OPEN

Have you ever accused someone falsely? Who do you think, beloved, was using your tongue? Who do you think was behind that? Yes it is part of the flesh to defend ourselves, to make ourselves look good, to put ourselves up and put others down. But where does all that originate from? It originates from the one who is the serpent of old, the devil, Satan, who is a liar and murderer and a deceiver. And we’re going to learn about him today.

PART ONE

Hello my friend, earnest student of the Word of God, seeker of truth, one who desires to listen to the Word of God and to grow so that when you see Him face to face you won’t be ashamed. Or possibly, you are a curiosity seeker. You are someone that is curious about God, curious about these Christians, curious about these things that you have seen and heard. And that curiosity is good. And I welcome you and I thank you so very, very much
for wanting to know truth and for joining us on Precepts for Life. You’re
dear to me and it is my joy and my honor to study the Word of God with
you. Now, as we look at the book of Daniel, what we see is a heavenly
conflict going on. And it’s a heavenly conflict because Daniel has gotten a
message and he doesn’t understand it and he cries out to God, but it takes
three weeks for the answer to come. Daniel doesn’t know why, but we get a
revelation in the book of Daniel, an insight that, as I told you before, we
don’t get anyplace else. And that is that this angelic being with this human
appearance is trying to get to Daniel, but he is in a warfare and the prince of
Persia withstands him until Michael, the chief prince comes to his aid. Now
we have seen that Michael is the one that stands guard over the Jews and he
has come and he is the one that enables this person with this appearance of
beryl to come and to give insight to Daniel. What has he been doing? He’s
been fighting the prince of Persia. He’s going back to fight the prince of
Persia and then he is going to fight the prince of Greece who is to come.
These are two powers that are against the Jews, that are going to rule, so to
speak, over the Jews or are going to come and attack Israel. And we see this
with Alexander the Great, but that story has to wait until later. So we do not
want to pass this passage of scripture and not do a little bit of a deeper
investigation. And the reason that we want to do a deeper investigation is
because when we study the Word of God, sometimes we find a little bit of
truth here about the enemy, a little bit of truth here and a little bit of truth
here and a little bit of truth here. So then sometimes you want to stop and
you want to do what we call a little topical study. Now, how do you do a
topical study? Well, I’ve written a book and it’s called How to Study Your
Bible. And it’s an easy read. Schools use it. And we have a How to Study
Your Bible for kids that I wrote along with my partner Jana Arndt. So we
have those two books for how to study your Bible. And in there we teach
you, in the adult book how to do a topical study. So we’re going to do a
mini-study on the enemy just to put everything into context so that you will
see and you will understand that you can live as more than a conqueror. Well what I want us to do is I want us to go back to Genesis, chapter 3. And Genesis, chapter 3 is the first place that you are introduced to the devil. In Genesis, chapter 3, Eve is in the Garden of Eden. She and Adam have been instructed that they’re not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They are told that the day that they eat of that tree, they will surely die. And so in verse 1 it says now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field, which the Lord God had made. And he, the serpent said to the woman, indeed has God said you shall not eat from any tree of the garden? Now this is where you meet the serpent. You say, but that’s the serpent, that’s not the devil. Well I’m going to show you a scripture that shows you that that is the devil. But if you can believe me right now, and you have a red pen, not a pen that’s going to bleed, a, a fine point pen, I would put over the word serpent, I would put a red pitchfork. I have written a book on Lord, Is It Warfare, Teach Me to Stand and it’s everything that the Word of God has to say about spiritual warfare. And I went through and studied it from Genesis to Revelation and in my Bible I marked every reference to the devil with a red pitchfork so I could