



OVERCOMING THE EVIL ONE

KINDOM PRINCIPLE STUDY KP4

READ THIS FIRST

This is a large study but, even so, it is just an opening to the subject. Do not rush through it. It is important to know that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood but against wicked powers in the spiritual world. Every believer must sooner or later confront the devil and his agents in personal combat.

We have only one hope of winning such a conflict: by allowing God's life within us to fill us, and speak to and through us. Do not be afraid when God brings you to the test. We have not been given a spirit of fear, but one of power, love and a sound mind. As we live in close communion with Jesus through the indwelling Spirit, we SHALL overcome!!!

Key scriptures for this study are found in:

Genesis 3 & 4
Matthew 4:1-11
1 John 2:18-28
Ephesians 6:10-18
Revelations 17, 18, 19:1-3

Before reading the study material, read these scriptures; underline and write out those that seem especially important to you. Then go through the study notes, looking up the texts as you go.

LEARN THESE STATEMENTS BY HEART

'I write to you young men because you are strong; the Word of God lives in you and you have defeated the evil one' (*1 John 2:14*).

'We are not ignorant of his [Satan's] devices' (*II Cor. 2:11*).

'The Spirit in us is much more powerful than the spirit in those who belong to this world' (*1 John 4:4*)

KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

We are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world; the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers of this dark age. These powers are ruled by Satan (= the adversary,

also called Diabolos, the devil, i.e. the accuser; slanderer; Lucifer, Beelzebub, Belial, the dragon, that ancient serpent, Appolyon, Abaddon; the Prince of demons and the powers of the air, who is the adversary of God and man. (*Eph.6:12, Eph.2:2, Matt. 12:24, Luke 10:18, Isaiah 14:12, II Cor.6:15, Rev. 12:9, 1 Peter 5:8*).

The forces of Satan, sometimes called rudimentary or elemental (in rank) spirits are revealed to be a highly disciplined band, driven by the fierceness and terror of Satan's dreadful nature. Fear is the dominating principle amongst the demon hordes and those they ensnare into Satan's kingdom. (*Col.2:8, 15; Gal.4:3, 8-9*).

Originally Lucifer, an archangel of great power and authority, Satan was cast out of heaven after he had dared to stand up and oppose the God of Heaven. With him went a third of God's holy angels whom he had enticed to join him in his disobedience. Satan and his forces now occupy part of the universal space; from there they make war on God's creation, particularly against humans whom God made to rule and husband His creation. (*Rev.12:3-4, Gen.1:27-30, Psalm 8:5-8*).

Satan's first attack was a successful one. He deceived Eve and Adam our human parents (*Gen. 3:1-7*) with sad consequences for the whole creation. Unknown to Adam and Eve, by serving the devil they were separating themselves and the creation itself from God's presence, leaving themselves open to terrifying attack and enslavement by the powers of the air. Fortunately for us, God immediately took steps to deal with their rebellion; Adam and Eve, and their son Abel opened themselves to God's forgiveness and discipline whereas Cain preferred to walk in disobedience, even though he knew that this would mean exposing himself to the powers of the air. The Lord protected him from death but these powerful spirits invaded his mind. Through him and his descendants Satan built a whole civilization, marvelous in human terms but hideous in its disobedience to God (*Gen.3:21, 3:14-24, 4:1-24, Col. 2:8*).

The Lord God began a new obedient line through Adam's son Seth. This line continued throughout pre-flood time but barely so. In the beginning Seth and his sons looked to the Lord for their direction and needs and **were therefore the sons of God**. But the devil snared them through the beauty of the daughters of the sons of men (the Cainitic Society) so that the whole of mankind was again afflicted with the results of disobedience. God determined to destroy them but, fortunately for us, He found one man, righteous Noah, to be the father of the post-flood world. Only Noah, who was just and lived in fellowship with God,

and those under his covering (his wife and three sons and their wives) escaped the total destruction which God wrought on the earth by water (*Gen.4:25-26, 5:1-32, 6:1-8, 6:9-22, 7:1-24,8:1-22,9:1-19*).

