is the last one and fits perfectly our present position, clearly had the mixture, and mixture and confusion are just another name for Babylon.

Babylon is not a different group of people than the Church – **the Church is Babylon** (see my series of 5 volumes on '6,000 Years of Babylon' for a full explanation of this and how it all happened) (Footnote 1).

I will start this part by looking at this intercessory spirit in the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal to show the principles of intercession and how God's people can turn back to their God. I will then look at the manifestation of this same spirit in John the Baptist, and others in the New Testament.

### Footnote 1

These 5 volumes are available from Barratt Ministries website shop. [www.barrattministries.org.uk](http://www.barrattministries.org.uk), or from [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) as a paperback, PDF, or kindle download.



And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

**2 Kings 23:11**

# Chapter 8

## Elijah and the Fire From Heaven

And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

**1 Kings 19:12**

When we look at the incident in the first book of Kings where Elijah prayed and God answered by fire we need to understand a little of Israel's history to understand what it was all about

and to learn our lessons from it today, for it is not about a demonstration of the power of God it is all about intercession.

Israel consisted of 12 tribes, who came from the families of the 12 sons of Jacob (his name was changed by God to Israel). After the reign of the third king of these 12 tribes Solomon, the son of David, there was a split in this nation and 10 tribes refused to acknowledge the king of Israel and the city of the kings, Jerusalem, and elected their own king. Samaria was the capital where this king reigned over the 10 tribes. The 2 southern tribes continued to serve the king in Jerusalem and called themselves Judah as this was the more predominant of the 2 tribes; and the one David came from.

## **2 Nations From Israel**

From that time forward there were 2 nations with their own dynasty of kings. They often fought each other and have not been united to this day. Both kingdoms backslid and God had to send prophets to plead with them to return to God and to warn them of the consequences if they did not. Sometimes the kings returned to God for a period, but Israel and Judah always went into apostasy and served other gods along with Jehovah. Over the years the corruption became worse and at the time of the incident we are looking at we find that a king of the 10 tribes of Israel, a man named Omri, was the

most wicked king ever. At this time a king named Asa ruled the southern nation of Judah.

**But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him. For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.**

**1 Kings 16:25-26**

Omri had a son named Ahab and he was even more evil than his father. He married outside of Israel, which was against God's instructions, and his wife caused him to worship the gods of the Zidonians which were Baal and Aseroth. Read what God said of him.

**And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. And 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 16:29-33**

Baal and Asteroth worship includes child sacrifice and bisexual orgies on the feast days and God's people indulged in these practices as well as worshipping God.

Ahab's wife was called Jezebel and is famous for her seductive ways. She killed the prophets of God and none would have survived if Obadiah had not hidden 100 of them and supported them with food and water.

For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.

**1 Kings 18:4**

But not only did she kill God's prophets, she financed and supported 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves. It says they all ate at her table.

...and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

**1 Kings 18:19**

This does not mean of course that she had a table 1 mile long. It means she fed, supported and protected them. This was the woman who stole Naboth's vineyard to give to Ahab and killed Naboth, an innocent man, with her false accusation. This was one wicked lady.

## Jezebel in the Church

The interesting thing is that she had been allowed to join God's people. Ahab had brought her into Israel and that is where she did her evil work. Jezebel does not work in the world, but among God's people and that is why this spirit is so seductive. God's people are always looking for false prophets outside the church, when Jesus told us they are in the Church – wolves in sheep's clothing – so they look like sheep, talk like sheep, and demonstrate power like God's sheep, but they have a wolf's heart. Some of the world's most famous evangelists are leading God's people into the One World Church and God's people have lost their discernment and do not realise what is happening.

Throughout the bible the spirit of Jezebel kept manifesting and this spirit is alive in God's people today. They have brought her into the Church and she is still seducing God's people and stealing the vineyard – our means of fruitfulness. The book of Revelation confirms this. 40 years after Jesus had died and after the revival of the early church, God's people were back in spiritual Babylon and the letters

to the Churches, around AD70, show that all the traits of this system were manifesting amongst them, including the spirit of Balaam – loving the financial reward of displaying the gifts of God.

**Notwithstanding 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**

As I have explained in the first part of this volume, curses come from God because of disobedience, and when Israel were backslidden under the kingship of Ahab, God sent his man to pronounce a curse on the people. This is the first mention of Elijah and we do not know his background, except that he was a Tishbite from Gilead. He just appears on the scene and pronounces his curse – a famine in the land.

**And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.**

**1 Kings 18:1**

God in his great compassion was bringing his people to their knees so that they would turn to him. There is nothing better than adversity to

turn people's hearts back to God. Why, oh why, do Christians blame the devil when unfavourable circumstances come their way instead of searching their own hearts. Most times when a Christian has gone cold or been deceived it is the only thing that will help them and this is what God did to Israel. It was his mercy and not a vindictive act.

We must never blame the devil for the state of the country or the state of the Church, for righteousness exalts a nation and the politicians are not the salt and light that cleanses and dispels the darkness. We, God's people, are the light and the salt. The fault is always God's people, but if the salt has lost its savour it is fit for the toilet and to be trodden under foot of men. Don't be deceived and make excuses for the church by blaming the devil, politicians or the terrorists. Putting your head in the sand never did any good and will not solve the world wide problem that we are faced with today in God's people.

## What About the Fire?

When Christians think about Elijah and this incident of the prophets of Baal they think of the fire that came down from heaven believing if the fire falls it is, or will bring, revival. Nothing could be further from the truth. Fire in the bible is never revival – it is judgement as I will show later in the chapter. Think about the situation? What was needed in the famine? Certainly not fire, for fire would destroy the

crops. What is needed in a famine is the rain, and that is what brings revival. Fruitfulness needs rain not fire. Things that have faded and wilted need the rain to refresh and rejuvenate, and bring new life. This story is not about fire, but about rain, for only the rain reversed the famine. But of course, God did send the fire – but why?

## God Sent the Famine

Elijah pronounced the famine because of the backslidden state of God's people but there is a cost to exposing sin to a lukewarm church and he had to run once he has shared his message of judgement upon God's people.

