

STRAIGHTWAY

And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:18].

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Satan's Deadly Edict

Dr. H. T. Spence

In Genesis 1:11-12, there is a divinely-ordained law declaring that everything which possessed life should bring forth after its kind: *Like* is to bring forth *like*. Within that law, the power of reproduction is ordained in the seed, a “seeding yielding seed.” This principle was not altered at the fall of man; life within the seed is to bring forth after its kind.

This law of a *seeding seed* (Hebrew) truly adds light to the pronouncement of Genesis 3:15: “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou

shalt bruise his heel.” This declaration came as the first pronouncement of judgment from God: the first word was to the serpent, the second to the woman, the third to the man, and the fourth to the ground.

In Genesis 3:15, God was addressing Satan through the serpent. Other instances of this approach include God's address to Satan through the King of Babylon (Isaiah 14), through the king of Tyre (Ezekiel 28), as well as through the disciple Peter (Matthew 16:23). In all of these incidents, God spoke to the power behind the individuals; that power was Satan.

This edition includes a second article

“For This Child I Prayed”

An insight was revealed in Genesis 3:15 when it was made clear that the Lord God entered into the battle against Satan. These two heads would be the heads of two classes of people in history. Four of the eight pronouns given in this verse include *I*, *her* (seed), *it*, and *his*. These four pronouns represent God, His Son, and His spiritual progeny. The other four pronouns include *thee*, *thy* (seed), *thy* and *thou* and stand for Satan and his spiritual progeny. In viewing the entire perspective of this verse, we see there are descendants of Adam and Eve who sin willfully and do not believe God. They willingly retain the spirit of Satan by obeying his rule. We must also understand that the Lord God said, "I will put *enmity*" (emphasis added), or He would be the one to bring the hatred between the two seeds. He is the One Who started the divine conflict of the ages, this battle of truth and righteousness in the Garden. This conflict is still going on, and the enmity will continue until the

One who started it ends it in glorious victory and peace. Genesis 3:15 was God's deadly edict against Satan.

What God Knew That Satan Did Not

If Genesis 3 were isolated from the rest of Scripture, it would be a sad chapter. In this verse it appears that Satan became the victor and triumphed over God in defeating man. Satan could now claim man and his possessions after man was driven from the Garden. Satan truly took a diabolical step in tempting, deceiving, and overthrowing man that day through the influence of the serpent.

This led to the divine stratagem of God's trapping, capturing, and overcoming this enemy of darkness. In Acts 15:18 we are told, "known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world." He knew the end from the beginning. It truly is inspiring to consider what God knew and what Satan did not know. For the course of historic events that followed did not go as Satan planned or thought it would go after he accomplished the fall of man. He may have believed that man would be hopelessly lost, that the earth again would become a total mass of wreckage and chaos, and that God could not do anything concerning it but be eternally defeated in His purpose for the human race.

Yet there are two great realities that must be considered. First, it is only God Who is omniscient; He is

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all knowing, all wise. God is never surprised, neither caught unaware, nor unprepared for any emergency. Satan did not spring any surprise on God. Yes, God knew it all even before the beginning. Secondly, although Satan is truly wise, he is not all wise. He may be wiser than man, individually or collectively. He can do a lot of things, but he is neither omnipotent nor omniscient.

There are eight major things that God knew positively that Satan did not know. (1) God knew that He would renew the probation of man. Probation was not renewed to the angels who fell; there was no second chance, no redemption, and no salvation given to them and Satan. Therefore Satan may have thought man would be hopelessly lost. (2) God knew that He would offer grace to sinful man. Satan did not know the great truth concerning the grace of God. (3) God knew that He would become a man to be the redeemer of men. Man was created in God's own image. God could take this image to Himself without marring the Godhead; He could become a man and be God at the same time. He would take man's place in fighting man's battles, and die in man's place to pay the penalty of man's sin. (4) God knew that He would start a holy conflict in opposition to sin and Satan; furthermore, He knew that this conflict would result in a glorious triumph for the glory of God. (5) God knew that in this holy conflict Satan would bruise

Christ's heel (his footstool identification), and Christ would crush Satan's head. A bruised heel is painful but not fatal. This conflict would result in the serpent's head being bruised (*Heb.* "crushed"); a bruised head is both painful and fatal. (6) God knew that a new race of many sons of God would arise as overcomers. All would bear His image and likeness; they would love righteousness and hate iniquity. They would choose to suffer wrongfully rather than do wrong, even to the extent of laying down their lives as martyrs. (7) God knew that Christ His Son and the saints would triumph over Satan, bring His eternal defeat, and usher in everlasting righteousness. And (8) God knew that Satan would be incarcerated in the lake of fire to be tormented forever! God would do all that was needed in such a way that forever throughout eternity neither Satan, angel, demon, nor man could dispute God's justice or validity!

