

# Finishing Well

Lesson #23

Horse Gate: Spiritual Warfare Begins

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Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written in the past were written for our learning, So that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide, we might have HOPE.

Adrian Rogers: Spiritual warfare is the inward and outward battle we face against the enemies of God. These enemies include Satan, his minions—demons and fallen angels—and sin, which can be lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, or pride of life. Once we become Christians, a battle begins between the spirit [our internal spirit] and the flesh [the inward sinful nature we are born with]. We must learn to utilize the Holy Spirit within us to help us fight.

## *Spiritual Warfare in the Old Testament*

A. Lucifer's rebellion against God is described in 2 OT prophecies: Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-15

- A created being, all his splendor and greatness was a gift from God.
- Instead of giving glory to God for how he was created, he became filled with pride.
- The angel created by God given the highest authority under God
- He was in Eden, the garden of God.
- He was once blameless at the time of his creation, but then was found with sin.
- He possessed great beauty, power, and authority, but he had to have more.
- He wanted to exalt himself further; he wanted to become like God.

Truth: Satan fell from a point of perfection through the agency of free will.

Result: When Satan rebelled against God, others (1/3 > fallen angels) joined him in opposing God & His purposes. With the fall of these spiritual beings, the war began.

The earth is now the moral center of the cosmic conflict of the ages.

- Satan > Antagonist      God > Protagonist      a raging spiritual battle

Satan's purpose is to thwart the purpose and plan of God. His 5 target areas of destruction:

1. The Promised Seed Line Of The Messiah
2. Human Race
3. Nation of Israel
4. Jesus Christ
5. The Church

## Promised Seed Line Of The Messiah

Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

- Adam and Eve, made in the image of God, were given dominion over the earth.

Satan who appeared in the Garden of Eden is the Shining One - nachash - who will become the serpent.

Hermeneutics Website: Dr. Heiser:

The nachash of Eden in Genesis 3 is Lucifer, the shining angel expelled from God's presence, who seduced Eve into rebelling. It was not from the animal kingdom, but a highly intelligent spirit being whose objective was to destroy humanity. Lucifer's beauty and brilliance is documented in the Scriptures, and by reason it must be considered that Eve would have been far more attracted to a stunningly beautiful angelic being that Lucifer is described to be by the prophets, as opposed to a snake. The root word for nachash, also used for the luminous metals of copper and brass, certainly could be used to describe the luminous one, Lucifer.

- Gen. 3:1                    nachash = noun = snake; serpent
- Gen. 3:4-5                nochesh = verb = use divination; give omens

Satan tempts Eve with whispers of doubt: "Hath God really said?"

He continues with direct denial: "You shall not surely die." Eve succumbs to temptation.

Note: Their act of making a garment of fig leaves to cover themselves is the 1<sup>st</sup> act of man-made religion > a work of their hands. God killed and shed the blood of an animal to make a covering for them. There must be a blood sacrifice for our redemption.

Adam & Eve rebelled against God and fell. They turned over their rights of dominion to Satan, who was then given authority over humanity. [Prince of Power of Air]

Eph. 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

- In rejecting God's command Adam forfeited his assignment.

Romans 8:29 For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rev. 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. The Serpent will pull out all stops to barricade us from ruling and reign with Jesus Christ.

II Tim. 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Consider: Can I forfeit my inheritance; my assignment in His Kingdom?

Will God be able to exalt me then because I have humbled myself to Him now?

Phil. 2:5, 8-11 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

<sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

<sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

James 4:7,10 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.

Note: Rom. 8:30: Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified.

- Is something missing in this chain? Sanctification

Disobeying God's Word leads not only to the downfall of Adam and his wife,

- but of all their offspring and all of mankind.

Gen. 5:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth:

### *God declared war on Satan*

Gen. 3 - Rev. 12 Satan's continual war and plots to thwart the plan of God;  
destroy Messianic line

There are 2 seeds:           Seed of the woman           Seed of the Serpent

Lifetime Diet of Dust: Curse placed by God

Gen. 3:14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field;

On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

A diet of dust, a serious curse, constitutes the main penalty for denying what God had said and, thereby, luring the human race into sin against the LORD God.