Unfortunately, most times those who are backslidden do not want to hear this message and, to protect their consciences, they will criticise and persecute the prophets. God's people have always persecuted the true prophets throughout history, and the last and greatest prophet – Jesus himself – they crucified. But Elijah was a blessed man, and so is any Christian who will stand and be counted, suffer persecution, allow false accusation, and follow the example and instruction of Jesus.

Jesus and the apostles warned us about this deception of believing that a holy life brings riches and status, and yet God's people ignore it today as they have always done. It was true under the Old Covenant, but it is a different matter under the New Covenant. God's people mix and match the

2 Covenants at will to suit what they want and this produces Babylon – the mixture.

**Yes, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

**2 Timothy 3:12**

**Blessed are those which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**

**Matthew 5:10-12**

Now let me share about the actual incident of the fire and the prophets of Baal, for although the fire does not bring revival and fruitfulness it is a necessary prerequisite to revival, because if the fire does not fall there will be no rain. The famine will continue and God's dear people will remain impoverished.

God spoke to Elijah after the famine had blighted the land of Israel for 3 ½ years (1260 days), which is a very significant number in the bible and comes up in the book of Daniel and Revelation regarding the last days. This is not the book to share all the exciting things about this number and period of 3 ½ years, but the reader can research it for themselves.

Elijah was told to go and confront Ahab and tell him the good news, that rain was on its way. He did not mention the fire at all to Ahab. He just told him that it was time for the rain to come and the famine to end and to gather the people together to mount Carmel.

**And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, show yourself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.**

**1 Kings 18:1**

When Elijah met Ahab, he was accused of being the one that brought the famine to trouble Israel. The king who brought Jezebel into the camp blamed Elijah for the consequences.

**And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Are you he that troubles Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but you, and your father's house, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and you have followed Baalim.**

**1 Kings 18:17-18**

Isn't it amazing that the very one who was living for God, and righteous, was accused of bringing problems when it was the sin of the king that had brought about the famine. It is the same today. If sin is confronted in the Church we are told not to judge

and cause disunity. Righteous people are always the scapegoat for carnal and worldly Christians. They are told they are the ones who cause disunity, but it is because they will not compromise. Jesus told us to beware when we are popular. This is what Jesus said to his disciples when teaching them privately.

**Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.**

**Luke 6:26**

Elijah told Ahab to gather the people, along with the 850 prophets, and then he challenged them. He told them to decide once and for all who they would serve. If God was the true God then they should serve him, or if Baal was the true god they should serve Baal. The problem with God's children is that they do not leave God completely; they serve God and Baal, and Satan is happy with this situation for he is delighted at mixture and confusion (that is his religious system) Babylon. God will not compromise and if you serve him you have to serve him only. You can have no other gods.

**For you shall worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.**

**Exodus 34:14**

**And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get behind me, Satan: for it is written, You shall**

**worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.**

**Luke 4:8**

Time and time again God told them these things but God's people always compromise and because they still call themselves God's children they are deceived into thinking they serve God wholly when they are also serving Mammon. Around the golden calf Israel had a feast to the LORD, not Baal, but there was a mixture for they were celebrating and dancing naked. This is the spirit of Cain that Jude talks about when he is warning about false prophets. These false prophets worship the real God in the way they want to just like Cain (in the flesh) and not how God wants them to worship; in spirit and truth. This worship displeases God even though they are singing about him.

**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**

## **The Famine Did its Job**

Only a famine would gather God's people to the challenge and only a famine, that the false prophets could not control or end, would bring them to this challenge of Elijah on mount Carmel. The challenge

was for the true God to answer by fire and consume the sacrifice. Both sacrifices were the same and the false prophets prayed first but could not produce fire on the altar. Elijah prayed, and the fire came down and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the water that had been poured on to the altar, and even the stones were burned up

**Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.**

**1 Kings 18:38**

Much could be said about the symbolism and circumstances in this incident, but I want to home in on the prayer of Elijah for it is remarkable. It is a very short prayer and he never even asked God to send the fire. It is only 2 short sentences. He made 3 requests to God but none of them mentioned the fire; they were:

- 1.** To let the people know that he had only done all he had done on the instructions of God and that he was God's servant.
- 2.** To let the people know that Jehovah was the true God.
- 3.** That they would know that God had turned their hearts back again to him.

Read the prayer slowly and be amazed that he did not ask for the fire. The fire is only a means to an end and not the end in itself. If we think it is about a demonstration of power manifested in fire we have missed the whole plot and teaching that all incidents and miracles include.

**LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that you are the LORD God, and that you have turned their heart back again.**

**1 Kings 18:37**

The bottom line and last request is the key; to turn the people's hearts back to God. That is the spirit of Elijah that John the Baptist had, and the spirit that we need if we are to prepare the way of the Lord for his second coming. We need the rain to fall to end the famine and unfruitfulness of God's people, who are building a wonderfully large tree, with hardly any fruit. God is not interested in the size of the tree (our Church, or denomination) he is looking for fruit that remains.

Elijah's prayer was answered, not with the fire for he did not ask for it, but the hearts turning back to God. The fire was just the catalyst to show them the true from the false.

When God sent the fire it had a reaction that pleased God. His backslidden people repented and acknowledged the true God, Jehovah, as the only one to serve. The fire had done its job – to turn the hearts back to God.

**And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.**

**1 Kings 18:39**

What does fire represent in the bible? Not blessing as many suppose; the rain is the blessing, the revival, and the cause of fruitfulness. The bible always interprets itself so we do not need to speculate or put our own doctrinal bias to bear on this. Fire, throughout the bible, is for cleansing and judgement. Let me bring a few scriptures to show this to be true.

1. The fire that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah certainly was not a blessing; it was judgement that came from heaven.

**Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;**

**Genesis 19:24**

2. Fire was one of the plagues on Egypt and again it was God's judgement.

And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous...

**Exodus 19:23-24**

3. When the king demanded that Elijah appear before him fire came down from heaven and destroyed 50 of the king's men. This was not blessing but destruction.

