

Satan on the Offensive

Because of our recent sidebar studies we need to do a little review. We have seen how there is a contest between God and Satan that we are calling a war. Satan won a tactical victory when he tempted Adam and the woman to disobey God, severing the relationship between God and man and condemning mankind to a fallen status. God won a victory when Adam and the woman sought to re-establish the relationship with their Creator. Satan lost his appeal trial at that point. Man with the knowledge of good and evil rejected Satan's plan and sought to re-establish that relationship with God, depending on God's promise of a redeemer. Satan then changed his strategy.

Man and earth stand under condemnation and judgment (Gen 3:11-19), and both man and earth are under the dominion of Satan (2 Co. 4:4; Rev. 12:9; John 12:31; 16:11). God intends to redeem those men who will choose for Him and recover for Himself dominion over earth, which He had delegated to man (Gen. 1:26, 28). Satan intends to prevent that from happening. To do so he attempted to sever the line from "the woman" to the redeemer and prevent "her seed from bruising his head" (Gen. 3:15). If Satan could sever that line and prevent the redeemer from ever coming or performing the act of redemption (the Cross), then Satan could defeat God's plan and win his appeal trial. That meant direct attacks by Satan on that line and even on the Christ Himself. We saw the first of these attacks in the murder of Able. God counterattacked by continuing the line through Seth (Luke 3:23; 38).

Satan's next attack on the line is a very interesting one. He attempted to physically corrupt the human race with a mongrel race of his own creation. We find reference to this incident in Genesis 6, but before we look at that passage it is important to establish a few definitions.

According to Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." Satan will have a "seed"; he will have descendants, and Scripture supports this. John 8:44 says, "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father." Following the logic, Satan's seeds are fallen mankind, all unsaved persons who have not accepted Christ and the free gift of salvation through faith.

In Scripture the term "sons of God" is used several times. In the New Testament the meaning is very different from its usage in the Old Testament. In the OT the definition of the term "sons of God" denotes being brought into existence by the creative act of God. Adam was created in the likeness of God by God and is

thus a son of God, but Genesis 5:1 says Adam's descendants will be "born into his likeness, after his image." "His likeness, after his image" refers to the fallen Adam state, man with a sin nature, also known as Satan's seed. Adam's natural descendants are not the creation of God. God did not create Adam in a fallen state. Adam's descendants are in effect "sons of man" and children of the Devil, Satan's seed. In our fallen state, we are products of what Satan created through the fall of Adam.

However, through the new birth (born again) and the Holy Spirit generated human spirit, the believer becomes a child of God or son of God as stated in Galatians 3:26 "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." See also Ro 8:14; 19; Mt 5:9; Ga 4:5-6; Joh 1:12-13; Ro 8:16-17; Eph 5:1; Php 2:15; and 1Jo 3:2 "Beloved, now we are children of God." Get the point? Fallen and unregenerate man is a "son of man" and the "seed of Satan." Regenerate man (or woman), however, is a "son (or daughter) of God." Now lets turn to the OT.

As we look in the OT for this "sons of God" term, we see it used only five times, and it is used in a very different way than in the NT. Three uses are found in the Book of Job and two times in our focus passage in Genesis 6. First look at the three Job passages, and you will see that the "sons of God" are clearly angels.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord.

Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation 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 On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷ when the morning stars sang together
and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?

Old Testament usage of the Hebrew *bane ha elohim* (sons of God) refers to angelic creation. How do we know this isn't saved men? Because at this point in

human history, before the Glorification of Christ, saved men (and women) are NOT found in heaven.

Here we stopped and looked at the chart of the “Underworld” by Clarence Larked and the story of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16. We saw that prior to the Cross regenerate man did not go to Heaven as they do today, but they went to a compartment of Hades called “Paradise” or “Abraham’s Bosom”. Paradise was a temporary holding place for believers until sin was judged. It is empty today; its inhabitants have been transferred to Heaven.

In the NT “sons of God” refers to born again believers, but in the OT the term refers to “being brought into existence by the creative act of God.” *Bane ha elohim*, sons of God, in an OT context, are angels.

Before we go look at the use of the term found in Genesis 6, our subject, let’s look at another verse in the NT that may shed some light on our subject verses. Turn in your Bibles to Jude chapter 1 and read through verse 7. In Jude’s epistle, he warns of certain ones who have “slipped in among you.” He describes them as “godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord” (Jude 1:4). Jude is warning against some individuals in the Church given over to licentiousness and abusing God’s grace. Then Jude goes on to remind his audience that God delivers believers and “destroys those who do not believe.”