Two Seeds

Galatians 3:16 reveals that Christ is the fulfillment of that promised seed. And God, in accordance with His own law, which He ordained as the Creator, would give the evidence of the power of reproduction in the seed, the seeding seed, the yielding seed. Like would bring forth like. Thus to this end Christ died: "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (John 12:24). Christ died, and as a

result of His death and resurrection, there will be a mighty harvest of many sons of God who will be like Him. It is a new and holy creation, begotten in the image and likeness of God. He was the seed of the woman!

However, there is another head, another seed as seen in John 8:44:

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

In Matthew 13:25 we read of this “father” the devil, the progenitor of his own seed: “But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.” In Matthew 13:39 we read, “The enemy that sowed them is the devil.” In verse 38 we are told, “the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.”

Wheat reproduces and tares reproduce. Like will beget like. Wheat begets not tares; tares beget not wheat. These are two separate kingdoms with two separate fathers. There is no neutral ground; everybody is either a child of God or a child of the devil.

Attacks Against the Godly Seed

For six thousand years Satan has tried to destroy the seed of the godly. Concerning the first two children born, we are told in First

John 3:12 that Cain was “of that wicked one.” The Devil through Cain tried to stop the godly seed of his brother Abel. Nevertheless, God raised up another seed through Seth continuing and preserving the godly line. Following Abel’s murder, the ungodly line moved away to the land of Nod to birth its progeny (Genesis 4:16).

Approximately two thousand years later, Satan begins using the worldliness and attractiveness of women from the ungodly seed to draw the attention of the men of the godly line (Genesis 6). Satan was seeking to hinder the prophesied coming seed of Genesis 3:15 by corrupting the whole race in a moral degeneration by intermarriage of the seeds. To pollute the godly line has been an age-old pursuit of Satan. If he can’t destroy the man (Abel or Seth), then he will pollute the seed, seeking for the women of the serpent’s line to destroy the men of the godly line. Providentially, God sent the Flood to purge and preserve the appointed line.

When Satan tried to pollute the seed religiously at Babel (Genesis 11), God sent confusion of tongue and language, and eventually called Abram out of idolatry. Then God speaks in Genesis 15:13:

Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them: and they shall afflict them four hundred years.

When the family of Jacob went

down into Egypt, a pharaoh that knew not Joseph began to abuse this promised line. Egypt tried three approaches to destroy their seed: (1) increase their labor with affliction, (2) kill all male children at birth, and finally (3) throw all young male children into the Nile River. No doubt many children died in this persecution, but God even used this for His glory by moving the daughter of Pharaoh with compassion to take Moses into her home. Through Moses God brought deliverance to His people. The bruising of the heel continued.

The coming of the seed through the course of history climaxed with the Christ Himself. Immediately, the Devil through Herod the Great attempted to destroy "the seed" when Christ was but a child (Matthew 2). There were a number of times during His earthly ministry that the people sought to kill Jesus. Finally His death on the cross became the greatest attack of Satan's edict against the seed. Nevertheless, Christ arose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

Following the Resurrection of Christ, Satan knew he could no longer touch Christ. Consequently his attack turned against the seed of "the seed." Immediately into the early church the Book of Acts records seven major persecutions against God's people. Then during the ten imperial persecutions between Nero and Diocletian, hundreds of thousands were killed for

the testimony of Christ. As a result, "the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the Church" (the apologist Tertullian). Jesus had warned His disciples in Matthew 10:16,

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

The Apostle Paul declared in Romans 8:36,

As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long: we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

It is impossible to describe the affliction and sufferings of Christians in the East; it is impossible to conceive of the hundreds of concentration camps scattered across the world where thousands have found themselves suffering for the cause of Christ simply because they are identified with "the seed." Even throughout the inquisitions of the Roman Catholic Church, there have been an estimated 68 million people put to death by this oldest Christian apostasy. Although a number were Jews, the majority of these were God's people, the seed of Christ.

Martyrdom Is Returning

Martyrdom that is still found in many countries today is coming to America. We must prepare for this intensified persecution against God's saints. America must be included in the scripture, "and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake" (Matthew 24:9). The Antichrist will

be given authority to “make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power [will be] given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations” (Revelation 13:7). Nevertheless, this period of persecution will also be for a witness in the earth. God through His Son will consummate the end of this enmity: the Seed and the Seed's seed will be victorious! Isaiah 54:10 declares, “He shall see his seed,” and in Psalm 22:30 we read, “A seed shall serve him: it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.”

