

Current Affairs #65 – War Between the Saints and the Devil

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I want to continue our discussion of the great beast, the one with seven heads and ten horns. Now I want to delve into perhaps one of the most difficult series of Scripture passages as they relate to prophetic Scriptures. What I want to do is, here at the beginning of this section, which we have already started, but I am backtracking in order to lay up very precisely, foundations for the understanding of what is otherwise opaque prophetic Scripture that lends itself to much in the way of speculation. But the Scriptures do say that in the time of the end there will arise men of understanding. I must say that understanding is one of the seven characteristics of the Spirit of God. He has a Spirit of lordship, the Spirit of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, power, and the fear of the Lord—the seven Spirits of God.¹ So, there will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days to specifically bring understanding.

It is not that men are smart or can figure things out. Unless the Lord reveals what He has written, we cannot know what it means. There is a time of revelation consistent with when these things must come forth. Even Daniel sought revelation, in chapter 12, as to when the things he himself wrote about would come to pass. But he was told to go his way; he would sleep in the dust of the earth. These things did not concern him, but he will awake in the last day.² Such things were told to him, however, as it would be that the things he had written about from chapter 7 onward, and specifically in chapter 12 he was told these things would occur “when the power of the holy people has been finally broken, then these things will occur.”³

The holy people, at times, referred to the nation of Israel. However, in the references to Daniel, in Daniel, and the sequence in which these things were meant to occur, when you also consider

All Scripture quotations are from the NKJV Bible, unless otherwise noted.

¹ See Isaiah 11:2: “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

² See Daniel 12:13: “But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”

³ See Daniel 12:7: “Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.”

passages like the 10th chapter of the Book of Ezekiel, you will see that it was always meant for the glory of God to depart from the temple, and by that natural Israel, and to move and rest upon that which is characterized as the four living creatures or the corporate man,⁴ which is inclusive of such Jews as accept Christ. Now I know it is very popular and certain evangelical leaders have made a point of suggesting that Israel has a place with God that does not include Christ—that God made a special covenant with Israel, through Abraham, that does not include coming to God through Jesus Christ. That, to me, is the spirit of antichrist. That is so false, so wrong, and it does not help the Jews. It does not help the Jews because there is no other way to God.

From the beginning it was always understood, there could be no other way to God except through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is because, what God established when He created the heavens and the earth was the platform on which He would demonstrate His love to us as Father and a relationship that would be afforded us as sons. “Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we might be called sons of God” (cf. 1 John 3:1). There is no provision for the Jews, as the descendants of Abraham, to be anything other than the sons of Abraham. But the promise was in two parts:⁵

1. “I will make of you a great nation”—part number one, which would be natural Israel.
2. Part number two is, “And in thy seed...” Galatians 3 makes a point of distinguishing between “seed” and “seeds”:⁶
 - “seeds” would reference the nation of Israel;
 - “seed” is an exclusive reference to Christ. He comes through the lineage of Abraham, but He is the seed of God. “That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6).

⁴ See Ezekiel 10:18: “Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.”

⁵ See Genesis 22:16-18: “and said: ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.’”

⁶ See Galatians 3:16: “The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say, ‘and to seeds,’ meaning many, but ‘and to your seed,’ meaning One, who is Christ.”

It is in this capacity, the Son of God, that He would be the *Mashiach*,⁷ the Messiah, the One with the anointing to reconcile men to God.

So no, I do not care how popular these preachers are, I do not care whether they are on television, I do not care how famous their books are, they are wrong. There is no other way to God. Because it is not about going to heaven, for crying out loud; it is about having a relationship to God as a son of God, as a son has a relationship to a father. Because our purpose in this earth is to put the nature of the Father on display as the corporate son.

That is the thing that the enemy intends to oppose. And part of the blasphemous things that this little horn we talked about (referenced in Daniel and the Revelation), that speaks, is an attempt to change the set times and attempt to change the laws, and to pervert an identity from the spirit to the flesh.⁸ Deception will come at a pace like a flood in the last days. I know it is common in this ecumenical world, where people are trying to find peace by any means possible, and the recognition that religions are, in the aggregate, the most divisive institution among humankind—whether that religion is Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and all the subdivisions and the different forms of that—it is very common in this time to say that there are many paths to the one God. That is simply not true. What do you mean by “paths to the one God”? What is the goal? For many, it is nirvana. Or for many, it is paradise. For others, the same thing is described of as heaven, and the like. So, it is all a destination. Religion has nothing more to offer you than a destination. So in that sense, if this were correct, that it is a destination—we are to go to some version of heaven as described by the various scriptures used by the various groups—then, okay, maybe that is correct: many paths to the one destination.

