

DEWITT TABERNACLE TEACHING SERIES

In this sermon, we intend to show how our Sovereign God has totally conquered the rebellious angel named Lucifer!

Our God took from Lucifer, his free-moral-agency when he was put out of Heaven. When nations war against each other, the victor takes over the government of the defeated nation. And so, is this true in the spiritual realm. When our God had won the battle with Lucifer, He took away his free-moral-agency and ruled him from that time on. Satan would then be used to complete God's own plan on Earth! Never again would Lucifer be free to force his own will upon Earth! He is now a tool in God's Hands for good! Our motive is to remove all fear from the mind and heart of God's Bride! Our enemy is defeated and is now being used to test and prove God's Elected Ones.

QUOTE: MASTER PIECE, PAGE 2, "We're here in service of the Lord this morning, knowing that we believe God, that we believe that He'll make everything just exactly right. Regardless of what it is and how it works out, we know it's got to work for good. He promised that. It's just got to be that way. Sometimes we can't understand that. gets very complicated at times, but yet we know that it's the truth, 'cause the Bible says it's the truth. And the Bible to us is God in letter form." (End quote)

Knowing before hand what Lucifer would do, our Lord created him because he would use him in his overall plan to overcome evil.

Pro. 16:4. "The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of

"A MESSENGER OF SATAN"

By C.W. Wood

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evil." God telling us, "Do not fear Satan. I am using him to fulfill My Plan! I am in charge!

QUOTE: WHY, PAGE 19, "See, you were made to be happy and free. You were made to live like children before your Father, and know that He makes every day, everything work right for you each day. Yes, sir." (End quote)

Let's read now where God gives orders to Satan, and then we will better understand that He gives Satan orders concerning us also! This will stop us from giving Satan credit for what God is doing in our lives, through using him.

In Eden, man chose to indulge in sin, but God still controlled it.

Judges 9:22-24, "When Abimelech had reigned three years over Israel,

23 Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech: (God gives orders to devils.)

24 That the cruelty done to the threescore and ten son's of Jerubbabai might come, and their blood be laid upon Abimelech their brother, which slew them, and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren. (Devils follow God's orders.)

I Samuel 16:13-14, "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that

day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

14 But the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him. (God sent a devil.)

15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

I Kings 22:20-23, "And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of Heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

20 And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said I will persuade him. (A demon)

22 And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. (Devils follow God's orders.)

23 Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee."

The Lord controls all devils, then and now!

QUOTE: HEBREW BOOK, PAGE 108-109, "Here come the children of Israel walking in the Light; Moses going on before them.

There they was: 'Come on, this is the way. God's calling, we're going out. We're going to the Promised Land. Oh, Hallelujah!' Here they all was, shouting and jumping and having a good time, you know. And the first thing you know, they looked back and said, "Oh, what's that dust?"

One of them climbed upon a hill, and said, 'Oh - oh! Alas! Alas! It's Pharaoh's army!!'

God said, 'What you so scared about? Didn't you believe what I did down there? What you so worried about? Why do you make Me angry?'

When they got down there, Moses went out and interceded to God. God just opened up the Red Sea and they walked across; closed the enemy in. That's the way God does it. Don't get scared. Don't get all excited. Don't be frustrated. You provoke God.

Then what did He do? Look like, "Well, we had one big trial; bless God, we got over it. We won't have no more. We're on our road to the promised land.' And He led them right out into the desert where there's no water. See? Could you imagine? God with His - with His sanctified, holy people, led them right out in this trap, then got them out of that trap and led them right out here where there is no water; when He could have took them some way, where there was water. Why, He could just made a river all the way along if He wanted to. He could have broke every mountain into joy, spurting water fifty feet in the air, if He wanted to. Sure, He could. But if He done that, it'd been too easy. Oh, my. Blessed be the Name of the Lord!

'Why did God let this happen, Brother Branham? Why did God...?' God's doing that. Let Him alone, just walk on. That's God's business. 'The footprints of the

righteous are ordered by the Lord.' Yes sir! What difference does it make?

'Lost all my money, Brother Branham.' Well, bless God, anyhow!'

'Oh, I did this, and this happened, storm blowed in my house.'

Bless God anyhow. 'The Lord give, the Lord take it away, blessed be the Name of the Lord.' Just keep walking on; it's all the Glory of God. God knows what He's doing." (End quote)

Now, let's go to the Scripture and see how God has chosen to use the enemy in our lives to prepare our character for the Rapture! He has assigned each of us a "messenger of Satan" to keep us from being exalted above measure over the abundance of revelations. We are not more spiritual than Paul, and he needed to be kept from false pride. Now we are receiving *full revelation* and we need to be kept humble also! And so, the Lord is dealing with us as He did with Paul!

II Cor. 12:1-10, "**It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.**

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell: or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third Heaven.

3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think

of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. (God sent the demon.)

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

These scriptures, of themselves, solve some mysteries about Paul's throne in the flesh. We are put here to overcome the Enemy! There was a controversy between our God and His arch enemy. Lucifer claimed he could win over the angels in Heaven that did not fall, if he had time. God declared him to be wrong, and we are put here, by God, to prove Satan wrong. Read the promises to overcomers in the book of Revelations 2:7, Rev. 2:17, Rev. 2:26, Rev. 3:5, Rev. 3:12, and Rev. 3:21.