spot him on the page. All right now, what you find is you find him challenging the word of God and you find him seducing the woman so that she eats the fruit of the tree, she gives it to Adam, Adam eats and by one man, sin enters into the world. When sin enters into the world, this is what happens: Adam and Eve were meant to rule over the world, but when they sinned and come under the judgment of God then Satan becomes superior to them and he becomes the prince of this world, so that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. Now let me show you that. Let me take you to 1 John. So if you would go to 1 John, chapter 5, verse 19: We know that we are of God and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. Now the evil one is another term for the devil, so you would put a pitchfork over that. So he is called in scripture the prince of this world. Let me show you this again. Let me take you to Ephesians, chapter 2. In
Ephesians, chapter 2 it says in verse 1, you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience, the prince of the power of the air. So you put a pitchfork. And I know what you’re doing. I know you’re excited, because you heard that word prince. Where did you hear that word prince before? You heard it in Daniel, chapter 7, the prince of Persia, the prince of Greece. I have come to help you, but the prince of Persia withstood me. I came to be a protection to Darius, to protect him. In other words what you have is you have angelic princes, so to speak. You have principalities, you have powers, you have spiritual wickedness in high places. Now where did I get that from? Well, look at Ephesians, chapter 1, since we’re there. In Ephesians, chapter 1, Paul writes to the church at Ephesus, to these believers, he wants them to know, verse 19, what is the surpassing greatness of His power, God’s power; I put a little stick of dynamite over there. I mark it that way. Towards us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might, God’s might, which He brought about in Christ. Now follow this. When He, God raised Him, Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in heavenly places. So just picture this. Picture Jesus being resurrected from the dead, coming out of the tomb. All right, then He’s with His disciples. Then He goes to the Mount of Olives. Then He ascends to the Father. When He ascends to the Father where is He seated? He’s seated at the right hand of the throne of God Almighty. The right hand is the hand of power. All right, so He’s seated. God raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand, the hand of power in heavenly places. So now we’re not on earth, we’re in heaven far above; now listen, all rule and authority. Now He’s above all rule and authority where, in heavenly places, above all rule and authority on earth, above all rule and authority in heaven. Also, as there is an earthly kingdom of Persia, there is a heavenly prince in Persia. So that’s a ruler, a spiritual ruler or authority in
heavenly places that has a connection with the kings of Persia or the rulers of Persia. It says He seated Him in Christ and far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. Now when I marked authority there I marked it with a pitchfork because he’s seated above heavenly angels that are good angels, good angelic beings and the bad angels. And so I wanted to make sure that I understood because the book of Ephesians is a book on warfare. All the way through the book what you see is you see this reference to Jesus Christ and what Christ has accomplished. And because of what Christ has accomplished what it means to us because we are in Christ. The key phrase throughout Ephesians and it’s your phrase for warfare is in Christ, in Christ, in Christ. And because you’re in Christ then you are no longer under the prince of the power of the air. Now when you read in chapter 3 again, you read that this grace that Paul is teaching was to bring to light what is the administration of this mystery, the mystery of Christ in you, which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things in order that the manifold wisdom of God now might be made known through the church, through you and me, believers in Christ, to the rulers and authorities in heavenly places. In other words, listen; what God has done for us brings awe or fear and trembling to the angelic hosts, to the good angels and the bad angels. We’ll look at it right after this break.