And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume you and your fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

**2 Kings 1:10**

4. When David built an altar on the threshing floor, after he had bought the land for a place to build a house for God, fire came down and consumed the sacrifice. David was under judgement, but God's wrath fell on the sacrifice and David was spared. Sacrifices in the Old Covenant were a substitute for God's people and the animal took the judgement just as Jesus did on the cross.

And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings,

and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering. And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof.

1 Chronicles 21:26-27

5. The same happened with Solomon when he dedicated the temple and the sacrifices were consumed.

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

2 Chronicles 6:1

6. Fire came and destroyed Job's sheep – hardly a blessing – and it came from heaven not hell.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, **The fire of God is fallen from heaven**, and has burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell you.

Job 1:16

7. In the ministry of Jesus the disciples James, and John, were angry with the Samaritans because they would not welcome Jesus and wanted to judge them with fire.

And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, should we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elijah did?

Luke 9:54

The lake of fire is God's judgement and fire is a cleansing and purging agent. Throughout the bible the fire is not blessing but judgement. We will see in the next chapter that the message of John the Baptist was all about God's fire to cleanse and judge.

People often say to me that the Holy Ghost which fell at the Feast of Pentecost was the fire, but John the Baptist would disagree for he said that Jesus would baptise them with the Holy Ghost **and with fire**, Not the Holy Ghost which is fire. The word 'and' means 'as well as' so that implies the Holy Ghost and the fire are two different baptisms. The fire is to purge and cleanse according to the message of John and not enthusiasm as often Christians imply when they say, "et on fire, brother!"

John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptise you with water; but one mightier than I is coming, the laces of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost **and** with fire:

Luke 3:16

They saw cloven tongues like fire descended on them, but this was not the Holy Ghost it was to seal

them. Fire is used to seal and I believe this is what the cloven tongues of fire symbolise – being sealed with the Holy Ghost.

**And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

**Ephesians 4:30**

In the incident we are looking at the fire turned the hearts of God's people to God, but the consequence of that was enormous. It did not bring blessing for the job was not done with the change of heart, there needed to be action in the camp of Israel. Judgement had to be executed on the cause of the problem – the false prophets. They had to be destroyed and so Elijah commanded that the 850 false prophets should all be killed.

**And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.**

**1 Kings 18:40**

A massacre indeed, but this is the process of revival. First the fire has to come and judge and turn God's people's hearts back to God and then the cause of the backsliding, the false prophets, have to be destroyed. There was still no rain, no blessing, and no end to the famine. The ground was still as hard, the sky was still as blue, and the crops were

famished, because these 2 events had to happen first.

Surely any open minded and honest Christian can see that the nations which used to call themselves Christian, and had laws based on the bible, are now pagan and their laws allowing abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, and many more, are far from God's laws.

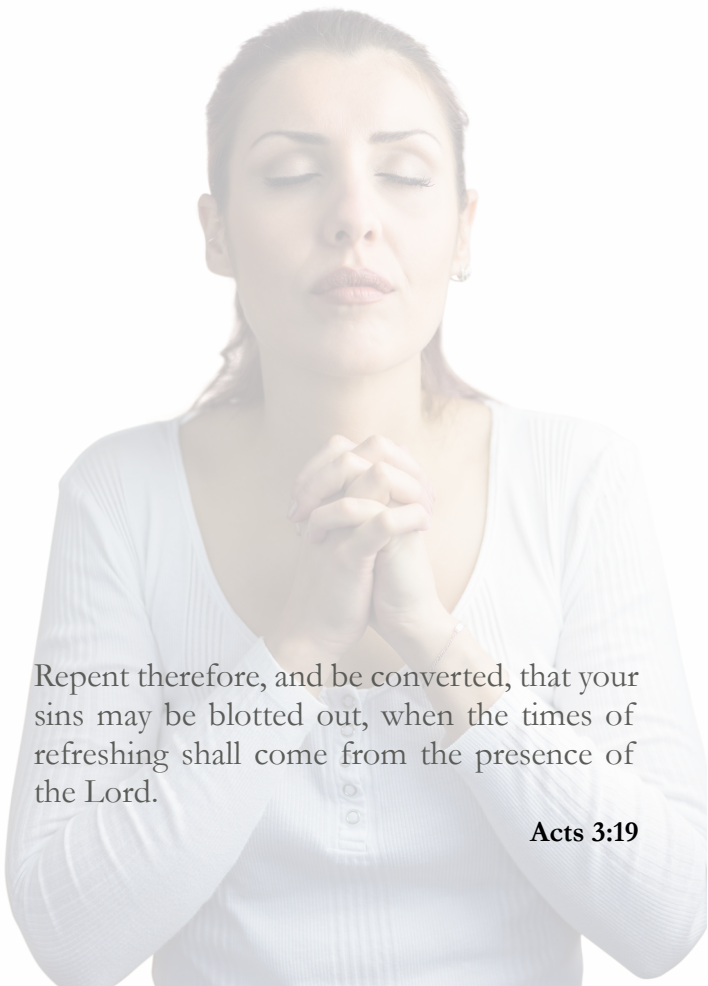
Yet, the church are believing there will be a revival and the famine will end and they are celebrating and playing the wonderful Christian violin whilst Rome is in flames. What madness from God's people! And yet history has repeated this so many times before. As I write this chapter, early April 2016, America is planning to erect a replica facade of the temple of Baal in Times Square, New York, on the 19 of April (a satanic date). This 50 foot monument is a symbol of paganism, child sacrifice, and ritual prostitution.

In London, they plan to erect one in Trafalgar Square, and many countries around the world, both in the east and the west, will be showing this same reconstruction. I accept it is not a temple just a facade, but to think this could happen in countries that used to called themselves Christian is shocking in the extreme.

## Heads in the Sand

The false prophets are still telling us we will take the world for Jesus before he comes again and that nothing will harm us and we will all be

translated before any tribulation. I have news for those Christians. Millions of Christians around the world are already in tribulation and persecution and it will soon come to the west so you had better get yourself prepared and read your bible and see what it says about the last days and stop watching the TV prophets, many whom are agents of the One World System and secret Satanist. Don't be deceived, and do your own research into what is happening in this world and in God's people; pray for discernment and revelation while you still have a chance to get out of Babylon.



Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

**Acts 3:19**

# Chapter 9

## Rain and Intercession

Elijah said unto Ahab, Get up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

**1 Kings 18:41**

**E**lijah prayed and the fire came and convinced God's people that Jehovah was the true God, and the one to serve, and they turned back to him. They destroyed the false prophets and yet God did not

send the rain. God's people in general have no power to bring revival and the refreshing rain from heaven to stop the famine and bring fruitfulness back into God's people. It takes men of God, those who are close to him and those who can intercede. An intercessor is a rare and uncommon person, but their prayers change whole communities and the course of nations. No ordinary, carnal, and careless Christian can do this work and it is not for novices. A man has to go through the training of brokenness, and the fires of misunderstanding and persecution, to be fit for this work.

### He Didn't Pray for the Fire

As I have been stating all this series, intercession is not a person praying for their needs, but a person in tune with God and carrying God's burden so they can pray God's prayers when the time is right. The prayer of Elijah for the fire was but 2 short sentences and it does not say he knelt or pleaded with God. He didn't even ask God to send the fire. However, his prayer for the rain was a very different matter. After the false prophets were destroyed he told Ahab that the rain would now come, but it was not on its way. It was a statement of faith, for he knew that once the false prophets had been dealt with he could start his intercession.

**And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.**

**1 Kings 18:41**

The difference between Ahab and Elijah is stark. Ahab went to celebrate with food and drink, and Elijah went to the top of the mountain to intercede. Carnal Christians want to celebrate and not to intercede, for that is our human nature. Partying is more favourable than praying. A Christian concert will be full and the people will all have paid money to be entertained, but the prayer meeting will not be full. A church may have 3 meetings on a Sunday because they have so many attending, but they will not need 3 meetings for prayer and intercession, in fact the prayer meeting is usually not held in the main hall but in a smaller hall or a room at the back of the church. Surely this proves my point.

**So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees.**

**1 Kings 18:42**

Elijah did not stand and pray, or raise his hands to heaven, he was on the floor in the fetal position with his head between his knees. He made himself as a child in the womb and vulnerable before God, knowing that he could not demand that the rain should come but could only plead for the mercy of God, because the judgement of the famine was deserved.

I do not know how long he was in prayer before he asked his servant to go and see if there was any

evidence of rain on the horizon, but I believe it was probably something like 30 minutes to an hour, because he prayed fervently and so these were no passing words or quick demands for deliverance.

## A Short Prayer

The prayer for the fire was short and decisive, but not so for the rain. Even after his fervent pleadings nothing happened and the servant came back with the sad news – no sign of rain.

**And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing.**

**1 Kings 18:43**

Elijah threw himself down and prayed earnestly again and sent his servant to see if God had answered his pleadings, and again – nothing. This happened 7 times. It must have taken a long time and a lot of sweat and tears pleading with God and getting no answer. However, after the 7th time a small cloud appeared in the sky and the servant came with the good news that the rain was finally on its way and the famine was ending.

**And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there arises a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto**

**Ahab, Prepare your chariot, and get down, that the rain doesn't stop you.**

**1 Kings 18:43-44**

Revival was in the air and the refreshing rains would quench the parched ground. How I long to see this in the Church my father pioneered in Manchester, and how I long to see it in the church that John Nelson Parr, one of the founders of Assemblies of God in the UK founded, and how I long to see it in my country of birth, England, but it will not come by shouting at the devil and commanding him to leave our cities. It will only come when the fire falls to purge and cleanse the Church, and the false prophets have been exposed and sent packing, and the few intercessors that God has been training for many years pay the price and intercede with fervency and humility and not with pride, self righteousness or arrogance.

## **Prayer for the Sick**

The book of James in the New Testament gives us some insight as to what this incident was all about. It is in the context of prayer for healing of our physical body. Jesus said, go into the world and cast out devils and lay hands on the sick and they will recover. Those who do not know God are spiritually blind so he will do signs and wonders to show them he is the true God, just like the fire from heaven did in the days of Elijah. God's people, who are in the

light, have different instructions for healing and it is not laying on of hands – of course I am not against laying hands on a Christian for healing, but James gives us another way. He said if any were sick we should call for the elders and they were to anoint with oil.

## What is Anointing With Oil About?

Unfortunately most Churches go through the motions of a dab of oil on the forehead which has nothing to do with biblical anointing. But the advice which accompanies the instructions are for the sick person and the elders to confess their faults one to another and then the prayer of faith will heal the sick.

**Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed.**

**James 5:14:16**

However, it is not the brief prayer of command as in the laying on of hands for those who do not know God, it is the fervent prayer of intercession that will bring about the healing. Why do I say

this? Simply because James gives Elijah's prayer of intercession as an example of how we should pray for the sick in the Church. Here is what he wrote:

**Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.**

**James 5:16**

Notice the example is not of the prayer for fire – a quick request, but the prayer for rain – a fervent, repetitious, and passionate prolonged prayer for the rain. Then he gives us some help; for he states there are 2 requisites that need to be applied.

**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**

**James 5:16**

This means that the fervent prayer of a carnal Christian will not avail much and the lackadaisical prayer of a righteous man will avail even less. Only the fervent prayer of a righteous man will achieve the results. No wonder so many Christians die of the same illnesses as the world. No wonder we have so few results to our prayers when people are seriously ill. They pray for the doctors to be guided in their diagnosis and treatment, but have no proof that it

was God who brought them through the treatment, or operation, because atheists also respond to treatment or come through serious operations. The average number of successful healings from the medical profession are no different for Christians than they are for non-Christians so let's get honest and face the truth. Christians talk faith, but have very little when it comes to the test. They pray 'in faith', but it is no faith at all if there is no evidence. The definition of faith in Hebrews 11 shows it is not about believing, it is about material evidence.

Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for,  
the **evidence** of things not seen.