Now look at verses 6 and 7. In verse 6 Jude refers to “angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home.” The KJV says, these angels “did not keep their first estate ... abandoned their place of habitation.” These angels are kept in darkness and bound in chains until judgment. Why? Then Jude seems to allude to the sin of these angels and says “in a similar way” and refers to Sodom and Gomorrah and how they gave themselves up to sexual perversion. The KJV says “giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh” and this is likened unto what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah. “Strange flesh” is *heteros sarx het'-er-os sarx* and means “different flesh.”

Confused? What I think Jude is talking about is there were angels, obviously fallen, who are imprisoned in chains and darkness because, similar to what men did at Sodom and Gomorrah, they were sexually immoral, perverted themselves, and went after “strange flesh.”

Who are these angels and what is Jude referring to? I believe this is a reference to an incident that is recorded way back in the OT in Genesis 6.

Genesis 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

3 ¶ And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

4 ¶ There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown.

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

6 ¶ And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 ¶ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

This is the time of Noah when God saw fit to destroy mankind but saved Noah and his family. The reason given for this is found in the first two verses of Genesis 6. In verse 1 we see that man is multiplying on the face of the earth and daughters were born to them. In verse 2 we see this term “sons of God,” which in OT usage refers to angels. These “sons of God” (angels – fallen in this case) saw that the daughters of men were beautiful and took them as wives. Now look at verse 4, where it says the products of this union were giants and “mighty men which were of old, men of renown.”

Now remember that Genesis was written by Moses long after the fact, and though it was not written by a human eyewitness to the events, it was written under the inspiration of God who was an eyewitness. In other words, Moses wrote what God told him to write. But what is Moses saying?

He is saying that angelic beings, specifically fallen angels, by the context, copulated with human women and produced a race of half angel and half human beings. The genetic purity of the human race became corrupted. If Satan could so taint the entire human race, then God’s promise of the redeemer being from the seed of the woman (human) would be impossible, and God would be a liar. Evidently, only Noah and his family remained untainted by this attack, thus God destroyed the entire human race except those who were not biologically corrupted through this attack.

Who were these “men of old, men of renown” who were so wicked “that every imagination of the thoughts ... was only evil continually”? Most likely candidates are the so-called mythical beings of Greek and Roman mythology. If that is the case, then what we thought was only myth was, at least in some cases, real. If you study mythology, it is full of stories of “gods” taking human wives because of their great beauty. These stories from which this mythology comes is so pervasive in ancient cultures that there must be some truth in them. Obviously some feats attributed to these creatures are exaggerations and even just myths, but some of what they did is probably not myth at all.

There are, however, at least two other interpretations of these events recorded in Genesis 6. One that most of us grew up with is that these “wicked men of old” were simply so satanically influenced that the whole human race, save for Noah and his family, was affected by their evil and under Satan’s spell.

Another interpretation embraced by some is that the “sons of God” were of the godly line of Seth, and the “daughters of men” were of the ungodly line of Cain. The problem is there is no foundation for this interpretation elsewhere in Scripture. Moses, who wrote the Pentateuch, didn’t suggest this. Furthermore, such a union between humans, whether godly or not, would not produce a race of giants and “mighty men”; they would have been “normal” like their parents. The “daughters of men” must be the product of fallen mankind, women of the Adamic race – human beings. “Sons of God,” according to the three other uses in the OT, are angels, specifically fallen angels, “who kept not their first estate and abandoned their habitation” and “gave themselves over to fornication” and went after “strange flesh” (according to Jude).

I think the Scriptural evidence supporting this interpretation is very strong. It also makes logical sense. Satan attacks and attempts to destroy the line to Messiah through a mongrel race. Merely spiritually corrupting the human race would not likely be a successful attack on the line, but physically corrupting the whole race certainly offers that possibility.

There is one more issue to be dealt with, and that is the reference in Matthew 22:30 and Mark 12:25 to marriage in heaven. “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven” (Mat. 22:30). This would suggest there is no sexual relations in heaven (which will really disappoint the Muslims). If that is the correct interpretation, then we must deal with the comparison to angels not marrying. It must be assumed that angels had at the time of Genesis 6 the ability to manifest themselves in a form that enabled them to take on human form and procreate with humans, and that ability evidently has been removed, or the fallen angels

exceeded the bounds of their “authority” and sinned in a very human fashion. Either could be argued from the passages in question.

