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Church As She Should Be

Paul's Letter to the

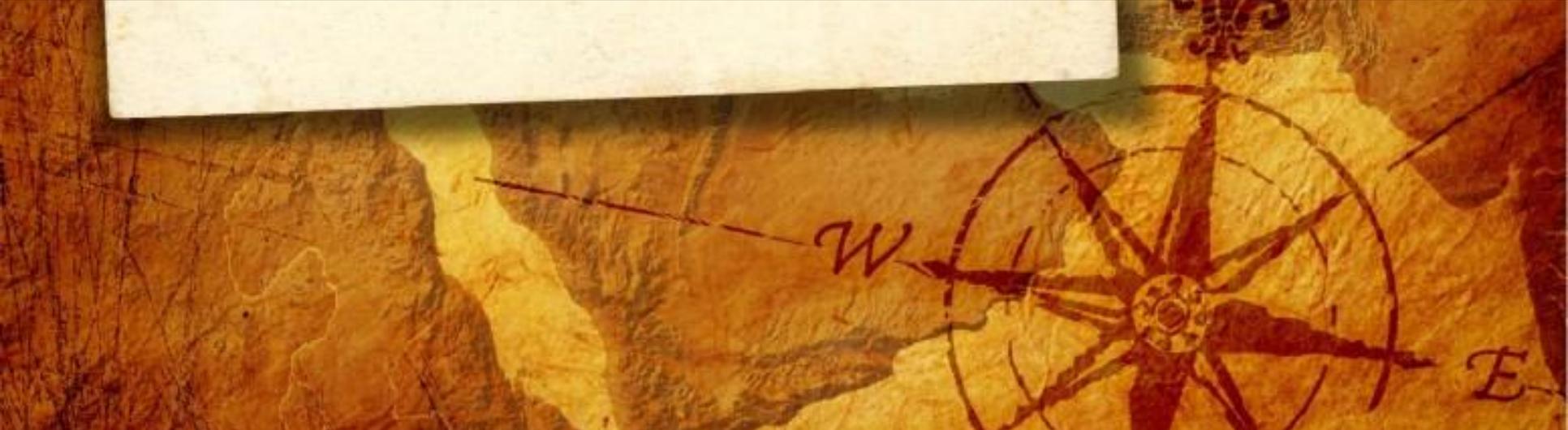
Church at Thessalonica

... but Satan hindered us ... part 1

I Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 2:18

04/29/2018



*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Thessalonica*



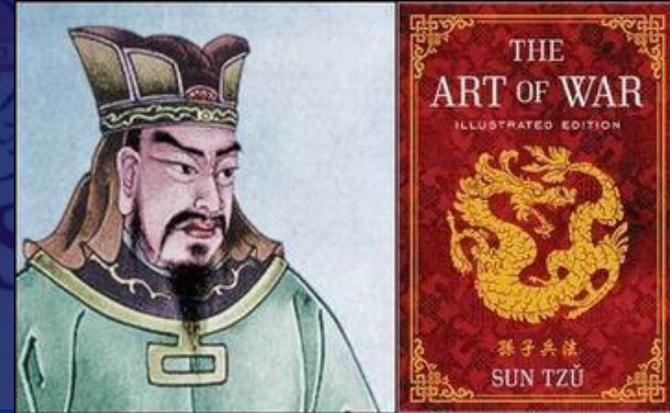
I Thessalonians

But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. ¹⁸ Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—

but SATAN hindered us. 1 Thess. 2:17-18

Since, Paul brought it up, let's take a look at our mortal, sworn enemy SATAN ... for a few of weeks...

Knowledge is a key for Victory in Battle
Art of War – Sun Tzu



“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but NOT the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy NOR yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

Knowledge is a key for Victory in Battle

Although Sun Tzu learned some stuff about battles, which are true concepts ... we, as Christians, followers of Christ, must keep our eyes on Christ when we are in the heat of the Spiritual Battle.

So, we **MUST** start with God our Father and His Messiah, Jesus Christ, our Savior and LORD, and the Word of God in the Power of the Holy Spirit for and Victory of any Spiritual Battle.

We must rely upon the LORD, stick Close to Him, Trust in Him

Knowledge is a key for Victory in Battle

“I have done this so that we may not be taken advantage of by Satan. For we are not ignorant of his **SCHEMES**.”

2 Corinthians 2:11

Schemes → Devices, Tactics, Strategies, Behaviors

We SHOULD NOT be ignorant of Satan's schemes:

Not ignorant of his STRATEGIES

Not ignorant of the way he is (his patterns of behavior)

Not ignorant of what he is (fallen angelic being, spiritual)

Not ignorant of who he is (Satan, the Devil, Serpent ...)

Not ignorant of his power to deceive (slick, tricky ...)