Conclusion

The End Time gives clear evidence that Satan is aggressively working on the destruction of the remnant seed through two attacks: (1) the literal killing of the true Christians around the world and (2) the polluting and mongrelizing of the godly seed. We are witnessing the first attack in China, the Arab countries, the communist world, and parts of South America as hatred of Christianity ever increases.

The second attack is the most subtle and fearful, for it tries to destroy the “power” of the seed, the Gospel of Christ within the heart. This approach is seen through efforts to pollute the true Gospel with a false one. The accommodation of the flesh and gradual acceptance of the world's business and philosophical standards is greatly affecting the Gospel message of the church. Such fleshly pollution is drawn into

the Christian seed through means such as Contemporary Christian Music. This mongrelization of the seed is evident through subtle changes of the message of the Bible creating a broader base for the invitation of the world. We see this in the growing acceptance of Mel Gibson's *The Passion*, Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code*, the recent so-called finding of the *Gospel of Judas*, the recent emphasis of the Gnostic writings, the rising influence of the theology of Romanism, and the “Neo” movements found in Christianity today. These influences are affecting the conservative spectrum of Christianity.

Even Fundamentalism is slowly but surely blending into the fabric of Neo-Evangelicalism. As a last bastion to withstand the end-time global apostasy, Fundamentalism is now well on its way to reuniting with the movement that left its ranks for a more hopeful position of dialoging and fellowshiping the Liberals, Moderates, and Neo-Evangelicals. We are now witnessing Fundamentalism laying hold of and delighting in the same non-separatist positions that the Neo-Evangelicals embraced in the 1940s. The very carnal rhetoric Neo-Evangelicals used at their inception to explain their positions (which Fundamentalists then condemned) has now become the very rhetoric of present Fundamentalism. What Neo-Evangelicals craftily sought to exclude in their preaching has become the same failure in

mainstream Fundamentalism. Similarly, our periodicals also are being written for greater acceptance by a broader base of readers. The increasing shift toward Reformed Theology has become a popular means of leaving the church's problems to sovereignty rather than of taking a stand against the encroachment of the apostasy within our ranks.

When the Charismatics introduced "Praise and Worship" music in the 1970s, Fundamentalist music leaders believed we needed to pursue a similar style of music because it was the "in thing" in worship. Now even traditional congregational hymn singing has followed the path of our weaker, more contemporary special music.

Satan is also trying to mongrelize the seed by the broader spectrum of the English versions of the Bible. The battle now is over "what is the text?" If we are saved by an incorruptible seed (I Peter 1:23), what is the seed of the Word of God?

Similarly, any dress standard of dignity is being subtly intimidated; the pressure now is placed on the pursuit and acceptance of the casual look already embraced by the Neo crowd. One needs only to consider the casual, non-offensive dress of various musicians appearing on Fundamentalist recordings. Are they clean-cut secular artists or Christian artists?—does the world know?

So much of Fundamentalism has

entered into gray areas. It will only be a matter of time before we will witness and hear the open contemporary sounds of Neo-Christianity. Although the child of God is to be of the light and delivered from the darkness, most churches today choose to live in the gray, twilight zone where the light and darkness meet.

In spite of the reasoning of leaders that there is still some gospel in all of this, we must clearly realize that *there is no power in a corrupt Gospel*. This is why the churches have become impotent against worldliness and the flesh. This is why the sodomites are becoming publicly bold in their views, and violence is filling the earth. There are very few of the true seed of Christ, and very few have the incorruptible seed of the Word of God within. May the Lord help us to make it to the end of our days as a part of the true seed of Christ and with the true Gospel seed in our hearts.

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Watchman, What of the Night?

By Dr. H. T. Spence

In the days of Israel,
Were a group of sentinels
Who were placed on city wall,
Found within the tower tall.
"Watchmen" was their title true;
They stood watch the whole night through.

While the people were asleep
They with waking eyes would keep
Guard and watch throughout the night,
Watchers with discerning sight.
Watchmen, keepers of God's sheep,
Faithful men while others sleep.

Where are now such crucial men,
Who with voice and faithful pen
Stand to warn with Heav'n's insight,
Warning us, with Scripture light!
"Watchman, watchman, What of the night?"
Tell us faithfully the right."

In these days when darkest night
Seems to quench the Truth of Light,
When it seems no one can see
Signs of bold apostasy!
"Watchman, watchman, lift your voice!
Tell us what should be our choice."

