

Messages From the Gates of Jerusalem  
#24 - Horse Gate - Spiritual Warfare- Part I

Note:

1) The Placement of the Gate

"Did spiritual warfare begin at the Sheep Gate"? Yes. The placement of this gate in the divine steps in the life of a believer can be understood by examining the nature and course of God's training and qualifying us for battle. (Ex. King David)

- a. At the sheep gate, as newborn babes in Christ being bottle fed, we were hardly material for combat.
- b. At the fish gate, we became witnesses for God, but "fishing" does not qualify us for battle.
- c. At the Old gate of proven paths of performance, we learned that the weapons of spiritual warfare are not carnal, but spiritual. We are to always adhere to the foundational truths.
- d. The Valley Gate taught us humility through the trials and tribulations of life. Sin is revealed in my life which leads me to the Dung Gate.
- e. The Dung Gate taught us the necessity of confession and absolute surrender. We are to relinquish ALL traces of the old man.
- f. Our obedience at the Dung Gate resulted in the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives at the Fountain Gate. The very life of Jesus Christ - the new man - is imparted to me by the Holy Spirit.
- g. At the Water Gate, The Word of God (Rhema) was quickened and made alive by the Holy Spirit.
- h. The Horse Gate speaks of Spiritual warfare, a requirement of every Christian because we are all in a battle.

The Biblical symbol of the horse is always used to refer to warfare.

Prov. 21:31 "The horse is prepared against the day of battle".

As the Living Word goes forth the spiritual warfare is sure to increase!

The battle belongs to the LORD, BUT you are the soldier!

Our spiritual battles are real, even though we cannot physically see the attacker.

As Hitler's appetite for power and territory grew, his army began to march across Europe.

The German army advanced, with its tanks and with technologically advanced weapons.

In some of the underdeveloped nations, their armies made a futile effort to resist Hitler's aggression, fighting back with spears and even rocks. It was no contest at all, because these nations were not equipped for the battle.

The same could be said of Satan, and those whom he opposes. Many of his victims do not even know there is a spiritual war going on. They make easy prey. Many who consider themselves "in the war" do not understand the nature of Satan's schemes, of the weapons he employs, or of the weapons which God has provided for our defense.

In antiquity the horse was used in warfare; the war horses would leave the city through the horse gate to be inspected before the battle. When we have received God's resources through the fountain gate and the water gate, we are ready for battle.

Truth: The weapons which God has provided for us will best repel the attacks of Satan. Apart from utilizing His weapons, we are hopelessly underpowered.

Eph. 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Truth: We KNOW there is a Spiritual war taking place because God chose to reveal it to us through the prophets. Without the revelation of Scripture, we would be blind to this battle.

The Bible tells us, there is an invisible realm, which is distinct from our physical realm. Our physical world is in many ways under the power this spiritual world. Much of the evil in the world is a direct result of this unseen war. The number of personalities involved in this conflict, are huge. This conflict involves both the forces of Satan composed of fallen angels and of God, along with His angels. This battle is played out in the realm of humanity in our physical world.

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

### Spiritual Warfare in the Old Testament

1. Satan's rebellion against God is described in two Old Testament prophecies:

Isa. 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-15

He was the angel who was created by God (Ezek. 28:13), given the highest authority under God, but who was not content with this.

He was the one who was in Eden, the garden of God (Ezekiel 28:13).

He was once blameless at the time of his creation, but then was found with sin (Ezek. 28:15).

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 (Isaiah 14:14).

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

2. 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 in a raging spiritual battle

3. 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; they were to subdue the earth and have dominion over it.

4. We find Satan appearing in the Garden of Eden. He is the Shining One - nachash - who will become the serpent. Satan tempts Eve with whispers of doubt: "Hath God really said?" He continues with direct denial: "You shall not surely die." Eve succumbs to the temptation. Disobeying God's Word leads not only to the downfall of Adam and his wife, but of all their offspring and all of mankind.

Their act of making a garment of fig leaves to cover themselves is the 1<sup>st</sup> act of man-made religion. This was a work of their hands. God killed an animal and covered them with its skin. This teaches us that we are to be covered by the shedding of blood. There must be a blood sacrifice for our redemption.

5. 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) In rejecting God's command Adam forfeited his assignment. For this reason, Satan could tempt Jesus on the mountain, and offer him the kingdoms of the world, if Jesus would fall down and worship him.

Luke 4:5-7 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

Satan offered Christ a glorious kingdom in return for worship. It was his to give.

IF Jesus had accepted Satan's offer, He could have by-passed the cross.

However, Jesus was "obedient unto death," and God "highly exalted Him." (Phil. 2:8-10)

Remember: Satan's purpose is to thwart the purpose and plan of God.

