

Current Affairs #64 – The Beast Exploits the Lusts of the Human Soul

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It would appear that failing to destroy the child that was being born, the dragon, that old serpent, the devil or Satan, began to pursue the inhabitants of the earth.¹ “That great dragon was cast out of the second heavens, the old serpent called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world, was cast down to the earth and his angels with him” (cf. Revelation 12:9). Now, he is still in the second of the heavens, but there will come a time when he cannot function out of obscurity.

When you come into the earth, you are defined by form. When you are cast out of the heavens, you are no longer afforded invisibility and anonymity. You must then be subject to the creation itself. This was true even of the Son of God. In heaven He was not visible to humans. You cannot look up now and see into the heavens that contain the throne of God. When the Son of God came out of the heavens into the earth, He did so in a body. And when the evil one is thrown out of his place in the heavens, he will be subject to disclosure as well.

Following being thrown out, he begins to function in the earth through and in the form of a kingdom with seven heads, ten horns, and a little horn that speaks blasphemous things against the sovereign majesty of God (cf. Daniel 7:8). But I was going, at the end of the last broadcast, to reference for you two particular meanings of the word *kosmos*.² I told you that there were eight separate meanings, which include humanity, geography, and the like. But numbers six and seven in *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* identifies two particular applications to the word *kosmos*.

1. Number six is “the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of mankind alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ.”³ He goes on to give historical reference to the aggregate of the ungodly and wicked men in Old Testament times, such as in Noah’s time. Then, he adds the following commentary in reference to 1 John: “to speak in accordance

¹ See Revelation 12:12b NKJV: “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

² See Strong’s Greek 2889 - <https://biblehub.com/str/greek/2889.htm>

³ <https://biblehub.com/greek/2889.htm> - see under *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* #6

with the world’s character and mode of thinking.” Now, that is number six: mankind as the “world” under the sway or rule of the *kosmokratór*.⁴

2. And number seven is, “worldly affairs; the aggregate of things earthly; the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments, riches, advantages, pleasures, etc., which, although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ.”⁵

So in reference to being “worldly,” as in 1 John 2:16,

- “to be of earthly origin and nature,”
- and further commentary: “obstacles to the cause of Christ and the incentives to sin proceeding from the world.”

Now we might have guessed as much from 1 John, where he describes the things that were in the world. Let me remind you again,

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. [So, there is the world and there are things in it.] If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world –the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life –is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever (1 John 2:15-17 NKJV).

What does he mean by lust? He describes the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Now the word “lust” is the Greek term, *epithumia*,⁶ from which we get the English word, epitome. In other words, someone is the poster boy, or poster girl, or poster child for that form of behavior; he or she is the epitome of the thing. Unpacked, that means: when you give your life singularly in the pursuit of a thing above all else; when you are not restrained by any consequence in the pursuit of the thing; when it dominates. In short, it becomes god to you, and even the things of God are made subject to the pursuit of that lust. You would pursue the lust more assiduously, more fervently, and more completely than you would pursue anything else.

⁴ See Strong’s Greek 2888 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/2888.htm>

⁵ <https://biblehub.com/greek/2889.htm> - see under *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon #7*

⁶ See Strong’s Greek 1939 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/1939.htm>

We are used to thinking of lust as being essentially sexual lust, but this describes three categories of lust. Sexual lust is a type of lust, but it is not definitive of the entire genre of lust. Lust may be divided into three categories, and the importance of this is this, simply: the construction of the *kosmos*—this adornment, this arrangement, this systemic way of arranging things—has been arranged in a one-to-one correlation between what a person lusts for and will pursue to the abstraction of every other consideration. Nothing will deter you if you are giving into lust. No matter of conscience, no matter of priority, no matter of harm, no matter of consequence will deter you from the pursuit of the thing that now you have come to epitomize.

Now, observe the scheme of the enemy. He has constructed a *kosmos*, which is to say, an arrangement of things, systems, which enables the pursuit of lusts that draw on the basis of the preexisting condition of lusting after what these systems plan or advertise to deliver for you. So, you can see this great beast, if constructed out of... Since it has seven heads, we may assume seven systems, with ten rulers. All of these three categories of lust—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—all of these forms of lust are given the most complete expression within a systemic kingdom comprised of seven systems, by which all of what human life may depend upon is fully promised. That is why the beast is able to devour the whole earth, and anything that stands against it is going to be crushed, stepped upon, and shattered, in a time when there is a war of words defining reality for people. Those who are the people of God are going to present an order of being typified by the man above the water, typified by the four living creatures, obviously typified by a transcendent order that is only believable and accessible in, by, and through the Holy Spirit. But all of the rest of mankind, still caught and entrapped in lust, will find the systemic offerings of this kingdom to be so powerful as to be inescapable.

The lust of the flesh is the desire to live and to be alive in the body, which is to say, everything that relates to your flesh, the *bios*.⁷ I had mentioned earlier that there are three forms of life:

1. *bios*, which is the life of the body;

⁷ See Strong's Greek 979 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/979.htm>

2. *psuché*,⁸ which is the life of the soul;
3. and *zoë*,⁹ which is the life of the spirit.