The attack was unsuccessful, because God counterattacked with the flood and destroyed this mongrel race of half angels and half human. Though God ended that particular attack, this did not stop Satan. What follows is a list of attacks as outlined in Scripture. Some, you will be familiar with, but others, you may not.

More examples:

Pharaoh’s command to murder all male Hebrew infants. (Ex. 1:15-16)

God’s counterattack: The preservation of Moses. (Ex. 2:1-10)

Pharaoh’s attempted destruction of the Israelites at the Red Sea. (Ex. 14:5-12)

God’s counterattack: the destruction of Pharaoh and his forces. (Ex. 14:26-28)

The attack on David’s seed.

God’s promise to David that Messiah would come through his bloodline presented an opportunity for Satan to focus his attacks on that line. Among those attacks we have:

Jehoram’s murder of his royal brothers. (2 Chron. 21:1-5)

God’s counterattack: Jehoahaz, preserved. (2 Chron. 21:16-17)

Athaliah’s murder of the royal seed. (2 Chron. 22:10)

God’s counterattack: the rescue of Joash. (2 Chron. 22:11-12)

Hezekiah left childless and near death at the time when the Assyrians threatened war. (Isa. 36:1)

God’s counterattack: Hezekiah’s life extended (Isa. 38)

The attack on the “seed of the woman” (Matt. 1:16) the legal line to the throne of David through Mary. Mary’s pregnancy and Joseph’s nobility. (Matt. 1:18-19, Deut. 22:14, 20-21, 24:1)

God’s counterattack: divine revelation and instructions to Joseph. (Matt. 1:20-25)

Herod’s command to slay all the infants of Bethlehem. (Matt. 2:16-18)

God’s counterattack: divine revelation and instructions to Joseph to take his family and flee to Egypt. (Matt. 2:13)

The attacks on Christ during His Incarnation.

Jesus was the subject of numerous attacks both directly by Satan and indirectly through men influenced by Satan. The objective was to prevent the judgment of sin. Satan wanted Jesus to die, but not go to the Cross.

The satanic temptations in the desert. (Matt. 4:1-10, Luke 4:1-12)
The attempts to stone Jesus. (John 8:59, 10:30-39)
The temptation to forego the cross. (John 12:27, Luke 22: 39-44)
The attempts to kill Jesus before He reached the cross. (Matt. 27:26, 29-30, Mark 14:65, 15:15, 19, Luke 22:63-64)
The temptation to come down from the cross. (Matt. 27:40-41, 26:53-54)

Attacks from the time of Jesus to the future Kingdom Age.

Since Satan was not able to prevent the Cross and the judgment of sin, he has shifted his attacks to the Jews in general. He is trying to prevent the promised Kingdom from occurring and the fulfillment of the other unconditional covenants that God made to Israel. To accomplish this he must destroy the Jewish race. If there is no Israel to receive the promises of God, then God is a liar unable to keep His promises and rendered unfit as a righteous judge.

Unconditional Covenants:

Abrahamic Covenant - Gen 12:1-3 - "Great nation"
Palistinian Covenant - Deut. 30:1-10 - Land grant
Davidic Covenant - 2 Samuel 7:14-15 - David's seed will reign forever
New Covenant - Jer. 31:31-33 - Promise of Kingdom Age and righteousness

Satan's objective is to create an atmosphere of mistrust and outright hatred of the Jew by the rest of society (anti-Semitism). He is attempting to drive a wedge between Christians and Jews by creating mistrust of the Christians by Jews and hatred of the Jews by Christians.

Examples:

- Justin Martyr, an early church father, accused the Jews of inciting the Romans to kill Christ.
- Jerome (A.D. 340-419) originator of the Latin Vulgate Bible said, "God hates Jews, and I hate Jews."
- Chrysostom, Patriarch of Constantinople (A.D. 344-407), said, "Jews are the most worthless of men ... It is incumbent upon all Christians to hate Jews."
- Of Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria, it is written, "In the year 415 he fell upon the synagogues of the very numerous Jews with an armed force ... he put some to death and drove out the rest..."
- Richard the Lion Hearted expelled the Jews from England in 1199 and confiscated their property.
- Thomas Aquinas wrote, "It would be licit in holding the Jews in perpetual servitude."