6. God declared war on Satan. Notice in Gen. 3:14-15 > There are 2 seeds -  
Seed of the woman; Seed of the Serpent

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. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

The Scarlet thread begins with "the Seed of the woman." It became a 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). The war, which began in the Spiritual realm, now entered the physical world, as God promised that the judgment on Satan, would come through the offspring of the woman.

Remember, Satan's goal is to prevent the fulfillment of God's Word, which declared his being crushed by the "Seed" of the woman. Israel was to be a nation of saints, among fallen humanity. Through the nation, God would bring forth the Messiah, who would crush Satan. As we read the accounts of war and battles in the pages of the Old Testament and the nation struggles with sin, what underlies everything is the Spiritual War through which Satan tries to prevent the Messiah's birth > seed of woman through Israel to crush Satan

7. 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.

8. 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 somewhere in the neighborhood of about two billion people. Which of these would be the seed that would crush Satan's head? He had no idea. The only viable solution would be to infest 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.

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.

The "sons of God" took wives from among the "daughters of men."

a. In the Old Testament the expression, "sons of God," is used of angels rather than in reference to men. Hebrew > Bene HaElohim > always refers to a direct creation of God (It alludes to angels in Job 1,2,38 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.

b. In the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC - 70 scholars translated the Jewish term to angels)

c. "daughters of men" > benoth adam > translated daughters of Adam

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. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

According to Hebraic writings and others (the Book of Enoch and 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.

Notice in Gen. 6:4, it says they were on the earth again after the flood. When the 10 spies returned from Canaan, they reported there were giants in the land (the word is Nephilim).

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 (Genesis 3:15).

Consider: If God were going to redeem His creation through the descendants of Adam, by corrupting that line Satan could prevent the birth of the Messiah.

God used an ark and 8 people to thwart that strategy. (Read Gen. 6:1-9, 12 in context)

Gen. 6:9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations.

"Perfect" in his generations > healthful, unimpaired, without blemish.

Noah's genealogy was not blemished.

The above leads us to the strange idea that there were fallen angels that, somehow, began a strange business of generating a hybrid group called "Nephilim." This bizarre view is confirmed in the New Testament:

Jude 6:7 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; <sup>7</sup> as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Jude makes an allusion to the events in Gen. 6 and clearly he was writing about angels who, for whatever reason, went after "strange flesh."

II Pet. 2:4-5 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; <sup>5</sup> and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

Peter tied it specifically 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.

9. Satan has always attempted to thwart the plan of God which involved the seed of Abraham and the line of David to bring the Messiah. Wipe out ALL heirs to the throne.

The focus on the Jewish line has a satanic twist.

- a. Destruction of the male line in Exodus 1. Satan through Pharaoh, tries to integrate Israel into Egypt by killing all the male children, which would have forced Israel to become Egypt. Moses was spared.
- b. Pharaoh's pursuit of Israel after the Exodus to wipe them out
- c. God told Abraham his descendants would return to Canaan after 400 years in captivity. Gen. 15:13, 16 "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is not theirs*, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. <sup>16</sup> But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites *is not yet complete*." Acts 14:17 tells us that God was, in fact, longsuffering and endured the idolatry and sins of the nations for centuries, giving them "rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying [their] hearts with food and gladness" Until it was right to invade, God's people must wait and endure, even if it cost them centuries of hardship.

Satan had 400 years to lay down a minefield of Nephilim. Genesis 6:4 tells us there were Nephilim (giants) in the days of the flood AND ALSO AFTERWARD. Genesis 14 and 15 and later in the Old Testament, certain tribes - the Rephaim, the Emim, the Horim, the Zamsummim - are Nephilim. Arba, Anak and his 7 sons were the Anakim who were encountered in Canaan in Numbers 13 when Moses sent the 12 spies.

Og, the king of Bashan, is the King of the Giants in Deut. 3 and Joshua 12.

Goliath had 4 brothers who also were a derivative of offspring of the Nephilim.

- d. God said in II Sam. 7 that the Messiah would come from David's line.  
David's family was singled out for attacks.
- e. Haman attempted to wipe out the Jews.
- f. Herod attempted to kill all male babies in Bethlehem.
- g. 2 storms in Mark 4 & Luke 8 that seemed more than just natural storms.

10. Job 1:9-11 Satan contended that Job would only serve God as long as God blessed him. God granted Satan the authority to afflict Job, but always within strict limits.

Job's adversities came first from Satan, but ultimately from God, whose sovereign control over the events of His servant's life never wavered.

The suffering of Job, which appeared to be of very natural causes, was of satanic origins.