But it is not a destination. It is a relationship to God, and that relationship is exclusively through the One whom God sent. He sent Him because, apart from Him, there was no basis for a relationship to God. That relationship, properly described, is that of a Father, who is God, and a

⁷ See Strong's Hebrew 4899 - <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/4899.htm>

⁸ See Daniel 7:25: “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.”

Son, who is Christ—not so much Jesus. Jesus is the human form in which the Christ, the Spirit-being, appeared. And He is called the Christ, He is called the *Mashiach*, the Anointed One, because of what His anointing was about. It was an anointing to reconcile men to God through Himself. “For God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”⁹

Now the enemy intends to thwart that, and to wage war against the corporate man, which we have described variously as: the man above the water; he has been described further as the four living creatures; the bride of Christ; the Body of Christ; sons of God; the House of God; and so on. So, it is not obscure as to who the saints are. Israel, in the ancient world, was a prophetic type and shadow of this. But the original intent was that in the Seed of God, the Seed, the Lord Jesus Christ, reconciliation to God as Father would occur. The purpose of any son, and the purpose of this Son, the Son of God, is to be the exact representation of the invisible Father. Such a son is the man in the image and likeness of God.

This is what the original conflict between God and Satan was all about: a creature, an angel, deciding that he should have been the heir. This is the prize of all creation: the heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.¹⁰ And that joint-heirship is not just with Christ, it is in Christ. Hence, the last of the record of John, in the Gospel of John, the 17th chapter, in which he records the prayer of Jesus, in which Jesus says, “Father, let them—all those whom You have given Me, and not only those, but those who believe in Me through the words of the ones that I am sending (and in John 20:21, He would send in the way He was sent¹¹) all those whom You have given to Me, concerning them—let them be one in the manner in which You and I are one. You are in Me, and I am in

⁹ See 2 Corinthians 5:18-19: “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

¹⁰ See Romans 8:16-17: “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

¹¹ See John 20:21: “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’”

You.” (We have unpacked that many times in previous messages.) “Let them be one in Us, that the world might believe that You have sent Me.”¹²

So, it is not a mystery that there had to be the corporate man. And such a corporate man was viewed from heaven and from earth in prophetic Scriptures, in the 1st chapter of Ezekiel and again in the 10th chapter of Ezekiel, as this creature, the four living creatures with four faces.

1. One of the faces being that of an ox. That face is called the *kerub*,¹³ which is the Hebrew word for “ox,” which is translated to the word “cherub,” *kerub-cherub*. It is also referred to because of its indomitable, unyielding commitment to the truth, to following the truth, it has the characteristic of the ox.
2. It also has the characteristic of a lion. Because, of Jesus, is this characteristic as well—the conquering Lion of the tribe of Judah—who would say, “I only do what I see My Father doing,”¹⁴ so behaving as an ox.
3. And the eagle, the One who is not of this world, though He came into the world—like the eagle that moves between the realms of heaven and earth. So the spirit of the eagle, which, of course, the spirit references the Spirit of Christ, which is the spirit of prophecy.¹⁵
4. And then finally, the face of a man— “Clothed in flesh the Godhead see. Hail, incarnate Deity. Pleased as Man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.” You remember that from the Christmas carol, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.”

The opposition to the corporate man and all of the manifestation of the corporate man—which is especially inclusive of the forms in which the saints are described in Scripture—the opposition to the corporate man is the subtext that runs right along or right parallel to the prior text. The prior

¹² See John 17:20-21: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

¹³ See Strong’s Hebrew 3742 - <https://biblehub.com/str/hebrew/3742.htm>

¹⁴ See John 5:19: “Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.’”

¹⁵ See Revelation 19:10: “And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’”

text is how we are to be revealed in Christ at the end of the age, which is God's intent: a man in the image and likeness of God. But the subtext is the opposition to that, and it enters since the Garden of Eden. In its behavior, then, we continue to observe its growing insistence in overthrowing that which God has established to refute the claim of the demonic that they belong, rightfully, as the heirs of God. There are these two themes:

1. Sons of God, being demonstrated as the image and likeness of the Father, and the above ground, the clear and obvious text is that, and how it is destined to reach maturity. Its maturity is defined by "the fullness of the stature that belongs to Christ" (cf. Ephesian 4:13).
2. But also is the text, the serpent opposing the son, from the Garden. Now the serpent is variously described as "that old serpent, the devil, or Satan."¹⁶ Another word that is also used to describe Satan is "the ruler of the darkness of this world,"¹⁷ and also "the god of this world,"¹⁸ the manner in which this opposition to God is formulated and advanced throughout Scripture; that word is *kosmokratór*.¹⁹

Every time the son appears in the earth, the devil will appear to destroy the son—every time.