Hebrew 11:1

## Only Intercession Will Bring the Rain

The fire came to turn Israel back to God, but the intercession was needed to bring the rain. The order and principles of God do not change in any dispensation or situation. Even under the Old Covenant Moses was on the hill interceding whilst Joshua was fighting in the valley – the principles do not alter. Whenever the Church allow entertainment, culture, business practices, and politics into the holy body of Christ we have a mixture, Babylon, and only the disasters from God will bring us to truth. The famine, or the pigsty, are wonderful places if they turn our hearts back to God and see the truth of where we really are. The problem with the Laodician

church was that they could not see their true state and Jesus said they were blind. They did not have a true perception of themselves and that is the state of the Church in the west at this present time.

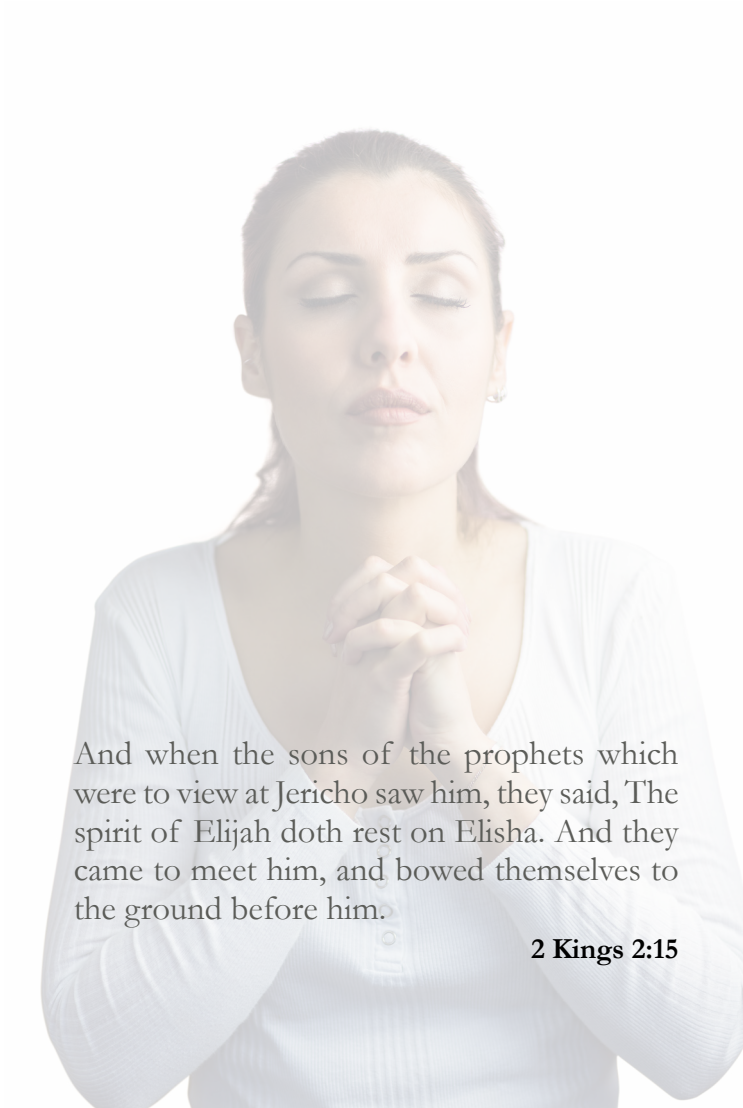
**Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and don't know you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**

**Revelation 3:17**

The answer was to buy gold (there is always a cost to backsliding) tried in the fire. It is the fire that will purify and burn up the dross. First we need the fire to destroy the false and then we need the rain to make us fruitful again.

My wife wrote a chorus and set it to music many years ago and I will finish this chapter with the lyrics. It is a good prayer to pray for those who are serious about change.

Burn up the dross, that's blackening my heart  
Burn up everything that keeps us both apart  
Burn my old nature, give me a brand new start  
Burn fire of God till I'm ablaze for Christ my Lord.



And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

**2 Kings 2:15**

# Chapter 10

## Elijah

## and

## John the Baptist

God has not cast away his people which he foreknew.  
Don't you know what the scripture says of Elijah how  
he makes intercession to God against Israel?

**Romans 11:2**

I showed in the last chapter that the same  
spirit that was in Jezebel at the time of Elijah  
manifested throughout the rest of the bible to

seduce God's people and cause them to come under the judgement of God. She is alive and well in the Laodician church; the church of the last days. The spirit of Jezebel is seducing the body of Christ at this very time and we need to be aware of it, how she achieves the seduction, and how we can counteract her seductive ways.

## She is in the Church

It is not by chance that Jezebel first appears in the bible in the story of the prophets of Baal. She was brought into the family of God by Ahab and that is where she works – not in the world, but in the Church. Because she has been brought into God's people by those who are ruling them, she has power to manipulate and control and she certainly did that with Naboth's vineyard, and was the cause of the wickedness of God's people through the instructions of the king.

**But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.**

**1 Kings 21:25**

We can learn a principle from all this. Satan will always work on seducing the leaders of the church or denomination for if they are seduced they will lead all the people astray. Whole movements have been deceived because of the leaders taking the

movement in the wrong direction and into the deceits of Babylon. God's people are sheep and Satan will always target the shepherds so that the sheep are led astray. God always challenged the kings and priests for Israel's backsliding. Make sure you are not following a deceived leader for there are many in the main line Charismatic and Evangelical denominations today.

## The Whore of Babylon

Jezebel is none other than the Whore of Babylon. She is the one that painted her face and made herself beautiful to seduce King Jehu.

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.

**2 Kings 9:30**

It is also not by chance that the first mention of Elijah in the bible is just after it records that Jezebel had seduced Ahab to bring in the pagan gods and worship them. He suddenly bursts onto the scene and confronts the prophets of Baal that Jezebel supported. The spirit of Elijah is the one that comes to confront the Jezebel spirit in any age of history as I will show. The story of the prophets of Baal sets a precedent and reveals to us how Jezebel works and now we can confront it and turn God's people back again to righteousness, holiness, and fruitfulness.

Intercession is what it is all about, because unless someone stands in the gap and reconciles God's people back to God, nothing else will achieve it.

## Prayer or Action?

Remember, intercession is often an act as much as a prayer and to stand in the gap is to do whatever it takes, whether prayer or action, physical or spiritual. The end is reconciliation, the means often vary, and that is why an intercessor needs to be a friend of God, to know his mind and character. If God does not share his strategies we are stabbing in the dark at best and damaging the body of Christ at worst.