During the Crusades:

- At Rouen, all Jews unwilling to submit to baptism were put to death.
- At Worms, Jews were massacred and their property divided.
- At Jerusalem, in 1099, the Great Synagogue was burned with all the Jews of the city inside, and the perpetrators marched around the synagogue chanting Christian hymns.
- In the Middle Ages, Jews were charged with sorcery and blamed for the Black Plague and other unexplained catastrophes.

Following the Crusades:

- The Inquisitions of fifteenth-century Spain and Portugal were Roman church sponsored attempts to force the Jews to convert or die or leave. This eventually spread to the rest of Europe.
- Martin Luther, the leading Protestant reformer, at first had a deep regard for the Jews, but when they did not flock to his message, he rejected them as “they cannot be saved.”
- During the seventeenth-century Jews were expelled from Prague, Frankfurt, and Vienna as well as numerous towns and villages.
- Pogroms, mass murders, and vandalism in Poland and Russia against the Jews in the eighteenth and nineteenth-century were church sponsored.

The Holocaust of the late 1930's and 40's took place in Germany, a so-called Christian country and home of some of the most outstanding and respected Christian theologians. The so-called Christian nations of the world watched as the Third Reich slaughtered six million Jews, often refusing refuge and safety to Jews fleeing death.

This Satanic induced atmosphere of mutual hatred and distrust makes it feasible for Satan to accomplish his plan to destroy Israel. If you are in any way involved in anti-Semitism, then you are in opposition to God and in league with Satan.

The worst is yet to come. During the tribulation, Satan, with the help of willing anti-Semites, will come dangerously close to accomplishing the destruction of Israel. We are not going into this in detail so this is only a very brief review.

Matthew 24:21-22 for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened

God's counterattack will be the deliverance of the Jews at the Second Advent (Joel 2:20, 3:16, Zech. 14:2-9, 11) and destruction of their enemies (Zech. 9:14-15, 14:12-14, Rev. 19:21); incarceration of Satan (Rev. 20:1-3)

This Angelic War has been going on since the beginning of human history. Few people fully realize its intensity until they see it spelled out this way. We are more "in the middle of it" than you may realize.

I have so far only shown you the "big picture." Next we will get down to the personal level and see just how you and I can become a part of this and not even realize it.

Demon Possession and Influence

Demon possession is rarely taken seriously these days, and that is unfortunate. Ask most nominal Christians, and they may tell you it doesn't happen. Some will say it never did happen. It does indeed happen, even today, and it is not as rare as many believe. However, what is far more common is demon influence. What is the difference?

In the case of demon possession the person has his body invaded by an unclean spirit and comes under the direct control of that spirit, often with dire consequences for the person possessed. Demon influence is when the doctrines of demons are adopted by man. The person influenced, though not actually indwelt by a demon, comes under their spell and adopts their doctrines as their own. This happens to born again Christians. Most have no clue they are under the spell of demons and are doing their bidding.

In the case of demon possession, demons can enter the body of an unbeliever and exert tremendous power over the possessed individual. They are capable of imparting supernatural strength (Luke 8:29) and inflicting physical abnormalities and deformities (Luke 13:11-17). Demons can cause blindness (Matt. 12:22) and the inability to speak (Matt. 9:32-33). They are able to induce mental disorders and suicidal dementia (Luke 8:26-35). And often are responsible for personal injury to their victims (Mark 9:17-18). Once they have established control over a human body, these evil spirits come and go at will (Luke 11:24-26). This accounts for the apparent success of alleged exorcists who knowingly or unwittingly become the agents of the devil themselves.

Demons cannot ever possess a believer because of the indwelling of the Spirit of God. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own" (1Cor. 6:19). Unbelievers have no such protection. Believers can, however, come under demon influence and far more frequently than you might think. Demon influence

is the chief explanation for all the denominations in Christianity. We will see how this happens later in this series.

There are only three bona fide means of removing demons from possessed unbelievers. The first is Satan's personal intervention (Matt. 12:24). Satan can send them in and can tell them to leave. The second is by direct divine intervention (Mark 5:8). The third is when a person believes the Gospel message and comes to a saving knowledge of Christ and is then indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16).

Did you notice I did not mention exorcism? That is because the rite of exorcism cannot remove demons. Christ and the disciples had the power to "cast out" demons, but you never see them "exorcising" demons in Scripture. Read the Gospels and the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, and you will see Jesus and the disciples "casting out" demons, but you will not find them doing an exorcism. You will, however, see pagans and unbelievers attempting to exorcise demons through incantations and rituals. That is because exorcism is a pagan practice and is not Scriptural.