Hebrew Bible: Eating dust is an expression meaning a sign of *total defeat*.

Isa. 65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

- Even in this period of peace and victory, serpents will still eat dust.
- Their diet will never change, even in the new creation.
- The curse on serpents will not be lifted and they will suffer total and endless defeat.
- The serpent and its seed will never be restored. They will be losers for all eternity, defeated forever, doomed to eat dust.

God formed man from the *dust* of the ground. The Serpent eats humans [the *dust*] all the days of its life. The Enchanter gushes out its venom and devours humans until God crushes its head.

Meanings from Strongs: Serpent = enchanter; whisper a spell; diligently observe

belly = gush out > represents a hunting tactic. The animal lies in wait, when the prey steps into range, it pounces out and grabs it with its incisors or claws. It's a swift, surprise swoop.

eat = devour = swallowing a mouthful; gulp entirely; swallow up

Devour covers the gamut: from *little by little* until satiated, all the way to *gulping down whole!*

Does the New Testament indicate this identical concept? Yes, there are numerous verses in the New Testament referring to this abysmal attitude of the Serpent devouring humankind.

I Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour [G2666]:

Rev. 12:3-4 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman [Israel] which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child [Messiah; Jesus; seed of woman] as soon as he was born.

The Serpent is the red Dragon, casting his demons to devour the child [Jesus] as soon as he was born. The equivalent of gushing water, going on its belly, destroying humans, eating them alive.

Rev. 20:7-9 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

The Scarlet thread begins with "the Seed of the woman."

It became the title for the Messiah. 1<sup>st</sup> hint of the Virgin Birth.

God established a plan of redemption through the seed of Eve, the woman.

A descendent [a seed] of the woman would crush the head of the Serpent [Satan].

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it [her seed] shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The war, which began in the Spiritual realm, now entered the physical world.

God promised the judgment on Satan would come through the offspring of the woman.

Knowing that the "seed of the woman" is to destroy him > Satan creates a contention between Abel and Cain > causing jealousy and hatred to well up in Cain because Abel's sacrifice was accepted by God and his offering (instance of man-made religion) was rejected.

Cain murders Abel which brings a curse upon Cain. However, Satan's attempt to thwart God's plan failed as Eve gave birth to Seth - who means appointed. [Gen. 4:25]

The genealogy of Seth led to Noah, Shem, Abram and so on.

Spiritual Warfare: Result of the Fall

Gen. 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen. 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Satan's Attack on the Human Race: Do we see evidence of Spiritual Warfare behind the scenes that caused God to send the flood? What was the problem that God needed to resolve? In the days of Noah in the pre-Flood world, the population was estimated to be about 2 billion. Which of these would be the seed of the woman that would crush Satan's head? He had no idea. The only viable solution would be to infect the entire human race to such a degree that none of them would be appropriate as the means by which God would keep His promise of judgment. When was the 1<sup>st</sup> attack on the seed of the woman to destroy the genetic genome that would require the seed of the woman to be human to be a redeemer?

➤ Genesis 6: In the midst of the godless civilization, a startling event occurred.

Genesis 6:1-2 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. [ONE sentence]

➤ Time of this SIN > BEFORE the Flood & Judgment

Sons of God = B'nai Elohim = Fallen Angels

➤ This term is used exclusively of ANGELS in the Old Testament

➤ It alludes to angels in Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7 and Luke 20:36.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

➤ In the Septuagint, [Greek translation of the Old Testament from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC] 70 scholars translated the Jewish term, sons of God as "ANGELS of God."

➤ "daughters of men" > benoth adam > translated daughters of Adam

➤ Book of Enoch Highly venerated by Jewish scholars from 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC - 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD; "Sons of God" = Angels

➤ Early Church Fathers Philo of Alexandria; Justin Martyr; Irenaeus; Tertullian

Consider: We can get confused because of John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

➤ Sons of God in New Testament is referring to believers.

➤ Believers in OT are never called Sons of God.

➤ Sons of God in OT and in Gen. 6 = Angels > These are fallen angels

Truth: The Bible is a drama about Satan trying to thwart the plan of God. As God revealed His plan more, Satan could focus his attack. It seems Satan was seeking to employ fallen angels to corrupt the "seed of the woman" who was promised to defeat Satan and to bring about man's salvation from sin [Gen. 3:15].