Knowledge is a key for Victory in Battle

“Finally, be strengthened by the LORD and by His vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the TACTICS of the DEVIL. ¹² For our BATTLE is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. ¹³ This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.” Ephesians 5:10-13



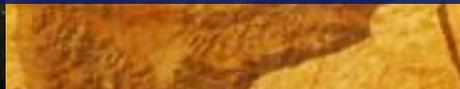
Knowledge is a key for Victory in Battle

“The Fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7

“The Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

“The Fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.” Proverbs 15:33

In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the Fear of the LORD one departs from evil. Proverbs 16:6



Know Your Enemy ... What is he?

Introduction → Genesis 3:1-4

Now the SERPENT (**nakhash** - H:5175) was more cunning than any beast (**living creature** – chay nephesh) of the field (**eretz** – earth H:776) which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed 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 Then 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 like God, knowing good and evil.” (← The First LIE)

Know Your Enemy ... What is he?

The Serpent → Genesis 3:1-4

Now the SERPENT (**nakhash** - H:5175) was more cunning than any beast (**living creature** – chay nephesh) of the field (**eretz** – earth H:776) which the LORD God had made. ... ”

SERPENT (**nakhash** - H:5175) – Copper, Bronze in color, fiery serpent. Venomous, biting, fleeing serpent. Deadly snake. Coiling snake. Related word include: Copper/Bronze/Brass, Omen, and to Practice Divination

(**Nehusta** - H:5179 – the Bronze Snake Moses fashioned)

Nakhash (5172) – Practice of Divination, fortune telling, observing signs and omens. To whisper or mutter incantations

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Satan, the Devil – is no more a snake, than Jesus is a Lamb or Lion. Herod was called a “fox” by Jesus (Luke 13:32)

Was Herod a “fox”? – he was sly like a fox → it was symbolic of his character. The same with the Devil, Satan – viewed as a sly, slick, snake – entrancing, venomous, deadly, killer. Just like a Cobra entrances and mesmerizes its victims into a trance – so does Satan. The Cobra says → “You want me to eat you”, and the victim, under the trance, say, “Yes I do ...” → death comes biting.

Know Your Enemy ... What is he?

The Serpent → Paul references Genesis 3:1-4 in 2 Cor. 11
That Serpent in the Garden (Gen. 3) is Satan / the Devil

But I am afraid that, as the SERPENT deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:3)

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds. (2 Cor. 11:13-15)

Know Your Enemy ... What is he?

The Serpent → John the apostle → Rev. 12:9, 20:1-2

That Serpent in the Garden (Gen. 3) is Satan / the Devil

So the great DRAGON was cast out, that SERPENT of OLD who is called the DEVIL and SATAN, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his ANGELS were thrown down with him. Rev. 12:9



Know Your Enemy ... What is he?

The Serpent → John the apostle → Rev. 12:9, 20:1-2

That Serpent in the Garden (Gen. 3) is Satan / the Devil

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the DRAGON, that SERPENT of OLD, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Rev. 20:1-2

Thus, we see that the “Creature” called “The Serpent” in Genesis 3 is NOT some demon possessed snake that used to walk on all 4’s etc. and lost its legs. God was using Symbolic Language to Expose this Fallen Angelic Creature’s Character

Know Your Enemy ... What is he?

Satan with the “**sons of God**” (beni elohim)

“sons of God” in the OT always relates to some sort of angelic spiritual beings – a special class of them. (ref.: Genesis 6)

Job 1:6-7

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?”

So Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”



Know Your Enemy ... What is he?

Satan with the “**sons of God**” (beni elohim)

“sons of God” in the OT always relates to some sort of angelic spiritual beings – a special class of them. (ref.: Genesis 6)

Job 2:1-2

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?”

Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

Again, we see that Satan, the Devil – is an Angelic Being and he seems to hang out a lot with “the sons of God” (ref.: Genesis 6)

Know Your Enemy ... What is he?

Angelic Beings are Spiritual and not Physical

It seems that they were all created before the Physical Creation that we read about in Genesis chapters 1 & 2.

God mentions this in Job 38:4-7 – during the time that God was fashioning the Planet Earth when God “laid the foundations of the earth”, which corresponds to Genesis 1:1 “In the Beginning God Created the Heavens and the Earth.”



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God is asking Job this question (Job 38:4-7)

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

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Know Your Enemy ... What is he?

Points to note: *Paul's Letter to the*

Satan is an Angelic Being (he is a fallen angel)

Angelic Beings are Spiritual and not Physical

They were ALL created before the Physical Creation Job 38:4-7

They were created as individuals, not as a race that has descendants.
(“sons of God” in comparison to Adam – “son of God”)

Some Angelic Beings Rebelled BEFORE Genesis 3 ...

Satan (i.e. “that Serpent of Old”) was already in a fallen state when he met Eve and Adam in the Garden.

Some of the “sons of God” “fell into Rebellion” with Satan, as it seems he was their leader as seen in Job 1 & 2 – cf. Genesis 6 – ref. Rev. 12:9 → “ ... Satan and his angels ... ”

Knowledge is a key for Victory in Battle
Another Key is Prayer – Trusting/Reliant Prayer

“Finally, be strengthened by the LORD and by His vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the TACTICS of the DEVIL. ¹² For our BATTLE is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. ¹³ This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.” Ephesians 5:10-13