Yes, there is a difference between exorcism and casting out of demons. See Acts 19:13-20 for a good example of the pagan practice of exorcism.

Acts 19:13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." ¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded

We see Jesus and the disciples "cast out" demons (Mark 1:34; 3:15; 6:13; Luke 6:42; 11:20). The Greek word for "cast out" is *ekballo* which means to cast out. But in Acts 19:13 passage we have the Greek word *exorkistis*, from which we get the transliterated "exorcist." There is a difference between *ekballo* and *exorkistis*. *Exorkistis* is never used in the NT for what Jesus and the disciples did with demon-possessed people; instead the word *ekballo* is used. Jesus and the disciples "cast out" *ekballo* demons. They never *exorkistis* demons. It is only pagan unbelievers that you will see in scripture exorcising *exorkistis* demons.

There is a third word we need to consider – *horkizo*, a cognate of *exorkistis*. *Horkizo* means "to charge under oath, adjure, implore" and we see it used in Acts 19:13, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." These phony exorcists were

using incantations and ritual to implore the demon to come out of this man. *Horkizo*, the word translated “implore” means to beg, and begging is very different from commanding as in casting out.

What you can gather from all this is the rite of exorcism, as practiced today, is unbiblical. Jesus and His disciples never used incantations or begged demons to come out, as you can see from the examples cited. Instead they simply commanded the demons to depart from the person possessed.

Some Avenues of Demon Possession/Influence

There is a difference between demon possession and demon influence. I do not believe a believer can be possessed, however, a believer can certainly be influenced, which can look very much like demon possession. By that I mean a believer can come so under the sway of demons and adopt demon doctrines that he resembles an unbeliever who is possessed. Paul warns Timothy of this in 1 Timothy 4:1 where he says, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” Clearly Paul is indicating the potential for believers to come under the strong influence of demons and it will draw them away from the faith.

The Bible is full of references to deception by Satan and demons, and many of these warnings are generally directed at believers and not mankind in general. We will look at some of these later. For now it is sufficient for you to understand that Satan is very real and so are demons, and the Scriptures warn us of their power and influence. If they can influence us, how might they go about doing that? What follows are some avenues which can lead to demon possession for an unbeliever and demon influence for a believer. The greatest mistake you can make is to underestimate the danger here, and we as humans tend to do just that. That is part of Satan’s deception, to get us to discount the danger as unreasonable.

Some Avenues of Demon Possession or Influence

These are but a few ways that Satan and demons can gain access to unbelievers through possession and believers through influence.

Idolatry - Idolatry is the worship of anything but God Himself. This can include seemingly harmless icons of trees, animals, people and things, or even concepts and ideals. Any lust for something where it becomes a focus of your life takes on all the characteristics of idolatry. Anything that comes between you and your relationship with God is idolatry.

Rom. 1:22-25 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator --who is forever praised. Amen.

Divination - Divination is an attempt to see or foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge usually by means of interpreting omens or by the aid of supernatural powers, I.E. - clairvoyance, palmistry, card reading are tools of the diviner.

1Sam. 15:23a For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.

Lev. 19:31 Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.

The reason we are warned against this is that the communications associated with divination take place with demons. The so-called "hidden knowledge" is being communicated by demons.

Necromancy - Necromancy originates from two Greek words: *necros* meaning "dead" and *manteia* meaning "divination." It is the foretelling of the future by alleged contact with the dead. Practitioners of necromancy are mediums through which demons communicate. The New Age movement popularized necromancy under the term *channeling*. There is no legitimate communication with the dead. See Luke 16:19-31, the rich man was unable to warn his brothers even though he wanted to. Houdini believed he would be able to communicate with the living after death and left a code with his wife, so she could verify any "communication" from him as legitimate. Many came to her after he died claiming to be in contact with her late husband, but none could ever give the correct code to confirm it was indeed Houdini.

Scripture forbids all participation in necromancy (Lev. 19:31, 20:6, 27, Deut. 18:9-12, 2 Kings 23:24). These mandates protect the believer from demon influence.

The Engastrimuthos Demon - Contact with the dead cannot be accomplished so demons often impersonate the dead.

Isa. 8:19 When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?

The word "medium" here is *‘ov* in the Hebrew and is translated *engasthrimuthos* in the Septuagint, which means "ventriloquist." This demon often produces the sounds that come from mediums, or projects his voice up from the ground or the table, or down from the ceiling. The engasthrimuthos demon must possess the medium through which he speaks. This is the same demon responsible for tongues in some cases during the Church Age.