These three are complete and distinct forms of life. The thing that is true of the *bios*, and all things related to the flesh (because *bios* is the life within the flesh), is that it is all perishing. It all goes away.

Do not for a moment think that this will only work against the world. For decades now, the Body of Christ has been subject to teachers who pray to God regularly and have built an entire theology on two principles: health and wealth. It is called the prosperity gospel, and they have exalted it to the place of the primary preoccupation of the living God concerning His children. Now, this point of view is singularly devoid of any transcendent or eternal interest or qualities. It is purely based upon an appeal to the lust of the flesh, but they have made it godly. They have dressed it in robes that speak Scripture to it, and they say it is God’s commitment to you to make sure that you have health and make sure that you are wealthy.

I remember one famous preacher (he is dead now) coming out of this Norman Vincent Peale school of thought, which is the power of positive thinking, which is the root of the prosperity gospel. In fact, Norman Vincent Peale’s famous work was called *The Power of Positive Thinking*. One of his disciples was Fred Trump, the father of Donald Trump. And Donald Trump was one of the young devotees of Norman Vincent Peale. There is not anything that has been hidden that will not be brought into the light.¹⁰ I do not care what your political affiliation is, this is about unpacking the schemes of the devil, not about whether you are Republican or Democrat. Now, the lust of the flesh matriculated into the California Crystal Cathedral fellow, he is dead now, Schuller, who was famous for the saying, “believe in a God who believes in you.” That sounded clever, but that was the doctrine of demons. The current iteration of that unholy development is positioned in the saying, “live your best life now,” and the famous preacher in Houston who preaches this garbage.

⁸ See Strong’s Greek 5590 - <https://biblehub.com/str/greek/5590.htm>

⁹ See Strong’s Greek 2222 - <https://biblehub.com/str/greek/2222.htm>

¹⁰ See Luke 8:17 BSB: “For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be made known and brought to light.”

It is based on a direct appeal to the lust of the flesh, and it does not teach you the value of suffering. Only those who have suffered in the flesh, have put down the lust of the flesh. You do not put down the lust of the flesh by indulging it.

I am not speaking either against health or wealth. However, when health and wealth become the primary preoccupation of our pursuit of God, we are totally subject to the deception of Satan, who devours the whole earth in the form of a kingdom, systemic in nature, that appeals to the lust of the flesh. The tragedy of this prosperity gospel and its subsidiaries is that they are delivering the people of God, predisposing them, to being devoured by this kingdom which promises them security in the flesh and financial well-being—health and wealth. So, one of the systems of the *kosmos*, one of these seven systems, has to be a global financial system to include trade, to include various forms of commerce, to include banking, to include insurance—finances. It is designed to show that, by putting your trust in these systems, your financial well-being will be looked after. And the second of these systems that you can be sure of, is one of global health. Can you not understand how this present pandemic, threatening both of those systems, will call forth a global response designed to capture those whose emphasis is upon the lust of the flesh? And, these systems will have a religious endorsement by those who have already concluded that God's preoccupation is with our health and our finances.

God said to Israel, when He brought them through the wilderness, He said, "I brought you through the wilderness with its scorpions and its snakes to test you, so that in the end it will go well with you." This is Deuteronomy, chapter 8 (cf. verses 15-16). In the testing in the wilderness, He said, "I tested you, and when you hungered"—so part of the testing is that you will be hungry or you can expect to be hungry, but the answer is not that you are hungry and you just die of hunger. No. He said, "I took you out into the desert where you could not tend flocks and herds, where you could not grow crops of grain, where you could not generate an economy from the desert that could support you. So you were going to be hungry in the place I took you so that I could appear to you

and feed you, but I fed you with an economy for which there was no explanation. I did it to teach you that you can rely entirely upon what I tell you.”¹¹

But Israel continued every day to go out and look for manna. And even when Jesus came, He accused them of having a DNA that predisposed them to receiving manna. This is from John, chapter 6, when He fed the five thousand. He said, “Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness and have perished” (cf. John 6:49). God meant to teach them about the bread of life on the table of show, the showbread, the bread which was also called the Bread of His presence. “If all you have is the handout from God,” Jesus told those who followed Him the next day around the Sea of Galilee to the town of Capernaum, He said, “Do not labor for the bread that perishes.¹² I am the Bread of Life.”¹³

My charge against the health and wealth gospel is that it is an end within itself. The people do not know God. They have not been matured. They have not been raised up to know God. They have been encouraged to seek God for their daily bread—to pay their bills, to get a better job, to have an increase in finances, and the like. When the leading proponent of that gospel proposed to speak for God in the earlier months of this year, claiming to speak from the office of the prophet of God, he was thrown down from his perch because he did not know God. He was speaking out of the emotions of his soul, and he was a soothsayer. He wanted to soothe and assure his followers, and dared to propose to speak for God; and God cast him down. According to Ezekiel, when God casts down false prophets, they never rise again (cf. Ezekiel 13:1-9). There will be no second or third act for this character.