Elijah turned God's people back again, but Jezebel tried to kill Elijah and he had to run away. Only when she was killed did the persecution and seductions stop for a period. Even when the false prophets have been exposed and thrown out of the body of Christ the spirit of Jezebel will bring more false prophets in if we do not deal with the root – Jezebel herself. It was prophesied that she would be dealt with in the time of Elisha, the prophet who took over from Elijah. Both these 2 prophets of God are needed to start and finish the work of judgement on Jezebel.

**This is what the LORD God of Israel says, I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel. And you shall smite the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood**

of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish: and I will cut off from Ahab him that pisses against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel: and I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah: and the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.

**2 Kings 9:6-10**

The spirit of Ahab and Jezebel did not die for it rose up again the next generation for their son, Ahaziah, carried on in the sins of his father and mother.

Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin: for he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.

**1 Kings 22:51-53**

After a period of refreshing from the revival rain and a new fruitfulness in God's people, this

backsliding happened again as it did every time God's people turned back again to God. It is the history of the Church since Jesus, and not just that of Israel and Judah. This is a fact of history that no one can deny if they will only look at the facts that are recorded. This however, is not a problem to God for he prophesied it would be so, and one day soon he will finish this spirit of Ahab and Jezebel forever, never to rise again.

### **Isaiah Forecast John the Baptist**

We are now in the very time when this will happen, but first let us look at the man who would prophesy all of this. Isaiah prophesied that one day another man with the spirit of Elijah would be born and prophesy about the restoration of Israel. This restoration will end the seduction and slavery to spiritual Babylon where God had placed them since the days of Nebuchadnezzar until the last days. I have put the whole of the passage from Isaiah chapter 40 below to show that it is all about the restoration of Israel in the future and none of it was fulfilled at the time of John the Baptist or Jesus. John would speak it as a prophet to be fulfilled in the end times and second coming of Jesus.

**Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto  
her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her**

iniquity is pardoned: for she has received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

The voice of him that cries in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it.

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness is as the flower of the field: the grass withers, the flower fades: because the spirit of the LORD blows upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

O Zion, that brings good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that brings good tidings, lift up your voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40:1-11

## Restoration and Devastation

This spirit of Elijah is twofold; to restore and to avenge.

The last book in the Old Testament is the book of Malachi and yet it was not the last book to be written. God in his wisdom allowed the translators to put this last because it ends the Old Covenant, not with the return of Israel from Babylon in the days of Nehemiah and Ezra (Nehemiah was the last book to be written), for that restoration was only a part fulfilment and a prophecy of what will come in the future. God wanted to end his Old Covenant with a promise of a final solution for his people and a peace and prosperity that would last for 1,000 years with God's son as King of Israel. The book of Malachi talks about this restoration of Israel and the destruction of her enemies. That is how he ends his prophecy and the last verses of the Old Covenant says that God will send Elijah again to prepare the way for Jesus at his second coming. The last chapter of Malachi is only 6 verses so I have put it all for you to read. This has nothing to do with his first coming.

**For, behold, the day is coming, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yes, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that is coming shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in**

his wings; and you shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, says the LORD of hosts. Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgements. **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:** and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:1-6

From this passage alone it is evident that this spirit of Elijah has to again confront the false prophets and spirit of Jezebel in God's people before Jesus returns to this earth to judge and to rule with a rod of iron – which seems like a military dictatorship to me. If you disagree you can come to your own conclusion of what a rod of iron implies.

When Jesus came the first time he was rejected and killed, and only a remnant saw him as saviour because they were looking for a political dictator to free them from Rome – Babylon. His death proved to them that he was not the one to deliver Israel.

God sent a man with the spirit of Elijah to prepare them for this saviour, and many in Judah repented at his challenge, but although this prophet fulfilled what their own prophets, Isaiah and Malachi, had

stated, the leaders were blind and killed this man also and only part of the restoration was fulfilled. This man was John the Baptist and he spoke the words prophesied. All the 4 gospels show this but I will only quote one of them.

John said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Elijah.

John 1:23

His mother and father, Zachariah and Elizabeth, were told of his ministry before he was born.

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:15-17

John the Baptist's challenge was very strong and uncompromising.

Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptised of him, O generation of vipers,

who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you. That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Luke 3:7-9

## Is he the Messiah?

His ministry was so strong that many thought he may be the Messiah and asked him if he was. He told them he had only come to prepare the way for the Christ. The strange thing is that John talked more about his second coming than his first. Here is an example where his first and second coming are all in the same passage. The prophets talk about Jesus coming as fearful judge, not only as a gentle saviour.

And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not. John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptise you with water; but one mightier than I is coming, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: 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 will gather the

wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

**Luke 9:15-17**

Jesus confirmed that John had come in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way and restore all things, even though he did not complete the task; Israel did not turn back to God at the preaching of John – or of Jesus for that matter. Jesus in the passage below ended by saying a phrase he often said at the end of a parable when he wanted to disguise the hidden meaning, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear".

For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you will receive it, this is Elijah, which was to come. He that has ears to hear, let him hear.

**Matthew 11:13-15**

And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elijah truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, that Elijah is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they desired. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spoke unto them of John the Baptist.

**Matthew 17:10-13**

From the above passage Jesus made it clear that the spirit of Elijah must come and prepare for his second coming. The question I need to now pose is: 'Who will preach this Elijah/John the Baptist message to prepare the way for Christ's second coming?' I have shown that John the Baptist was prophesying of a future event and therefore someone with this same spirit has to say the words that are applicable to God's people once again. I believe we are on the brink of Jesus' return to earth as a fearful judge to set up his throne and judge the false Church (Babylon) the true Church, (his bride) and the nations of this world.

## **The Greatest Act of Intercession**

Those who want to be intercessors need to understand that this will be the greatest act of intercession of all time – to turn the heart of God's people back to God and help them out of the system of the Whore. The call at this time is to come out of Babylon before she is judged and bring forth fruit that is fitting for repentance. In other words the John the Baptist message is that we should make his paths straight and turn from our wicked ways. Before God judges Babylon the church are warned to come out so as not to be judged with her.