Witchcraft - A witch or sorceress, *kashalp* in Hebrew, is a demon possessed female medium (Ex. 22:18; De. 18:10). A wizard *yid'oni* in Hebrew is the male counterpart (Lev. 20:27; De. 18:11). The New Testament contains one reference to witchcraft (Gal. 5:20 KJV). The Greek word *pharmakeia*, drug addiction, describes a dimension of witchcraft using drugs in sorcery. Hallucinogenic drugs are employed in many religious rituals to achieve ecstatic states in which spirits may be contacted. Drugs open the soul to demon possession or influence.

Mysticism - Mysticism entices the undiscerning with empty promises of a deeper, more meaningful spirituality. Mystics often claim direct contact with God and that God speaks directly to them. Mysticism permeates eastern religions. True spirituality is an absolute status of fellowship between the believer and God the Father through the filling of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit). We will spend some time developing this concept of supernatural leadings later in this series when we will look at how to differentiate between the leading of God and of demons.

Astrology - Consulting the stars through astrology or horoscopes to predict the future carries an increasing aura of respectability. It thrives in a permissive culture where doctrinal teaching is absent. Astrology is strictly forbidden by God.

Lev. 19:26 Ye shall not eat *any thing* with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times

Deut. 18:10 There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, *or* an enchanter, *or* a witch, 11 *Or* a charmer, *or* a consulter with familiar spirits, *or* a wizard, *or* a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy

God doth drive them out from before thee). Astrology was the purpose of the Tower of Babel, for which God confused the languages in Genesis 11.

These are some of the most common avenues to demon influence, and the person, believer or unbeliever, who dabbles in these is placing himself at great risk. The Word of God would not have warned us against these things unless they were a hazard. Unfortunately, modern society accepts many of these as innocent or merely amusing pastimes and rejects the idea that they might be somehow dangerous. I am here to tell you that the Bible says they are NOT innocent and they are very dangerous.

You WILL come under attack!

The scriptures clearly show us this is possible and it can get VERY personal! It WILL get personal! Yes you can be attacked through institutions like the media, organizations and even governments, but that is an indirect attack. You will be attacked directly and personally!

There is no denying that the family, a divine institution created by God for mankind, is under heavy attack today. The family, along with marriage (between a man and a woman), was designed to provide the bedrock for society, for believer and unbeliever alike. Satan wants to destroy the family, and if he is successful, he can control minds by replacing divine standards and moral values, which should be taught in the home, with his own values, which will be taught by government or government institutions such as schools. This goes under the guise of things like “political correctness,” “virtue signaling,” “gender diaspora” and so-called “diversity” in that we must be accepting of others beliefs whatever they might be and however opposed they might be to everything we, as Christians, believe. To hold to our beliefs, the Christian is charged with being bigoted and evil. Yes, everyone has a free will and the right to be wrong. In spite of what some would like you to believe, there are moral absolutes in this world. All is not relative and whatever “is your thing” may not be okay. There are some values that are either right or wrong with no shades of gray in between. And Satan’s biggest lie is that these values change with the culture.

To be successful at this Satan must get to the children. That has been the focus of his attack since WWII, to create a generation that rejects God and God’s moral values. To get to the children he must destroy the family. This is why we have kicked God out of the schools...and out of our homes. And we have begun to define the family in ways it was never meant to be defined.

As a believer, demons cannot indwell you—that is possess you and take over direct control of your being, but they can influence you to the extent that you are essentially under their control, and for all intents and purposes, this can resemble possession with one significant difference. It is a voluntary action on the part of the one so influenced. The chief means of attack by Satan will be through deception, taking a lie and wrapping it in truth. The one deceived often never knows he has been deceived and even becomes an advocate for the lie.

With absolute certainty, you will be attacked in the future. Any spiritual believer who is advancing to spiritual maturity is a high priority target. Such a believer has the potential to become a powerful witness against Satan. His goal will be to destroy your witness, and he will do whatever he can to accomplish that.

The good news – As a believer you have been given the power and equipment from God to resist these attacks. During the course of this study we will look at specific ways to recognize these attacks and see just what they look like. We will look at preemptive measures to protect yourselves against them. We will look at specific ways to resist when you discover that you are under attack and how to have victory in the face of attack. We will look at the weapons God has left for us to use in this spiritual warfare.