But even beyond the flood, Satan found his man. This man was Cush, Ham's son, the father of the Ethiopians. He was the founder of Babylon/Babel. Through Cush, his wife Semiramis and their son Nimrod, Satan developed a grand design to defeat God's purposes. The plans were perfected by Semiramis and Nimrod, whom she married incestuously after Cush's death. All of the intricate patterns of evil in the world today had their beginning in Babel based on the principles developed by this depraved trio. The mysteries developed in Babylon now permeate every part of human society, even the society of the church of Jesus our Liberator! (*Gen.10:6, 10:8-12*).

The history of man's involvement in the occult mysteries of Babylon is well documented in historical writings. The Bible is not expansive in its explanations but it often refers to the presence of the mysteries as a force opposing God. As example, consider these references to the names and synonyms of the 'fathers of the gods' in scripture:

Cush (Khus = Chaos) is also Bel (the confounder), Merodach (the great rebel), Mars, Hermes (i.e. son of Ham (NB Hermeneutics the study of languages), Mercury, Moloch, Vulcan, Mephistos. (*Jer.50:2, Is.46:1, Gen.11:1-9, Amos 5:26, Lev. 18:21, 20:2, I Kings 11:7, II Kings 23:10, Jer.32:35, Acts 7:43*).

Semiramis is also Beltis (queen of heaven), Ashtoreth and Astarte (= Easter), Cybele (Asia), Isis (Egypt), Rhea, Dianna (Artemis) of the Ephesians, mother of the gods, the May Queen (mother's day), Fortuna (Rome), Irene (Greece), Shing Moo (Tibet, China, Japan), etc. (*Jer.44:15-30, Judges 2:13,10:6, I Sam. 12:10, 31:10, Acts 19:27-34*).

Nimrod is also Ninus, Nebo, Baal, Kronos (the horned one), Saturn, Horus/Osiris (Egypt), Tammuz, Bacchus (the lamented one), Dagon (the fish god of Philistia), Ala Mahozine (the god of fortifications). (*Judges 16:23, I Sam. 5:3-4, I Chron.10:10*).

So virulent are the vile practices of Babylon that even its appendages are to be shunned by God's people. In the days of Israel's possessing of the promised land, the local inhabitants were totally depraved by the Babylonian/Chaldean system and it was God's will that they be destroyed to the last man - otherwise they would have infected the 'people of God'. Note the problems at Ai, where Achan took a Babylonian garment. Also note the penalty that Saul paid for disobeying God's command. Even Solomon 'went

after Astarte' and Israel as a nation suffering terrible consequences as a result - a divided kingdom at the mercy of the queen of heaven. Thereafter followed total depravity in God's special people Israel and Judah and this led inevitably to the destruction of these kingdoms, the temple, national identity and life. (*Joshua 7:10-26, Deut.25:17-19, I Sam. 15:9-11, I Kings 11:5,33, II Kings 23;13, Jer.44:15-30, Ezek.16:15, 34, 8:5-16, etc., II Kings 24*).

The restoration of the Kingdom of Judah under Zerubbabel and Joshua saw the walls of Jerusalem and the temple rebuilt but never again to its former glory. Then followed the longest silence from the throne of heaven in human history; 400 years without one word from the God of Israel. But God had prepared His master-stroke. In His own time He sent forth His righteous branch, the Deliverer of men's souls, His Son, Jesus who we know as the Messiah/Christ (the anointed one) (*Neh..1 & 2, etc., Ezra 3:8-13, Haggai 1 & 2, Zech.4:1-14, 3:1-10 etc., Zech 3:8,9;9,11:13-14 etc.*).

When God finally took action against the adversary he invaded the world with a baby!!! But this was no ordinary baby; this was the Logos (the Word, the one with all the information) made flesh. Through Him, God would show that all the power of the enemy was as nothing before Him, not even being able to overcome a baby if that baby had God's life within Him. (*John 1:1-14*).

JESUS OUR LIBERATOR – GOD'S CHAMPION AND CAPTAIN OF THE HOST OF HEAVEN, THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

When God sent His Son into the world He sent the one whom He had promised at the first sign of man's disobedience. 'The woman's seed shall crush your head and you will bite His heel' (*Gen. 3:15*). He could have sent the host of heaven to destroy the devil at any time but He chose to give that authority to one born of a woman - and that one was Jesus.