Gen. 6:4 The Nephilim [fallen ones] were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God [fallen angels] came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

The intrusion of certain angels [sons of God, fallen angels] into the human family resulted in unnatural offspring, Nephilim who were only part human. Created hybrids: physical beings

- Fallen angels were the male parent. Nephilim were the unnatural offspring.

Nephilim [Fallen ones, giants]: result of the unnatural union > offspring were MALES

Nephilim is derived from the Hebrew *naphal* [to fall] or the Fallen Ones.

HaGibborim = the mighty ones; known as "giants" in the Old Testament.

The Greek Septuagint renders this term *gigantes*, which means "earth born."

According to Hebraic writings and others such as Book of Enoch & other non-biblical writings, they were a race of giants and super-heroes who did acts of great evil. They were a race of hybrids that resulted from the mischief between the fallen angels and human women.

Consider: If the Nephilim were half human/half fallen angel, it would give great understanding to the many ancient religious views after Babel and demi-gods.

The Nephilim were one of the primary reasons for the great flood in Noah's time.

Immediately after the mention of Nephilim in Gen. 6:4, God's Word says,

Gen. 6:5-7 And God saw that the wickedness [general] of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination [intent] of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

<sup>6</sup> And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Gen. 6:8-9 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Attempting to pollute the human bloodline in order to prevent the coming of the Messiah. God had promised that the Messiah would one day crush the head of the serpent, Satan

The fallen angels in Genesis 6 were possibly attempting to prevent the crushing of the serpent and make it impossible for a sinless "seed of the woman" to be born.

It seems that this was part of Satan's strategy to corrupt the line of Adam to prevent the fulfillment of the Messianic redemption.

Noah was apparently unique in that his genealogy was still uncorrupted.

- Perfect = tamyim = without blemish, sound, healthful, without spot
- Noah had unblemished genealogy

The fallen angels intermingled with daughters of man and contaminated the DNA of man.

The "gene pool problem" in the human family tree created Nephilim who were the source of unusual violence. Their great size and power likely came from the mixture of demonic [fallen angels] "DNA" with human genetics.

Gen. 6:12-13 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. <sup>13</sup> And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. [including the Nephilim]

- Wickedness of the hybridization of man with fallen angels

It became so corrupt... God sent the flood to wipe it all out except for:

- Enoch [type of Church] who was translated and removed before the judgment.
- Noah & his family who were preserved in the Ark through the judgment.

Satan's plan failed at this time.

The earth suffered a catastrophic and climatic change which ended the Antediluvian Age. God used an ark and 8 people to thwart Satan's strategy. [Read Gen. 6:1-9, 12 in context]

The Bible states by the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses a thing is confirmed. [II Cor. 13:1]

Do we see confirmation of this view in the NT? Witness #1:

Jude 1:6-7 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

- Abandoned their angelic form by taking on a human form [Angels are spirit]

Habitation = oiketerion > referring to the body as a dwelling place for the spirit

- Only 2x in Bible: Jude 1:6 dwelling place from which the angels had "disrobed"

II Cor. 5:2 alluding to the heavenly body with which the believer longs to be "clothed"

II Cor. 5:1-2 For we know that if our earthly house [habitation] of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house [habitation] which is from heaven:

The same word is used to describe what the angels who sinned gave up to come down and co-habit with women as what believers aspire to go up to.

Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, [flesh of a totally different kind] are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

In Sodom & Gomorrah, the homosexuals regarded the angels as prizes.

- They lusted after the 2 angels in Lot's house.

Gen. 19:4-5 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

<sup>5</sup> And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. [have sex with them]

According to Scripture, Angels have the ability to take human form [Gen 19:1-7; Heb.13:2].

Evidently, some Angels looked upon and lusted after the Daughters of men, abandoned their residence in heaven, exchanged their celestial bodies for terrestrial bodies, assuming human form, took whomever they chose and married the "daughters of men" to engage in sexual intercourse, thereby producing off-spring of an hybrid called Nephilim, a new half-bred race. [Angels can appear in human form, speak, eat, take men by the hand, capable of direct physical combat.

