

Finishing Well

Lesson #23 Enemies That War In My Soul - HIVITES June 30, 2021

A curse was brought upon Canaan, the youngest of Ham's four children, and his line due to Ham's unrighteous behavior toward Noah. [Gen. 9:22-27]

Gen. 10:15-18 Canaan begat Sidon his 1st born, and Heth, ¹⁶ And the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgasite, ¹⁷ And the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite, ¹⁸ And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad.

After the Tower of Babel, Canaan's descendants took most of the land west of the Jordan River [along with Syria and Phoenicia], and the curse took effect.

- They became 7 wicked nations who were given over to the most debased and degraded systems of thought and worship. [Genesis 10:15-20].
- All were idol worshippers with incestuous gods [Baal had sex with his mother Asherah, his sister, and his daughter]. They believed in incest, bestiality, adultery, child sacrifice, rape, temple sex with prostitutes, orgies, and other sexual deviances.
- Excavations of these temple sites ["high places" with stone pillars and altars] revealed containers with sacrificed child remains offered to Molech [Jer. 32:35].

When Israel entered the Promised Land [1300-1200 B.C.], it came with enemies, 7 cruel and wicked nations. Deut. 7:1-3 tells us:

- These nations were greater and mightier than the Israelites.
- They could not defeat the enemies on their own.
- God would deliver the enemies over to the Israelites.
- Israel was to conquer the enemies and utterly destroy them.
- They were to make no covenant with them or show any mercy. Do not intermarry.

God made it clear: The enemies were so vile that unless destroyed, they would corrupt Israel's devotion to Him [Deut. 7:12-16].

God warned Israel: If you do not destroy them, the land would "vomit" them out too.

- Lev. 18:28; Numbers 33:56; Deut. 8:19-20

What God promised > happened [Judges 3:5-6, Ezra 9:1-2].

HIVITE Hebrew root word = Life Giver Promises Life = Self-indulgent

- Appear in Scripture = 25x
- 6th in order of descendants of Canaan, the 4th son of Ham

Josh. 11:3 They lived in the northern section of Canaan below Mount Hermon in the land of Mizpeh.

Situated just north of Caesarea Philippi, Mount Hermon ["sacred" or "abrupt"; forbidden place] rises 9,232 feet with 3 distinct summits visible from the southernmost part of the Sea of Galilee, 60 miles away.

From this highest point in Israel, the Jordan River rises on the slopes of Mount Hermon, near the borders with Syria and Lebanon, before gushing south into the Sea of Galilee. In the apocryphal Book of Enoch, Mount Hermon is the place where the Watcher class of fallen angels descended to Earth. "They swear upon the mountain that they would take wives among the daughters of men and take mutual imprecation for their sin." [Enoch 6]

The Bible lists over 30 verses about giants. Num. 21:21-35; Deut. 3:1-11:

1. Moses mentions Mount Hermon in relation to the conquest of Og, king of Bashan, and Sihon, king of Heshbon. These were both Rephaim. [Hebrew for "giants"]
 - Og's bed frame was said to be over 13 feet long.

Their territory was on the east side of Mount Hermon as listed in Deut. 1:1-5.

2. The tribe of Dan contains multiple examples of the tendency of people to follow man-made religion over Biblical faith in God.

Following the Israelite invasion of Canaan in 1406 BC, the southern coastal plain was allocated to the tribe of Dan [Joshua 19:40-46]. However, due to the superior weaponry of the Philistines, who used iron chariots to defend their cities, the Danites were unable to conquer this territory [Judges 1:19].

Judges 18:1 In those days there was no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.

- They ultimately sent 5 spies to find a better area. [easy to conquer]
- The spies learned of an area where a peaceful group of people lived.

Judges 18:27 And they took the things which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people that were at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword and burnt the city with fire.

- Seized the Canaanite city of Laish, renaming it Dan.
- Close to the sources of the Jordan River near Mt. Hermon.

In 931 BC, Jeroboam built an altar with a golden calf in Dan for the people of the northern kingdom to worship. Sadly, this man-made worship at Dan has been one of its lasting legacies.

Extensive excavations found over 20 temples on her slopes. Biblical accounts in Judges 3:3 & I Chron. 5:23 state the mountain was considered sacred to the worshippers of the Canaanite god Baal. Mount Hermon, holiest of all, had other mystical attributes as well on her slopes.

3. Jesus' Journey to Caesarea Philippi With His Disciples
 - Crossed the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida > Healed man born blind
 - Jesus & disciples walked about 25 miles to Caesarea Philippi
 - Territory was ruled by the tetrarch Philip.
 - Huge influence of Greek & Roman culture - Greek god, Pan, had shrines there
 - Center for Baal worship

- Herod the Great had built a temple there to honor Augustus Caesar
- Caesarea Philippi forms the headwaters of the Jordan River
- Water gushed out of a cave - said it was "life-giving" [Hivite = life giver]
- Sacred niches in the rock held statues of the Greek god, Pan.