God did not hide His program; He announced it with a heavenly choir, blazing it across the sky in song. He revealed it to shepherds and to wise men. The devil found a man evil enough to destroy innocent babies but God spoke to Jesus's human parents and they escaped into Egypt, finally settling in Nazareth in Galilee. (*Luke 2:8-14, Matt.2:1-12, 16-18, 19-23*).

From there the devil bided his time. His next approach came immediately after Jesus's baptism in water where God declared Him 'My Son'. Satan attempted to win Jesus to his camp with three temptations: (1) to break the rules of His humanity and Sonship, (2) to put God to the test, and, finally (3)

to offer Him second place in his kingdom! Satan had to do this because, unlike us who were born into the tribe of Adam and inherited his death, Jesus had never been in the enemy's camp. It was of the greatest importance that Jesus, God's champion, be conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin. Otherwise, He could not be our deliverer. We will see later that He had to be exchanged for us, and this would not be possible if He were already in the enemy's camp. (*Matt.4:11, 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38, Matt. 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38*).

At the time of the temptations Jesus demonstrated that Satan may be easily overcome, even in times of great stress, by the Word of God (from within). This has important implications for the believer. There is no temptation that comes to us that is not the same as Jesus's temptations, in one form or another. We who have God's Word within us by the Holy Spirit can overcome the evil one in the same way that He did, by the Word of God fed to us by revelation of the Spirit. We, believing God's word as opposed to Satan's, speak out by faith and destroy the devil's argument! Praise the Lord! (*John 14:25, Matt. 10:19-20*).

From His baptism until His death Jesus continually showed His authority over the devil and his minions. His authority was such that even His disciples, not yet filled with the Holy Spirit, could cast out demons. But Jesus was not satisfied to just overcome the evil one; He planned to utterly destroy the devil's power so that we might be released from that power and be able to enter again into a righteous relationship with His/our Father. (*Matt. 12:24-29, Luke 10:17-18, Jer.31:11, II Cor.5:17-21*).

To do this Jesus allowed Himself to be delivered up to death on a cross. He was not captured; He laid down His life willingly. What Jesus did in reconciliation is this: He offered Himself in exchange for the whole cosmos (universe) including all of humankind. The devil, knowing that no one could receive God's life except through the Son, thought this a good deal. If he could kill the Son then God's plan for all human-kind would be permanently and hopelessly frustrated. So Jesus became sine, i.e. separated from His Father, for us and we who were God's enemies were exchanged, made God's friends (*John 10:15, 17-18, Matt.21:33-41*).

To exchange us for Jesus was Satan's greatest error, for in the grave Christ freed Himself from the power of the wicked spiritual rulers and authorities and Himself took them captive. He made a public spectacle of them by leading them as captives in His victory procession. Amen! (*Col. 2:15*).

Of course, on the cross, Jesus our Liberator did even

more than this. He also satisfied God's divine justice in that He paid the penalty for all of the disobedience in the world. Because of this God is always justified in forgiving us all of our sin; and in canceling the unfavourable record of our debts ... doing away with it completely!!!!!! What a Saviour! (*Col. 2:13-14*).

Today we are to see Satan and his hordes as Paul saw them, weak and pitiful, utterly defeated. In time, the devil and all who refuse to accept God's invitation to salvation in Jesus Christ will be cast out of His presence forever. (*Gal.4:9, Rev.20:10*).

OVERCOMING THE EVIL ONE IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

If we are to be effective members of God's family and agents in the destruction of the works of the devil, we too, must learn to overcome the enemy. Remember that Satan is still unbound and is always our enemy. He is totally against us; he will kill us in cold blood if he possibly can. His prime attack is on our minds. He can, however, also invade our bodies causing sickness and distress, even living in our bodies if invited to do so. Fortunately, He **cannot at any time enter into the spirit of a man**; only the Holy Spirit can enter there. But even a spirit quickened believer can be invaded in his mind and body by Satan's forces if he allows it. Our only hope to escape these attacks is to allow God's Spirit to be released within us. This is the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead; it can also make our mortal bodies alive.