Just before Babylon is judged for the last and final time the book of Revelation gives a warning to the Churches.

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 do not  
receive her plagues.

**Revelation 18:4**

Peter tells us that judgement must begin in the house of God and that is why we need to get our act together and come out of Babylon while we still have time.

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?

**1 Peter 4:17**

The book of Jude exposes the false prophets of the last days and at the end tells us to pull those we can out of the fire (the fire being the one that will destroy Babylon, for she will be destroyed by fire).

But, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These are they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

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 17-23**

Surely, we are in another Jezebel generation, with all the seduction and false teaching in the body of Christ, and surely we need men and women with the spirit of Elijah to confront this and turn God's people to fruitfulness and to become the bride of Christ without spot or blemish. Jezebel never repents for she is arrogant and self righteous, and destruction is the only lasting remedy. That is why this lady – the whore of Babylon – will have to be destroyed by fire in the end, and all her wealth and pomp will be finished forever. Here are a few verses about her end. Read the whole of Chapter 18 in Revelation for the whole picture.

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the

earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

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. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she has filled fill to her double. How much she has glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she said in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judges her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

**Revelation 18:1-9**

The greatest intercession that anyone can participate in today is to be full of this spirit of Elijah and I believe it is the great need of the day – to reconcile God's backslidden church, with its Babylonian doctrines and practices, back to God

and fruitfulness while we still have time. I believe the time is short and, as Jesus said, the time will come when no man can work. Darkness is fast enclosing our world and we need to get serious about these facts.

## When Will it all End?

The end of Jezebel – Babylon – will happen soon for it has already been decided by God from the beginning, but we must seek his face, humble ourselves, pray and turn from our wicked ways, and plead that he will give us this spirit of Elijah and John the Baptist so that we can prepare the way of the Lord one more time. I will end this chapter with the words that Jesus spoke to the church in Thyatira in Revelation chapter 2.

Notwithstanding 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. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she did not repent.

Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

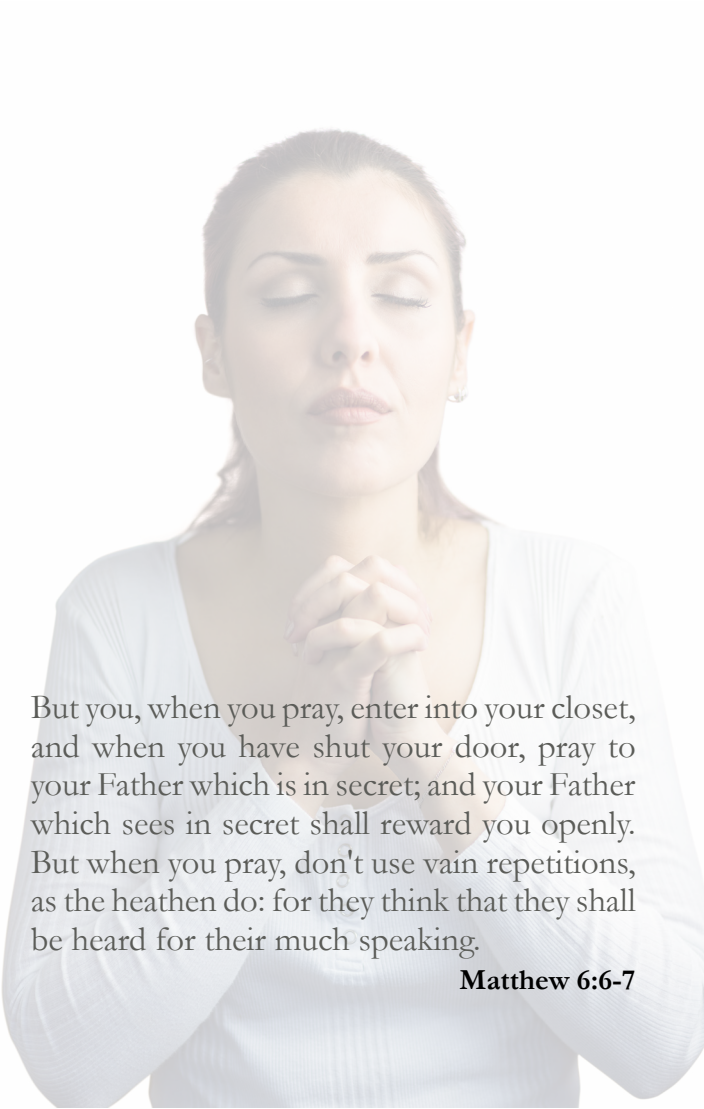
And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searches the reins and hearts: and I will give

unto every one of you according to your works.

**Revelation 2:20-23**

Let us stand in the gap for the bride and mediate between her and the whore and pluck the brands from the burning.





But you, when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father which is in secret; and your Father which sees in secret shall reward you openly. But when you pray, don't use vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

**Matthew 6:6-7**

# Chapter 11

## Anna and Simeon

One can believe intellectually in the efficacy of prayer and never do any praying.

**Catherine Marshall**

**B**ecause we think of intercession as a type of prayer, we often miss some of the great intercessors of the bible because their prayers are not recorded. John the baptist came in the spirit of

Elijah and confronted the Pharisees and leaders of God's people, but his preparation was in secret in the wilderness and we do not know much about that. It is easy to forget that Elijah's prayer of intercession for the rain was also in secret. He sent Ahab away to celebrate but he went up a mountain alone with his servant.

## Carrying the Feelings of God

Sometimes the burden of intercession is just carrying the heart and feelings of God. Sometimes there are those who do the actions, the confronting and fighting, yet others are in the background carrying the burden and feelings of Christ.

Daniel was interceding in secret for the return to the promised land of God's people from Babylon and into their inherited 'promised land'. Moses was on the mountain with his hands held up in intercession whilst Joshua was fighting the Amalakites down below in the valley. John the Baptist was at the forefront of the battle for the reconciliation of God's people but Anna and Simeon were in secret interceding for the restoration of Israel.