¹¹ See Deuteronomy 8:3 NKJV: “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”

¹² See John 6:27 NKJV: “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

¹³ See John 6:48-51 NKJV: “I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

1. The lust of the flesh is the addiction to being supported by the systems of the world.
2. The lust of the eyes is about fulfilling your idea of what God has called you to be and to do. Everybody has to have a vision for life, and the reference here speaks of a vision. The word for “eyes” is literally the word from which we get the word “ophthalmology,” and it is a vision—by implication, vision, Strong tells us in 3788.¹⁴ And it figuratively refers to envy, to jealousy, to a misguided sight. So it has to do with comparisons, not being content with what God has given as your portion but coveting and desiring the position of another, all of which has to do with a broken soul that only views value by competition. Such a person does not understand that there is an order beyond equality. Equality is the best we can hope for in an inherently competitive order, but uniqueness is the indication of being endowed by God with particularity. In other words, you are not to compare yourself. The vision you have should not be by comparison to what someone else has. So, what we know about the systems that will come from this is they will posit and purport some form of equal distribution, or if you like, equality.
3. And the pride of life is the third of the three lusts, upon which the systems of the *kosmos* are constructed. The pride of life is self-confidence or boasting. It is the word *alazoneia*,¹⁵ and it contains the idea of being boastful, proud, etc. So, the systems of the world will allow you to boast on your accomplishments. It is based upon what you can do. It is based upon who you know, what resources you have, what you can put together in order to function in the way you that think you ought to.

In completeness, the systems of the *kosmos* are designed to entrap you in a belief that whatever you lust for by way of the lust of the flesh, whatever you lust for by way of the lust of the eyes, and whatever you lust for by the pride of your life, these systems will offer you as complete a promise of expression as you could hope for. It will attract like a magnet because it is designed to fully exploit exactly where you are vulnerable. Listen, this is the demonic nature of these schemes.

¹⁴ See Strong’s Greek 3788 - <https://biblehub.com/str/greek/3788.htm>

¹⁵ See Strong’s Greek 212 - <https://biblehub.com/str/greek/212.htm>

That is why this beast will trample down and devour the whole earth. And those that it does not consume with its iron teeth, with its machinery (iron is a reference to machinery), with the machinery of these systems, it will step on and grind into the dust or it will shatter.

So only those who come from a different Kingdom, with different systems that are not comparable—they are distinct and uniquely different from everything within these seven systems of the *kosmos*—only those who find their habitation in those things will find their way through this dark time. But it will be a propaganda war. He will wage war against the saints. It will be a propaganda war. One will appeal to the soul; the other will appeal to the spirit. One will appeal to the fears that are innate to the soul; and the other Kingdom will appeal to the hope that is engendered through faith.

When we come back the next time, I want to begin by discussing what these systems look like, how they function, how they entrap, and what are the alternatives. We are on the edge, the beginning of sorrows, we are on the edge of some of the most momentous things prophesied from antiquity, about to be unfolded on the earth.

I will leave you with this thought: when it is time to change direction, you have to be brought to a standstill. God typically does not have you change direction going full speed down the highway. Almost every nation has a system of highways in which you can travel at great speed down a certain highway. When it is time to get off at your exit, you must slow down, and when you come to the bottom of where the exit is, you must stop. Then, depending on whether you are to go to the right or the left, you make the turn. Nobody would assume that you should exit at highway speed, go down to the point where you need to turn right or left at the same speed, and negotiate the turn without reducing your speed. If you do, you will be in a wreck, and probably a fatal one at that. This time for the people of God is that pause to reset. He is taking us off the highway of where we have been traveling, and at the speeds at which we have been going, and He is bringing us down to the place where we are brought to a stop. We are at a stop. In this time, God is speaking very, very distinctly. And unless you keep going at the same speed, thereby passing your exit, or trying to wait out, in a fitful fashion, the rest that God has brought us to, and not learn to enter into His rest, what lies ahead is the entrapment of the *kosmos*.

Part of what God wants you to consider, what He is doing now, the things He is bringing up, are all the things you have put off dealing with in your life. If you will attend to the word of the Lord, He will begin to extend you the grace to fix things that you have neglected. Which if left unfixed, you will have no choice but to be either devoured by the beast, this global kingdom; or trying to stand up to it, it will crush you; or alternatively, shatter your ability to live apart from its power. The only thing you can do in this period of rest, the only thing you ought do, is transition intentionally in a more invasive way into the Kingdom of God. And that is by dealing with the blockages that have been in your life that your enemy has used up until now to prevent you from doing that. Use the time wisely. It is of strategically great importance. The value of this time of rest in the midst of the COVID-19, the value of it cannot be overstated.

This is Sam Soleyn. We will continue with discussions of the systems of the Kingdom and the systems of the *kosmos*, and we will contrast them. We will look at how God means to settle you in the land of His habitation.

Grace and peace be with you. Bye-bye.