- When Adam first appeared, the devil appeared in the Garden to destroy the son.
- When a type of Christ appeared, the deliverer of people out of Egypt—Egypt being a type and shadow of economic entrapment and slavery—every time the son appeared, when Moses appeared, the devil also appeared to try to destroy him in the form, of course, of the ruler then. A type then of the *kosmokratór*, the god of this world, is Pharaoh in Egypt.
- When Israel—and Israel is the type and shadow of this reality—is taken into Babylonian captivity, Daniel is preeminent as one who maintains the word of the Lord amongst the people in Babylon and puts on display the courage of the son in the face of the opposition.

¹⁶ See Revelation 12:9: "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

¹⁷ See Ephesians 6:12 KJV: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

¹⁸ See 2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV: "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."

¹⁹ See Strong's Greek 2888 - <https://biblehub.com/str/greek/2888.htm>

Nebuchadnezzar is a form of the *kosmokratór*, who throws him into the lion's den. These are not the exclusive references; they are some of the types and shadows.

- And when the Son actually appeared on the earth, approximately the year 3 BC or AD 1 depending on your point of view of history, when He came of age and was presented at the age of thirty, the devil appeared in the temptation in the wilderness. And in everything he does—command these stones be made into bread, or bow down and worship me and I will give you the kingdoms of the world, or cast Yourself down because it is written, “He will give His angels charge over you”²⁰—in all the temptations the theme is the same: to destroy the son.

The enemy has crafted a way of doing that. But let me tell you before we get to that, let us look at Revelation, chapter 12, verse 1 and following. This is the final appearing to destroy the corporate son.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland [a crown] of twelve stars (Revelation 12:1 NKJV).

The number twelve, of course, is the number of government. Stars indicate authority or positions of greatness. So the woman, here, is typically the church. She appeared in heaven. Now might I point out the reference to the stars of the heavens, going back since the time of Genesis, the stars were put in the heavens to signify events to occur on the earth.²¹ So when Jesus was born, came into the world, the Bible speaks of the wise men following His star. “We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”²² They were not coming just to see a king being born. They brought the exalted gifts that one would give to a king, but they said, “We have seen His star in the East, and we have come to worship Him.” So, they knew He was the living God. When the star

²⁰ See Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

²¹ See Genesis 1:14: “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years.’”

²² See Matthew 2:1-2: “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’”

known as the Desire of the Ages appeared in the constellation Virgo, wise men understood that in the earth, out of a virgin, a Son was to be born. In this regard, we have a replay of that classic reference in Scripture to signs in the heavens above.

I do not want to unpack this right now, but I just wanted to give you a hint at it. The woman being with child was crying out in labor pains, in labor and in pain to give birth,²³ that is the classic reference from Jesus Himself concerning the end of the age: like a woman in labor.²⁴ He says,

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems [crowns] on his heads (Revelation 12:3).

Now again, the point being that the enemy has pursued the corporate man throughout history. When we go back to where we were in Daniel 7, he begins to set up the principle of how this great beast, which is the agent of the devil, how he appears on the earth with the express intent of opposing the saints. Every time the enemy has appeared to oppose what God is doing, he kills all, if he can, in order to kill the one. And God uses this procedure to bring judgment upon the false and idolatrous behavior of mankind, consistent with the deception of the enemy.

I understand that, in our time, people value human life as the ultimate value, and that without any reference to divine purpose. Let me say, human life has no particular value apart from the purposes of God. That is how God sees it. When God is ready, every disobedient person will experience the wrath of God, and that wrath is destruction. This is not political. This is not current philosophy that thinks man has value in and of himself. Man only has value, from an eternal viewpoint, when he is reconciled to God.

We will look at how the enemy intends to entrap man, and I will continue to bring forth the Scriptures on this subject as we continue. I am Sam Soleyn, and we will continue to talk some more about these matters.

²³ See Revelation 12:2: “Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.”

²⁴ See Mark 13:8 NIV: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.”; see also Matthew 24:8.