Jesus and His disciples had left the city where there was a lot of false teaching about Jesus, and as they came to this region, near Mount Hermon, they saw this temple with all the statues of gods.

Matt. 16:13-18 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ¹⁴ And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

In the midst of the Baal shrines at Caesarea Philippi, etched into the side of Mount Hermon to worship Pan, Peter proclaimed Jesus to be the Christ. This was no coincidence that his testimony was made amongst pagan worship.

¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hades [realm of the dead] shall not prevail against it.

In Jesus' day, there was a pagan shrine to the Greek god Pan built over a huge, deep sinkhole and forming a cave. It was so deep that the locals called the hole "the gate of Hades."

They believed this cave contained access to the underworld.

Gates represent authority and power. Important business was transacted at the city gate.

The gates of hades would symbolize the organized power of death and Satan.

By His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ would conquer death so that death would not be able to hold any of His people. Christ would "storm the gates" and deliver the captives!

This encounter represented a stinging condemnation of all forms of pagan worship.

Joshua warned the children of Israel that when they came into Canaan, they would see a lifestyle contrary to the Word of God.

Some of that lifestyle might look pleasant, but it will trap you and bring death.

Hivites, a powerful demonic force, are the ultimate evil wicked masters of Lies & Deception.

The Hivite spirit seeks to DECEIVE mankind with the belief:

- The world is the "fountain of life."
- Life lived out in the confines of the systems of the world and in conflict with God
- Presents this world, using our fleshly feelings and thoughts, as life-giving and soul-satisfying. Ruination and damnation are the ultimate goals.
- Goal: Lure us by using illusions, delusions and sensual pleasures that place the mind and imaginations into a snare.

- This snare will deceive you with great boasts promising you pleasure and prosperity at the expense of your life and your soul. Result: No focus on things of eternal value
- This spirit will bombard your mind and soul with alternate life-styles that falsely promise meaning and purpose in life outside of God's chosen ways.
- Gratify the Flesh; Spirit of Gluttony: Fill our soul with the wrong "food."
- If it feels good, do it. "Swinging lifestyle" Don't worry what other people think!
- Hedonism = worldly lifestyles - vision limited to an earthly life

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.

Consider: This "giant" can lure people away from the lifestyle God requires of His children.

Rom. 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

God calls us to overcome the alternate desires of the flesh so we can have total victory in Christ. Our spiritual life is a sacrificial life.

This Powerful Demonic Force Presents As: Deceptive Fraud

Consistent thread of this spirit: Follow your heart and its desires.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked."

Prov. 14:12 There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

DECEPTION: To mislead by giving a distorted impression or false sense of reality; to trick; to cheat; to beguile. The ancient Greeks used the word to describe the pleasure that comes from watching the theater. Deception is being pacified and placated by unreality.

Pain and confusion result from trusting false promises or believing a lie.

I. The Hivite Spirit At Work

A. Undermine the Authority of God's Word

Satan's Subtle Attempt To Undermine God's Word

Genesis 3:1-5 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Yea, hath God said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ And the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be as gods, knowing good and evil."

Why does Satan deceive? Satan cannot create anything. All he can do is manipulate and maneuver what has been created. Since he cannot match God's power, Satan has to maximize the power he has. Deception is his strong suit.

Satan's weapon is his mouth. "Serpent" = nachash = The Shining One

- one who whispers, hisses, suggests

The Strategy of Deception:

Satan's deception always causes distrust for spiritual authority and doubting of the truth.

1. Distort what God says by changing the emphasis.
2. Bring into question God's motive (always the result of twisted meaning)
3. Introduce reason that ultimately leads you to question God's goodness and integrity.
 - Once that is accomplished, it is easy to turn you against God's authority.

5 step process of fall:

1. 3:1 Satan put a question mark on God's Word. Get Eve to DOUBT God's Word.
2. 3:3 Eve ADDED to the Word of God = nor shall you touch it
Eve made the commandment more rigid than God said.
3. 3:3 Eve altered or watered down the Word of God.
This put a question mark on the certainty of judgment.
4. 3:4 Satan directly contradicted the Word of God.
This presented a clear choice to Eve between God's Word & Satan's word.
Eve was presented with a choice between 2 wills. God's will or Satan's will.
Eve has a choice or who or what to believe.
5. 3:5 Satan put a question mark on the character of God.

Satan made God look like a taker instead of a giver. "God's holding out on you.

You don't have to put up with this. You deserve something better. Go ahead and do what you want. God won't do anything to you...He hasn't done anything yet, has He?"

Question: Can Satan deceive you? Don't forget! Satan led 1/3 of the angels astray from the very presence of God in heaven. He caused Eve to disobey in a perfect environment [never been abused by a husband, frustrated by kids, used by a pastor, or mistreated by a boss].

