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THE KINGDOM AT WAR

In the world, there are many kingdoms or nations, and each is ruled by a king, president or prime minister. **In the spiritual realm, there are only two kingdoms: the Kingdom of God ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the kingdom of darkness ruled by Satan.**

There is a great contrast between the two kingdoms.

The Kingdom of God

Light

Life

Truth

Heaven, etc.

Ruled by God Who is:

Love

Restorer of life

Giver

Life

The Truth

Merciful

Good, etc.

The kingdom of Satan

Darkness

Death

Deception

Hell, etc.

Ruled by Satan who is:

Hate

Destroyer of life

Thief

Death

The father of lies

Revengeful

Evil, etc.

What most people do not realise is that all the nations in the natural realm are actually governed in the spiritual realm by either the Kingdom of God or the kingdom of Satan. Many wars may be taking place between nations but there are actually only these two kingdoms in spiritual war against each other. Each nation and individual comes under one of two heads, Jesus or Satan.

Every individual has to decide which kingdom to be in. **Many people, even Christians, do not realise the intensity of the spiritual war that we are engaged in.** It is a battle for the souls of men and women.

In fact, the war between God and Satan started in heaven when Satan wanted to be like God and rebelled against God.

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 deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev 12:7-9)**

From being an anointed cherub (Eze 28:14) called Lucifer who probably led the heavenly choir, he was cast down to earth and became God's enemy (Is 14:12-15).

Knowing that he was no match for God, Satan went after God's creation. Adam and Eve had been created perfect, filled with the Spirit of God and given authority to rule the world in God's place. God had told them not to eat the forbidden fruit but they chose to listen to Satan. Deceived into disobedience, they lost their God-given authority (Gen 2, 3).

Instead of ruling, man was then ruled. Satan became the ruler of this world (John 14:30). That is why Jesus did not dispute

*This passage has also been interpreted to be an end-time event.

Satan's claim to having authority over the kingdoms of the world.

And the devil, taking Him up into an high mountain, shewed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind Me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve. (Luke 4:5-8)

It is the same story today. Instead of believing God Who speaks the truth, people still choose to believe Satan's lies. They choose to disobey and sin. Our holy God hates sin. Sin separates man from Him and results in death, which includes eternal separation from God.

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44)

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (Rom 6:16)

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (2 Cor 4:3-4)

Since the fall of man, Satan has ruled the world with cruelty. **Through deception, he keeps man in darkness and bondage.** He inflicts man with all sorts of sicknesses and diseases, and instigates man to rebel against God so that he can eventually bring man to hell with him.

Satan's purpose is to destroy man. But Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan. That is why He announced His ministry in these terms:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)

And He began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. (Luke 4:21)

Although Jesus Christ was the Son of God, He came as man. Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus won back the authority and right to rule that the first Adam had lost. (Please refer to my book, "Fasting & Prayer", for more details on how we too can similarly defeat Satan.)

If Adam and Eve, filled with the Spirit of God and dwelling in His presence, could be deceived, Christians too can be deceived. No wonder many have failed to exercise their authority in God and are in trouble today.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

What a contrast. Satan came to steal, kill and to destroy life. But Jesus came to give life abundantly. He completely disarmed Satan at the cross. He dealt a death blow to Satan's plans.

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8b)

And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Col 2:15)

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Heb 2:14)

Jesus overthrew Satan's power and gave man a new kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son,

In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:13-14)

He not only preached the Kingdom of God, but He also demonstrated its power.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

And His fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and He healed them. (Matt 4:23-24)

Even before He went to the cross, Jesus confronted Satan's power and set the people free.

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: **who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.** (Acts 10:38)*

How did Jesus establish His Kingdom here on earth? By casting out demons.

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and He healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad. (Matt 12:22-30)

Even the demons knew that Jesus came to destroy them.

And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day He entered into the synagogue, and taught.

And they were astonished at His doctrine: for He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with Thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art Thou come to destroy us? I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God.

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth

He even the unclean spirits, and they do obey Him. (Mark 1:21-27)

Whenever Jesus preached the gospel of the Kingdom, Satan was threatened. Satan's power was checked. The one who receives the truth of the gospel of the Kingdom is set free from all of Satan's deceptions and lies.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32)

And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

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. (Eph 2:1-2)

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)

*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev 12:9)*

Dearly beloved, do not be deceived by the enemy, Satan. **He wants to deceive the whole world but let us people of God not be deceived.** We are already living in end-times and are supposed to see God's power at work in an extraordinary way.