For 44 years, I have heard all kinds of teaching from all kinds of ministers about Paul's Thorn! And some of the unscriptural teaching caused me to really get down and study what the Scripture says about it. I have heard it taught that Paul's Thorn was weak eyes, and that God never healed him from the blindness that came on the road to Damascus. But, the Bible says that when he got

to Damascus, that Ananias prayed for him and his sight returned (Acts 9:18). So that ruins that theory! We don't want "theories," we want Scripture. They tell us exactly what Paul's Thorn was!

II Cor. 12:7, "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."

Read it in your Bible! It was "The messenger of Satan" sent forth to buffet Paul so he would not be exalted (lifted up in pride).

Simply stated, the thorn was a demon, sent by God. Now remember, Satan is a defeated foe...no longer a free-moral-agent! He is a tool in God's Hands taking orders from our God. Being used to prepare God's Bride for Rapture! Satan, being used to perfect our character, to cause us to be overcomers! This must cause him much pain, to know that we know it! A great paradox (mystery) that God sends him to us, then turns around and tells us to resist him and he will flee! This is our scriptural proof that Satan is a bluff. God said resist him and he will flee, because he has no power, he can only try and bluff us!

Our sermon title is "A Messenger of Satan, sent by God" God used a "messenger of Satan" to perfect the great Apostle Paul (save him from false pride) and this demon could only do what our God allowed him to do. Paul did not like this messenger of Satan, always around to buffet him. Paul was a spiritual man and he knew there was a devil following him around! He prayed three times for that devil to leave him permanently! But, God said, "No, my grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made

perfect through your weakness." The devil God assigned Paul would buffet him all his life. (Read his life story and see.) But what about the scripture that says, "**Resist the Devil and he shall flee from you.**"? It is true, as is all Scripture, but remember, the Lord Jesus, Himself also had a messenger of Satan to buffet Him. But Jesus resisted him, and he fled, but only for a season (Luke 4:13). The Devil departed from Him for a season! So will it be for us.

Bride People, we are in God's Holy Ghost School. We are in training. All the dross (flesh) must be burned out of us. God is using His enemy to perfect our character (our attitude of heart). If Paul needed a demon to keep him from being lifted up in pride, are we more spiritual than Paul, so that we can make it without having to be kept humble by a devil?

Finally, Paul was given the revelation that all his troubles were needful in order to perfect him. After the revelation came, here is what he said.

II Cor. 12:9-10, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

In these scriptures, Paul tells us exactly what his thorn was. It was not any one single thing! It was infirmities (or sicknesses). Sicknesses keep us humble. The Scripture says, "**Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him from the all.**"

A sickness can be to humble us, to correct us, or just to give us compassion for others who are sick.

Reproaches – we will be put down by the world and by Church Natural, and at the same time called on to love them! This is our lot.

Necessities – Contrary to the modern prosperity teachers, God will lead us through times of temporary need.

Hebrews 11:36-38, "And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."

Still listing Paul's thorn as described in Scripture....

Persecutions – It means to be harassed, mocked, molested, annoyed, badgered, or tormented.

Distresses – To be in despair wondering what to do next.

II Cor. 1:8-10, "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;"

We are studying how the scriptures show that Paul was helped and trained by God through a messenger of Satan *sent* and *controlled* by God. We are teaching

the revelation that all true Christians have been assigned a messenger of Satan to help train us.

Philip. 1:12, "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the Gospel;"

Paul saying, "I am suffering so as to be a better minister, to understand the needs of the people and have compassion." The Bride is having to do the same thing, and so we have been assigned a *messenger of Satan*. Our attitude toward God's dealing with us is all important! To believe it's the Devil doing his will with you is to walk in fear and lose your joy! Fear is doctrine of demons and must be resisted. To resent the way God is dealing with us is to rebel and the Scripture says, "To rebel is as the sin of witchcraft."

We must obey. **II Thess. 5:18, "And in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."** When we believe this and testify to it, we will have fullness of joy, and

our joy is our strength. Our joy is our physical health.

Speaking of our health, let's speak for a little bit of *allergies*. We are being taught that we are allergic to all kinds of things, but this is only true when we *believe* it!! House dust, pollen from flowers, trees, birds, cat hair, all kinds of foods, different kinds of insect bites, dog hair, and yes, even to sunshine! I want to zero in on one thing for a minute. Wasp stings! I am not criticizing or condemning, I am preaching the Gospel. It is my duty. There is a fear teaching going on around our town concerning wasp stings. It is taught that some of us are *allergic* to the bite. The world *allergic* means to be unable to tolerate certain things – to be incompatible with certain things. The Devil has a camouflage teaching meant to direct our minds away from the real reason for our problems, which reason is he, himself! He hides under the false teaching that we are not able to co-exist with creation, as God has made it. Before my wife and I were Christians, the Devil taught us, through medical science, that my

oldest daughter was allergic to house dust. Then he taught that there was no way to escape all of it, so that she was not able to be healed. We used many medicines. My precious child spent some years with running sores over her little body. Then we were saved and the Lord showed us that it was not house dust at all that was causing her problem, but rather a devil who was hiding under the cover of this false allergic scare! We saw the truth in God's precious Holy Word.

Acts 10:38, "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."

Our problems come from being oppressed by the Devil, from being lied to by him! God will let us believe what we want to, but may He lead us to His Word, because as "It is written" the Truth will set us free. Amen. The correct way to spell allergy is "DEVIL." He attempts to hide himself!

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