I would like to look at these 2 unlikely intercessors to show that we should look past the prayer and see the action or burden a person carries. The two people I want to look at are those who were preparing the way of the Lord for his first coming; but in secret. We usually only hear about them when Christmas comes or we talk about the nativity of Jesus.

## A Man Called Simeon

The first is a man called Simeon and there are only 10 short verses written about him. He is only mentioned in the account of Luke. He was looking for the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Messiah and they all told of the restoration of Israel and a new king who would sit on the throne of David.

**And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.**

**Luke 2:25**

I cannot find anyone in the whole bible who was looking for the first coming of Jesus. They saw the coming of the Messiah as fulfilling all the prophecies at once for they are always grouped together in the Old Testament. No one expected that Messiah would come twice; once as a Saviour of the world, and once as a conquering judge. Once as a suffering servant, and again as a triumphant king to destroy his enemies and set up his kingdom. Certainly, all of Jesus disciples thought he would repel Rome and set up his kingdom in their lifetime. Peter rebuked Jesus when he shared that he would suffer and die, and Peter had to have a revelation from the Holy Ghost to know that he was not only the son of David, but the son of God.

From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from you, Lord: this shall not be unto you.

**Matthew 16:21-22**

The disciples knew he was the Messiah, but to them that meant the deliverer of God's people and the kingdom being returned to Israel, not the one who would die at the hands of Rome, their colonial master.

## Continuous Time Line

Why did the prophets see the first and second coming as one event? Well, it is simple. In the history of Israel, and in God's mind, it is but one continuous history. In AD70 when the temple was destroyed and the sacrifices ceased, God stopped the time clock and this allowed the Gentiles to have a dispensation of grace, and we are nearing the end of this dispensation now. When Jesus returns, then the clock will start again and things will carry on as if there had been no 2000 year gap. Sacrifices will continue in the reign of Christ and the feasts will be established again for Jesus will be 'King of Israel' not 'King of the Church'. He is the husband of the bride which is very different. Jesus will restore the

kingdom to Israel not the Church for it was never ours to be restored. (For a full explanation of this, see my books on 'Israel the Church and the Kingdom of God') (Footnote 1).

The burden of intercession comes from the Holy Ghost and this man carried the inner feelings of what God was doing in his people at this momentous time in their history. Read again the first verse that begins to tell us about this remarkable man.

**And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.**

**Luke 2:25**

Notice it says that the Holy Ghost was upon him. He had been told by the Holy Ghost that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah, and he was led of this same Holy Ghost into the temple to prophesy over Mary and to bless Jesus. He carried that word from the Lord from the day the Holy Ghost revealed it to him, to the day he prophesied over Mary. What a blessed burden to carry. Imagine being able to hold Jesus in your arms and pronounce a blessing upon him, but that is what this intercessor did.

**And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the**

Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law...

Luke 2:26-27

## Being Led of the Spirit

Notice he was led of the spirit all the time. He obviously knew God intimately for this to happen. This was no casual, carnal believer. These are the kind of people God is looking for in the last days to carry the burden and revelation he gives them, to prepare the way and to announce his second coming. Most of God's people will believe antichrist is the Messiah for the false always comes first. Only those led by the spirit of God will recognise the false and wait for the true. It will need the Holy Ghost to reveal all this to them as it did with Simeon.

After he had prophesied he was ready to die and go to his reward. What a way to end your life in the perfect will of God. Here are the rest of the verses about this man.

Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word: For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of

him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yes, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

**Luke 2:28-35**

The other person that was interceding at the time of Jesus birth and a long time before was an old lady called Anna. The bible only approximates her age, but I compute she must have been around 104 years old. She served God in the temple and led the life of an intercessor; fasting and prayer. She also prophesied along with Simeon of Jesus and what he would accomplish to those who looked for the redemption of Israel – that is his second coming to restore all things. She lived 84 years as a widow and maybe carried the burden and expectation of seeing the Messiah all those years.

## **Preparing the Way of the Lord**

There are many more examples of people who carried burdens or were interceding in secret, but these 2 that I have mentioned show us that intercession is more than a type of prayer. I have chosen them because, like John the Baptist, they were preparing the way of the Lord, and that is the challenge I want to leave at the end of this final volume. God is looking for people who will pay the

price to know God, and not just know about him. There is a great need for intercessors to stand in the gap between God's judgement of Babylon and those who are ready to come out of this system and become the bride of Christ.

When Nehemiah and Ezra took the children of Israel out of Babylon it was those who had a willing heart. Many did not want to leave because of family and business and so stayed in Babylon and lived a happy life until their death. Those who left were not just coming **out of Babylon** they planned to go **in to the promised land** for the purpose of rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple.

## It Will Happen Again

This was only a type and prophecy of the spiritual exodus that is needed at this present time – for those who will leave their comfortable lives in spiritual Babylon for the purpose of building 'New Jerusalem' which is the bride of Christ. That is why Jesus told the churches in the book of Revelation to come out of Babylon, for the sole purpose of becoming the bride.

Most of today's Christians do not want Jesus to return although they do not know it. He would spoil all their plans. They are so rooted and besotted by this world and its pleasures, its riches and entertainment, that it is far more attractive to them to stay in Babylon and enjoy the pleasures it brings than pay the price of discipleship to gain the prize of the high calling.

As always with God's people it will be a remnant that will be the bride and Jesus will be satisfied if she is pure and without blemish.

Those who stay in Babylon are God's children as sure as those who perished in the wilderness in the time of Moses. They had supernatural food and provision, but never entered the promised land. The modern Christians are saved by faith, but will not inherit the kingdom and will die in Babylon if they are not judged with her. The time is very close that she will be judged just prior to the coming of Christ so be warned and think seriously about all these things. The rewards are great for those who will pray the price.

3 times Jesus said to John, "I come quickly", and I will end this volume with these scriptures.

**Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which you have, that no man take your crown.**

**Revelation 3:11**

**Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keeps the sayings of the prophecy of this book.**

**Revelation 22:7**

**And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

**Revelation 22:12**

**Footnote 1.**

These 7 volumes look at the history and future of God's people from the call of Abraham to the new heaven and earth. The volume that deals with the time line and the 2000 year gap is volume is No 7, chapter 3

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