Matt. 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

## Witness #2

II Pet. 2:4-5 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell [Tartarus], and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

- Tartarus = Greek term for dark abode of woe; pit of darkness in unseen world; only time used in NT

<sup>5</sup> AND spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Angels that sinned > Peter ties the angels that sinned to the days of Noah.

The idea that renegade angels came down to earth and cohabited with women to produce a hybrid offspring is very strange. However, that idea is prevalent in the legends of virtually every ancient culture on earth including Sumer, Assyria, Egypt, Incas, Mayans, Gilgamesh epic of Babylon, the Persians, Greece, India, Bolivia, South Sea Islands and the Sioux Indians in the US. They ALL have stories about "star people" or gods of some kind who produced offspring on earth.

Genesis 6:4 "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward."

It seems some fallen angels repeated this sin sometime after the flood as well.

Consider: In Gen. 12 when God called Abram, God revealed the promised Messiah would come through the line of Abraham. However, due to a famine, they would reside in Egypt for 400 years before heading for the Promised Land.

Satan now has 400 years to fill the Land with more Nephilim.

Post-flood Nephilim:

Gen. 14-15	Rephaim, Emim, Horim, Zamsummim
Num. 13:33	Arba, Anak & his 7 sons [Anakim], encountered in Canaan
Deut. 3:11	Og, King of Bashan [Joshua 12] Goliath and his 4 brothers

Num. 13:32-33 And they brought to the Israelites an EVIL report of the land that they had spied out, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it,

is a land that eats up [devours] the inhabitants thereof;

and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

Simbowte: "Any report that creates hopelessness, fear and causes the people to doubt the authenticity of the already spoken word of God, is an evil report."

<sup>33</sup> And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Matt. 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Mark 13:20 Except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved:

Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.



Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

I Thess. 4:16-18 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

<sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

#### Helpful Scriptures and passages to understand Spiritual Warfare

Genesis 3:1, 4	Satan the Serpent
Genesis 50:20	Relationship between Evil and Good
Leviticus 16:6-10	God's Atoning Sacrifices
Leviticus 17:7	Demonic Sacrifices
Leviticus 19:26	Omens and Fortunes
Leviticus 19:31; 20:6,27	Mediums and Necromancers
Deuteronomy 7:25-26	Idols
Deuteronomy 18:10-12	Human Sacrifices, Divination, Fortunes, Omens, Sorcerer, Charmer, Medium, Necromancer, Inquires of the Dead
Deuteronomy 32:16-18	Sacrifices to Demons
1 Samuel 16:14-16, 23	Harmful spirit from the Lord
I Sam. 28 & I Chron. 10:13-14	Saul and the Medium of En-Dor
II Sam. 24:1; II Samuel 24:10, 15; I Chron. 21:1	Numbering of Israel
I Kings 22:19-23; II Chron. 18:19-27; Jer. 14:14	Micaiah's Vision and the Lying Spirit, Lying Vision, Worthless Divination, and the Deceit of their Own Minds
II Kings 6:11-23	Elisha and his servant - horses and chariots of fire
II Chronicles 7:14	Repentance
II Chronicles 33:1-13	Manasseh's evil but eventual repentance
Job 1-2	Satan's Access to God and Attack of Job
Job 4:12-21	Eliphaz's Nighttime encounter
Job 33:29-30; Job 35:9; Job 37:14; Job 42:1-3,6; Job 42:12	Job's Progression
Psalms 106:36-38	Idol & Demonic worship connected together and with human sacrifice
Psalms 115:4-8	Idols and their futility
Isaiah 8:19-22	Futility of Mediums and Necromancers
Isaiah 9:6	Names of God
Isaiah 14:3-23	Fallen from Heaven
Isaiah 26:13-15	Dead described as "shades"
Isaiah 29:4	"Like the voice of a ghost"
Ezekiel 13:17-23	Magic Bands, Veils, Hunting for Souls
Ezekiel 28:11-19	King of Tyre

Daniel 2:10-11, 17-19, 27-30, 45 Inability of Demons & Humans to Read Minds & Dreams

Daniel 4:34 Nebuchadnezzar and reason

Zechariah 3:1-7 The Lord's Rebuke of Satan