Oh, Dear God in Heav'n, we pray,
Send us watchmen for today
Men who'll see through darkest night,
Having hearts with deep insight!
"Watchman, watchman, what of the night?"
May God give us men with sight.

“For This Child I Prayed”

This was Hannah's response before Eli concerning the Lord's gift of a son, Samuel (I Samuel 1:27). Her posture of heart should be the common consciousness of any parent for each child God grants to them. Equally, perhaps, this should also be our prayer for those who have been spiritually born into the family of God. Likewise, it easily may be our response to spiritual desires born in the heart that the Lord has granted for our Christian life. No matter the application, we should remember that just as the Devil is trying to destroy our children through the enticements of the world and the flesh, he is also desiring to destroy the spiritual babes in Christ after their spiritual birth into the kingdom.

Satan Ready to Devour the Child

Revelation 12:4-5 reminds us of Satan's desire against the godly:

And his [Satan's] tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

The Devil's hatred for the godly child goes back to the time of Pharaoh (a type of Satan) in Egypt (a type of the world). Pharaoh's initial hatred was manifested by his increasing the labor and burden of Israel in making bricks. His hatred greatly intensified with his edict that all Hebrew baby boys must be destroyed; hundreds, no doubt were killed. When the midwives were unable to fulfill his edict, he called for the drowning of all male babies in the Nile River.

Apart from the days of Pharaoh, other instances of hatred against Hebrew children are found. During the journey into Babylonian captivity, the Chaldeans callously slaughtered newborn infants (Ezekiel 16:1-5). Even at the time of Christ's birth, Herod the Great sought to slay all the infants in the vicinity of Bethlehem.

This hatred against the godly seed is being reenacted spiritually in our time against the new babes in Christ. The God of this world aggressively works at blinding the minds of them who believe not:

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 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 (2 Cor. 4:3-4).

This blindness is truly deepening in our country, for fewer souls are truly being saved in contrast to the number in previous decades. Additionally, this blindness is accompanied by an indifference that plagues the human heart

concerning the biblical Christ and the need of a radical change of life through the New Birth. These two factors of blindness (from Satan) and indifference (from the heart) make biblical soul winning more difficult. Note the words of Mark 4:15:

And these are they by the way side where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

Although it must be acknowledged that there are fewer truly saved than so declared by statistics of the institutional church, there are those who do come to know the power of biblical conversion. Where Satan cannot pervert conversion's truth, he will seek to slay these newborn sons. This is noted in Revelation 12:4-5 of the Dragon, Satan, waiting for the child to be delivered or birthed. As Pharaoh sought to throw those newborn sons into the Nile, equally Satan would fling the infant Christian into the swirling current of this present evil world. He seeks to cut short the work of grace in the heart of the newly born babe; Satan knows better than the babe in Christ the power found in the Word and grace of God. He knows that if God's power ever lays hold in a dominant fashion upon that babe, he will overcome the greatest of the wiles of the Devil.

There are a number of ways that the adversary Satan will endeavor to aggressively call the babe back to the world, to the flesh, and to the old life and its pleasures. If he cannot at once fling the babe back into the river of Egypt, he will try to starve him to death by keeping him from the Word. One of his ploys is to immediately sow weeds and thorns to choke the good seed: "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful" (Mark 4:19). Satan knows like begets like; he knows that if Christ takes full control of that babe, that babe will become more and more in the likeness of Christ.

Another way to destroy this newborn one is to appear as an "angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:13-15) deceiving the babe in Christ by twisting truth or bringing other "religious" influences into his life. Satan may also come as a roaring lion to scare the babe: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). If he cannot at once fling you back into the river of Egypt, he will try to starve you to death by keeping you from the Word, or he will try to discourage you into unbelief. Young Christians must be warned yet comforted, for "Greater is he that is within you than he that is in the world."

In these days when the Church is so loose in its living, we must press in

our words with others about the biblical Christ, the Seed, and the offspring of His likeness. There must be a desire for a “goodly child” as seen in Moses. God wants all of His children to be so; babes in Christ must have that “goodly” character of the Seed, the likeness of the Seed. If there are those who are cast into the sea, we must pray for their protection and calling back. We must pray for the reeds and bulrushes of providence to keep them from being swept down the Nile of this age.