Consider: In order to be deceived, you must have some truth by which to measure the error. The greatest guard against deception is revealed [Berean], not communicated, knowledge.

- The knowledge concerning the tree had been communicated through Adam to Eve...not revealed to Eve from God. [Gen. 2:15]
- Adam was created, received God's instructions and then Eve was formed. [2:22]
- She was operating on second-hand information.

Consider: If all you ever receive is second-hand truth, you're in trouble, in deception already.

Truth: Yielding to deception compromises Divine provision and protection in my life.

Note: God was not involved in the temptation. Satan plays on the inner desires and lusts.

The Hivite Spirit At Work

- A. Undermine the Authority of God's Word
- B. Gratify Desires Outside of God's Will

Principle: God desires His people to be holy and live separate from the world. [II Cor. 6:17]

- Do Not Mingle; Come Out; Be Separate

Gen. 34:2 1st encounter with the Hivites Jacob's return to Canaan

When Jacob left Uncle Laban, God told him to travel to Bethel. Jacob traveled over 500 miles and was only 50 miles from Bethel when he stopped at the prominent city of Shechem.

- He bought land and settled in Shechem for 10 years.
- Delayed obedience is disobedience and outside God's will. It was an expensive detour!
- It was a land of wicked and sinful people who were idol worshippers.
- In Genesis 34 there is no mention of God, only evil and vengeance.

Gen. 34:1-2 *And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.*

- "What is wrong with a bit of fun? It does not hurt anyone."
- Dinah didn't accept God's judgment [assessment] about the world and its evils.
- She went into the world, by her own judgment, and socialized with a Hivite.
- Her seemingly harmless jaunt into the world controlled by the enemy territory turned into a terrible nightmare.

²*And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.*

- Defiled is used 3 times to describe Shechem's wicked deed. [5, 13, 27]
- As a result of leaving the protection of God's authority, she lost her purity.

Principle: Settling outside God's will engages us with evil and endangers others.

Note: All this could have been avoided if Jacob had gone to Bethel as God told him.

Philosophy of Hivite Spirit: "Eat, drink and be merry - for tomorrow you may die."

Thomas Huxley said, "A man's worst difficulties begin when he is able to do just as he likes."

Hivite Spirit: Gratify the desires of the flesh first: Carnal appetites

James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures [lusts].

Acts 17:18 Paul was addressing the Epicureans whose philosophy of life was:

- Live for pleasure in this life only and give no thought about life after death.

Luke 17:26-30 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Luke 15:11-32 The Prodigal [wasteful] [under influence of Hivite spirit] left his father's house to gratify the flesh. The world calls that "life"- but it left the Prodigal in a pigpen. You Can Bring Ruin to Your Life -Attitude > I've Got to See For Myself
Sometimes a man just wants to find out for himself, ignoring the advice of parents, friends and the Word of God.

God seeks to protect man from harm and give us wise counsel.

- Poison is still poison, whatever it says on the outside of the bottle.
- Believers do not need to visit a brothel to know that it is wrong.
- A man does not need to dabble in the New Age to know of its dangers.

Sin promises freedom, but it only brings slavery [John 8:34].

Sin promises success but brings failure.

The Prodigal came out from under the authority of his father when he went into the world. If you try to love the world and Jesus Christ at the same time, you are double-minded. [James 4:3-8] Stay under the authority of the Word of God: place of protection, refuge, safety, care, provision, etc.

James 1:16-17 Do not err [be not deceived], my beloved brethren.

Strong's # 4106 = *planao* = go astray, get off-course; to *deviate* from the correct path (circuit, course), *roaming* into error, *wandering*; (passive) do not be misled.

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

- Do you believe there is any good outside of God's provision? You can be deceived!
- No matter how good it tastes, looks, feels - no matter how rich, abundant, wise or successful it may make you...
- If it is not from God, it will eventually lead you down a path of sorrow and regret.

Isa. 66:2b ...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at My Word.

One who trembles at His word will instantly obey Him whether he sees the advantage or not.

Ps. 25:14 The secret of the Lord is with those who fear him, and He will show them His covenant.

Ps. 119:165 Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.

- If I am stumbling, offended, and have no peace...then I don't love the Word?

Prov. 4:20-22 Attending to the Word

Ps. 1:1-3 Delighting in the Word

Joshua 1:8 Meditating in the Word

Chewing the Cud; Ruminating the word. The Word has to come out of you somewhere else besides your mouth. It must be digested and processed. When you walk the Word, live the Word, express the Word, etc. Then it is properly digested in your spirit.

James 1:22-24 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

When a person hears the Word of God yet does not obey,

- deception enters his heart and mind.
- This person lives thinking he's on target when actually, he's in error.

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it* and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.