**PART TWO**

Now, let’s get into Ephesians, chapter 6. This is a mini-series; so that you and I can understand a little bit about spiritual warfare. So what we have seen is that the evil makes his appearance the first scene, his first act is in the Garden of Eden where he persuades Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He feeds her a lie. She is deceived. She believes the lie. She believes that she can be as God, that she doesn’t need a God, that she can be independent, that she can eat of the fruit of that
tree because God is just holding out on her and God’s not going to give her what she really wants. I mean you’ve heard that lie before. Don’t commit your life to God. Good night, He’ll send you as a missionary to Africa. It’s always a missionary to Africa. You know, to the Sudan, where they’ve got AIDS and they’re starving and all that. Don’t give your life to God. You know, you run your own life. Don’t follow those commandments. Don’t listen to God. Do your own thing. Well, when you do your own thing, you sin. And when you sin then you have to pay the penalty. And if you can find someone who could take the penalty for you, and that’s Jesus, then you are set free from the wages of sin, which is eternal death and you are given eternal life and you immediately are put right into the body of Jesus Christ, so that you are bone of His bone and you are flesh of His flesh. And where is Jesus seated? He’s seated at the right hand of the throne of God, far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that’s named in heaven and earth. And yet, although you were seated there, although you and I are more than conquerors through Him who loved us, the warfare rages. So how are you going to win in this warfare? How are you going to stand firm? I mean when Paul, writing to the church of Ephesus, Ephesus was the hotbed of the occult. They burned their magic things and their books and all of that once they came to know Jesus, cause they knew where their power was. And they knew also how to stand because Paul taught them in Ephesians, chapter 6, in verse 10. He says finally brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might, not yours. Put on the full armor of God so that you may what, stand firm against the schemes of the devil. So you would put a red pitchfork there. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood. When you open your mouth and when you accuse someone and I told you, you know that the enemy’s behind that, because he’s a liar and a father of lies. That’s a scheme of the devil and your struggle with that person that’s accusing you, is not against flesh and blood. But that person is being used by the enemy. He says but it’s against rulers, against powers,
against the world forces of this darkness. What have you just seen in Daniel? You have seen the world forces of this darkness. You have seen the prince of Persia resisting the one, the messenger sent by God. You have seen the prince of Greece coming. You have seen the world forces of darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. And this is why God is so careful to let us know and want us to know where Jesus is, because we are in Christ and spiritually He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places. And this is Ephesians, chapter 1, verse 3 and we are seated with Him. He, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the throne of power and above all these principalities and powers and wickedness. So what do you do? You just put on the full armor of God that you may be able to resist in the evil day. And then I’ve just to show you this because it’s just so good. He says in addition, verse 16, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. So, he’s called the devil. He’s called the evil one right in this passage. So we know from 1 John, chapter 5 that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. All right he goes on to say and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God. Precious student, hungerer of truth, disciple of Jesus Christ, he says if you are My disciple, then you continue in My Word. You can’t continue in what you don’t know. And so here it is. It’s the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. All right now, I told you that the serpent of old was the devil. And you should have said to me, can you prove that to me? As a student of the Word of God, as someone who wants to know truth for themselves, I don’t want to just take you at your word Kay. I want you to show me. And see this is what we always ought to be saying is show me, show me, show me. And that’s what Precepts for Life is all about, to show you truth. That’s why we study the Word of God. That’s why we move through it book by book. Now listen if I would just teach on marriage all the time or I would just teach on resolving conflicts all the time or I would just teach on some problem that
someone has or something like that, I mean, it would be so exciting, but it would not be nearly as valuable as what I’m doing with you beloved. So instead of just meeting those desires, I want to go deeper and meet the need. And the need is for you to know truth. The need is for you to be able to wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. It’s the one and only offensive weapon that you need. And now let’s go to Revelation, chapter 12, Revelation, chapter 12, because I want to show you the serpent of old is Satan. And the way to do that is to let scripture interpret scripture. This is why in a topical study what you do is you go through the Word of God. You find out where that subject is mentioned. You study it. You study it in its context. You record what you learn. Then you go to the next one. You record what you learn. You put it together and you have a systematic theology on Satan or on eschatology, the study of the future and the coming of the Lord or on soteriology, on salvation. I mean it’s all big words, isn’t it? But it’s simply beloved, knowing what God says and observing the text, discovering it, understanding the meaning of it and then applying it to your life. And you’re going to be a man or a woman of God and you’re going to have a degree. And that degree is AUG, approved unto God a workman that needeth not be ashamed. Revelation, chapter 12, verse 7 and this is very important. There was a war in heaven, a war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. Now who is the dragon? Well we know from Revelation, chapter 12 that this dragon is personified in an earthly kingdom and that earthly kingdom is the Roman Empire. Put all that together, isn’t that exciting? But listen now, what he says. So there was a war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon and the dragon and his angels wage war. And they were not strong enough and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan. So there you are, the serpent of old. You can put a red pitchfork over him legitimately. The devil, you can put a red pitchfork over him. You can put a red
pitchfork over the dragon. It is the devil. It is the devil and he, I want you to know, and we’re going to see it in our next program, honey, he is going to get kicked out of heaven. You say, wait a minute. Are you telling me that he can get into heaven now? I didn’t think that was possible. Well, you didn’t think it was possible, but we’re going to see that it is possible. And do you know what he’s doing there? He is accusing you day and night before God. But do you know who’s sitting at God’s right hand? Jesus and if you belong to Jesus you’re safe.