Another Child for Which to Pray

Still there are other babes born: babes of habits, babes of desire, and babes of spiritual longing. How often when reading a biography of a godly man or woman, or perhaps when reading the Scriptures or hearing a message concerning godly living and character, our hearts are called to long for such a life. This is one babe that the evil Pharaoh would like to strangle at birth. He knows that all greatly used men and women of God were men and women of prayer. He knows that prayer habitually given by a Christian develops and empowers him. Satan knows that prayer takes away worldly desires and increases spiritual wisdom. Yes, he knows that “the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

We must pray for such babes of desire to be formed in the heart by the Holy Spirit and birthed in the life. How often when such conceptions are brought to the heart, we long for them at the moment, yet time has a way of destroying them. When Hezekiah sent word to the prophet Isaiah concerning Rabshakeh, he declared, “For the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth” (II Kings 19:3b). The world has a way of aborting newly birthed noble desires of the heart by using the world to draw the heart away. The devil has a way of convincing the soul, “You have too many things to do to get caught up in this spiritual pursuit,” or “You are too old now to develop spiritual habits.” Behind every excuse is the cry of Satan, “Kill that babe!”

However, we must daub an ark with the pitch of the Atonement of Christ and place the babe in that ark of safety. We must pray for God to feed us the desire and then deal with the will to forward it. The babe may be conceived, but we must now pray for God to give us the strength to birth the child of holy desire.

There is another babe whose conception we must pray for, and it is the babe of the hunger for holiness and purity of heart. This is an important babe for which we need to pray. We need not only righteousness imputed but also Christ's righteousness “imparted,” holiness “imparted.” We need sanctification theoretically, theologically, and at the right hand of God; but

we also need sanctification experientially.

Another babe to pray for is the babe of consecration. It seems the world and even the church is providing every excuse to kill this child of desire. Every excuse is brought to us. We are told that such a life is impossible, that such a blessing is only imaginary, or that we will end up legalistic if we desire such a hope. Everywhere we hear “slay that babe!” But heaven and God’s Word is calling unto us that there is hope for such a babe in Christ and in His great Atonement!

We must also pray for the babe of revival to be conceived in our hearts and churches. Oh, the beginnings of revival—this is most important. The institutional church is against this babe because it disturbs its lifestyle, believing that people will become too concerned for God. We have come to an hour that people do not desire to come to an altar for prayer, and if they do, it is only for a few minutes and then right back to the pew. Tarrying before the Lord is a babe that the Church will not tolerate; it proclaims, “If God wants us to have revival, He will sovereignly send it, but we must not seek it. Such moves of God are not for today.” Such are the words of the gossipers, criticizers, and talebearers behind the scene. They are busy talking against such hopes of a child, slandering those who are longing for such children. The Devil uses them to abort the child of revival before it gets out of the womb of Truth. Whisperers within the church are often greater abortionists than the scoffers outside the church. Pray for the babe of revival to escape the hatred and talk of malignity!

Conclusion

The Bible speaks of a dear lady named Hannah whose prayer and longing for a child God answered. She says in First Samuel 1:27, “For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him.” In these days of apostasy, as it was in the days of Hannah, we must begin praying for these spiritual babes to be conceived and birthed in our lives. When God conceives the spiritual child, we must also pray that God will enable the child to be born in our lives. The road to heaven is often paved with good intentions that never become a reality in the life. The churches and many professing Christians are spiritually childless; there seems to be much lack of passion and desire for Christ in the services. Where are those who are praying for the conception and birth of spiritual habits and desires in the life? We truly are in the day when even Fundamental churches have no desire for spiritual children among their people. The pulpits tend to frown upon a God-consuming, consecrated life. It is no longer simply the world that is against a godly life, but the churches have now become enemies to such a hope. How sad it is!

We pray for the conception; we pray for the birth. Nevertheless, with such spiritual children, there is another need. Once God enables us to birth the child, we must “nurse” it, aided by the Holy Spirit, through prayer and the Word of God. This was the command of Pharaoh's daughter concerning the babe Moses: “Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it” (Exodus 2:9). Pastors must rise with regularity and nurse spirituality when God begins to bring such hunger and thirst to the people. Parents must do this when they discern that God is dealing with their children.

May the Lord's Spirit conceive spiritual desires in our hearts and bring them to birth. Then let us do all we can to nurse them to fruition and maturity.

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Dr. H. T. Spence

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*That Ye Earnestly Contend for the Faith Which
Was Once Delivered unto the Saints (Jude 3)*

Dr. Dennis Lowry (Call to Prayer)

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Domestic Orders

Order Amount	Shipping Cost
Under \$5.01	\$2.50
\$5.01-20.00	\$4.00
\$20.01-55.00	\$6.00
\$55.01-100.00	11% of Order
Over \$100	9% of Order

Canada / Mexico

Order Amount	Shipping Cost
Up to \$30.00	\$7.50
Over \$30.00	\$25% of Order

** For Priority, Overnight, International,
please contact us for further information.*

We accept checks, Mastercard, VISA, and American Express.