People outside of Christ have no such defense, although the veil between spirit and soul prevents Satan invading their spirit area. This veil must eventually be broken but only after God's Spirit has entered. God does it! (*I John 3:8, e.g. Matt.8:28-33, Luke 11:24-26, I John 4:4, Rom.8:11*).

There are four principles associated with overcoming the evil one that we need to keep in mind:

- We overcome him only as we keep ourselves in union with Jesus. As the Israelites in the wilderness had to remain under the cloud, so we must remain within the cloud of God's presence; otherwise we are exposed to the elemental spirits as Cain was. Above all, we are not to expose ourselves to involvement with activities that belong to the enemy's kingdom - false religion, the occult - as these bring drastic penalties into the life of a believer. If you have ever had involvement, particularly with seances, satan worship, taro cards, ouji boards or the like - seek prayer with mature brethren to make sure that the gaps in your armour have been closed; otherwise you may still be unwittingly exposing yourself to

the enemy's forces. (*Lev.19:31, 20:6-7, 27, Deut.18:10-12, I Sam. 28:3, 7-20*).

- We need to learn to allow God's life (Word) within us to fill us and be our instructor in spiritual warfare as in all other areas of life. The devil is a master at deception. He even uses scripture perversely, works lying wonders, appearing at times as an angel of light. We must test everything to see what spirit it is of. We will soon learn that we have an anointing within us, even the Holy Spirit of God, who teaches us everything and what He teaches us can be relied upon as it is absolutely true. (*Matt.4:6, II Thess.2:9-12, II Cor. 11:13-15, I John 4:1-6, I John 2:18-28*).
- One of the enemies favourite methods of attack is false accusation (Diabolos = slanderer, false accuser). Many believers fall into the trap of believing his lies. He puts his finger on our weaknesses and is able to make us feel guilty and condemned if we are not careful. God allows this, even though it robs His children of their peace and joy. His reason is that many Christians have not fully received the Gospel (good news) that our sin (separation) was totally dealt with on the cross. Because we continue to believe the lie that we are saved by our own goodness (self righteousness) we are exposed to Satan's accusations when we fall short of the perfection that we know God requires. We will find ourselves continually experiencing feelings of condemnation until the foundation of true repentance - repentance from dead works and faith towards God - is laid in us. Little by little God the Master Builder convinces us that we are not saved by our own works and self righteousness but by faith in what God has already done. Probably the only reason that the Lord allows the devil to wander around at this time is that he may help us by his lies into right thinking and a right relationship with our heavenly Father. After a time we see with Jesus that Satan is a liar and the father of lies (*Heb.6:1, Titus 3:3-8, John 8:44*).

Having been strengthened, we can take up the authority given us by Jesus. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, and keeping in close union with Jesus, we can take our place amongst those who destroy the works of the devil, release the captives and get on with the business of reclaiming the universe for God (*Matt. 16:17, Acts 16:18, 19:12-20*).

HEAR WHAT OUR BROTHERS SAY

'Be alert, be on watch! Your enemy, the devil, roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to

devour. Be firm in your faith and resist him' (Peter our brother - *I Peter 5:8-11*).

'Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will run away from you' (James our brother *James 4:7*).

HEAR WHAT JESUS OUR LIBERATOR SAYS

'Do not be glad because the evil spirits obey you; rather be glad that your names are written in heaven' (*Luke 10:20*).

MYSTERY BABYLON

Nowhere do the agents of evil find better shelter than in the trappings of religion. Even in the church of Jesus Christ the mystery of iniquity hides and works out its opposition to the Lord of Glory. But God is constantly renewing and cleansing His people. In the end He will destroy both political and ecclesiastical Babylon - in a single day! All the Hallelujahs in the New Testament are reserved for that day!!!! (*II Thess.2:7, Rev. 17, 18, 19*).

QUESTIONS

1. What mistakes did Eve make in her conversation with the devil? Compare your answers with John's statement in I John 2:16.
2. Why did the Jews fail to keep God's covenant? What was the result?
3. How did Jesus demonstrate His authority and power over Satan?
4. What does it mean 'to live in union with Jesus'? Why is this important for us?
5. How do we recognise the attack of Satan? How do we overcome him?
6. Why does God allow Satan to wander around accusing the brethren?

Post your answers to:

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