

Lesson No. 10 - Satan and the Church

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Since the Passover season, we have discussed the Called-Out Ones in 2 parts, The Trees of ELOHIM, and, Man and Woman, the Expectations and the Rewards. In Lessons No. 5 and 6, The Called-Out Ones, we learned that to be called was to be invited. This is why the MESSIAH said “many are called, but few are chosen”. We also learned that to be chosen is to be selected. In that lesson we learned that the calling is a process. Once one is called, one has also been drawn, which means to be dragged out or towards something or someone.

In Lesson No. 7, The Trees of ELOHIM, Which Will We Become, we expanded our understanding on the metaphors that the MOST HIGH uses throughout HIS WORD. The use of trees as a metaphor is one of the most important of all the metaphors. We saw how the Children of Yisrael (COY) appear to not have had a grasp these metaphors. We learned how we are to grasp this metaphor and to understand that the seed that we receive, primarily by hearing, can be either an evil seed or a righteous seed.

We learned of how the two primary trees in the Garden of Eden were spiritual. The fact that they were called trees was a metaphor. We learned that even the Nation of Yisrael was pictured as an olive tree, while the gentiles were considered a wild olive tree. We learned about the fruit of lies, which started with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Satan the devil. We saw where man has the opportunity to become as a tree of life, growing in wisdom and constantly eating of the fruit of the Tree of Life, that man now has access to through, the blood of YESHUA.

In Lesson No. 8 – Now That the Hype Is Over, What Next, we discussed the 3 major religions (Islam, Judaism, and Christianity), all of which are considered “monotheistic Abrahamic religions”.

We concluded that we did not fit the description of Christianity as given in Wikipedia. We discussed the commission given to the MESSIAH's disciples. We discussed this concept of commission in great detail. We discussed the FATHER's name versus the SON's name, and how the SON came in HIS FATHER's name, which is also the name the Holy Spirit was sent in, which is also the name by which we are baptized in.

We discussed the fact that the Passover as well as the Feast of Unleavened Bread are interchangeably both considered 8-day Feasts, and how we should continually be focused on the body of the MESSIAH as we eat unleavened bread for the 7 days following the Passover. We then are to strive to become unleavened bread for others to eat of our fruit, the seed that we plant.

And finally, last week in Lesson No. 9, Man and Woman, the Expectations and the Rewards, we sort of repeated the story of Adam and Eve, showing how their creation was based on the image, both physically and spiritually of the of ELOHIM, who became, FATHER and SON. The lesson centered around the commissions given to the man and woman. We discussed the duality principle that exists in scripture. We further discussed how the SON fulfilled HIS commission; about how the FATHER and the SON were one, in union. We showed how YESHUA ate the bread, the fruit given HIM by the FATHER. Likewise, the man was supposed to eat the fruit given him by ELOHIM/YAHWEH/YESHUA, and feed this fruit to his wife and children. We verified that even though both our original parents failed to carry out their commission appropriately, according to the New Covenant, the original commissions were never changed.

Tonight, we want to gain a greater understanding of the obstacle that stands in the way of man and woman fulfilling their commissions. We need to grow in our discernment of the evil power and the tools that have the greatest potential to limit and possibly eliminate our part in the Book of Life.

So, tonight we are going to discuss Lesson No. 10 – Satan and the Church. Now, in thinking about this subject, it is important that we understand a very important principle.

- Joh 8:43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. Joh 8:44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan is the father of lies. The fruit that he willingly sows is the fruit of lies. We must continue to pray for our discernment that we do not fall prey to Satan's devices, which are to do what to the church; divide and conquer. Now the Apostle Paul admonished the church at Corinth to do the following:

- 1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

And so, very briefly I want to revisit a difference that surfaced amongst us last week. In doing so, let's remember what YESHUA has told us. We must become as little children; and as such we must be willing to acknowledge when we are wrong.

Now, those who know me know that I have no problem admitting when I discover I was wrong about something in the MOST HIGH's WORD. Last week I was wrong about one thing and did not properly respond to another issue that was raised. So, let's correct those things, and please, let's all try and become those little children. My admission may not bring about agreement, however the purpose of any Bible study should be to help the participants understand what is "thus saith YAHWEH".

First, I said and have repeatedly said in the past, that the woman was deceived first. While the scripture strongly suggests this to be true, I misquoted the Apostle Paul.

- 1Ti 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 1Ti 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

The Apostle did not explicitly say that the woman was deceived first. He simply says the man was first formed, then the woman. He further said the man was not deceived, “but the woman being deceived was in the transgression”, which is sin. It is up to us to accept or not accept what is strongly implied here. Now, last week, there was some discussion as to whether or not the man was standing alongside the woman when she both spoke to and received the fruit of lies from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now, while I continue to accept the MOST HIGH’s WORD that, as I said, strongly suggests this is nowhere explicitly or implicitly suggested, I want to revisit something that may have led to the discussion. Let’s reread it.

- Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

There were other comments concerning the fact that the woman added the words “neither shall ye touch it” in verse 3. I admit we can theorize the fact that this is an add-on to what ELOHIM originally commanded the man; however, none of us can prove whatever we may theorize, based on what is given here. So, I won’t try.

Yet in verse 5, the fact that it reads “and ye shall be as gods, knowing good from evil”, opened the door for the concept of the man being with the woman as she was fed the fruit of lies. Here is where I did not properly respond, perhaps because the concept of touching was introduced while we were discussing this.

So, I want to read something for us to consider.

- Gen 35:1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Gen 35:2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that *were* with him, Put away the strange gods that *are* among you, and be clean, and change your garments: Gen 35:3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. Gen 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which *were* in their hand, and *all their* earrings which *were* in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which *was* by Shechem. Gen 35:5 And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that *were* round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. Gen 35:6 So Jacob came to Luz, which *is* in the land of Canaan, that *is*, Bethel, he and all the people that *were* with him. Gen 35:7 And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother. Gen 35:8 But Deborah Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Bethel under an oak: and the name of it was called Allonbachuth. Gen 35:9 And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him. Gen 35:10 And God said unto him, Thy name *is* Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Yisrael shall be thy name: and he called his name Yisrael. Gen 35:11 And God said unto him, I *am* God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;

- Gen 35:12 And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.

Here we find Jacob (Yacob) and his household having been in contact with the nations they encountered along their journeys. Obviously, some of them had been enticed by the spiritual practices of those nations. Yacob commands them to rid themselves of these false idols and practices, which were called gods. In verse 10 Yacob's name is changed to Yisrael. In verses 11 and 12 ELOHIM reiterates the promises given to Abraham about the land of Yisrael. Notice these promises were physical, but that's another subject for another lesson.

Now in Genesis chapter 3, verses 3 and 5 of the KJV, the word God occurs twice. The word gods is there once in verse 5. The word translated God in verses 3 and 5 is ELOHIM. We know that this reference to ELOHIM is the FATHER and SON in their original state, operating as one. In verse 5, the word translated gods by the KJV translators is also elohim. Again, we know who ELOHIM represents, at that time. But, as men began to become nations, just like the COY attempted to do while Moses was on the Mt. with YAHWEH, they created false elohim, or false gods.

Now it is our responsibility to study the MOST HIGH's WORD in context, here a little and there a little. At the time of Eve's discussion with Satan in the garden, there were only 2 humans, the man and the woman. False elohim had not been created yet. There was 1 other created being that sought to influence the man and the woman by feeding the woman information; the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And then there was ELOHIM, the CREATOR, who gave the commandment to the man. This is how the NASB translated this verse.

- Gen 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

This is how the CJB translated this verse.

- Gen 3:5 because God knows that on the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

It's up to us to "study to show ourselves approved". So, if we are to accept the MOST HIGH's WORD in spirit and in truth, we should accept that when Satan spoke to the woman, he was referring not to the woman as becoming gods; he was saying she would "be like ELOHIM"; or put another way, she would have the knowledge of ELOHIM. Now there are only 2 possibilities for what Satan was saying to her, based on the context of what we are told about the Garden of Eden. And it is important we remember, the only concept of ELOHIM the woman knew at that time was ELOHIM, the CREATOR.

Knowing that Satan is the father of lies and presents himself as a counterfeit elohim, the fact that he said she would be "knowing good and evil" may have been a reference to himself, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. I.e., Satan may have been telling the woman that the true ELOHIM was trying to deprive her of the value of what the tree of the knowledge of good and evil had to offer. The only other possibility, again, based on the context, is that Satan was saying she would be like the true ELOHIM, who has all knowledge.

I am leaning towards the latter possibility, based on the wording "knowing good and evil", and the context. I.e., Satan lied to the woman by implying that ELOHIM did not want the woman to enjoy and ultimately become like this delicious fruit. She liked it, and fed it to the man, who didn't fulfill his commission, and did eat with her.

As one person said about last week, it was a good discussion because someone else may have had the same question but did not ask it. I hope this helps all of us in our quest for spirit and truth. The one thing I pray that we don't do is add our own thoughts to scripture.

As to whether the man was with the woman as she spoke to the tree, the Apostle Paul has clarified this.

- 1Ti 2:14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.
- 2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

There should be not further doubt to this, if, we accept ELOHIM's WORD as our truth. We must not lean to our own understandings, but only what the Spirit of Truth leads us in our Biblical growth.

Now, over the last few weeks we have seen, in a consistent pattern, that ELOHIM designed us to be one, as man and woman. And so, the ultimate metaphor of man and woman being one is for the church to be one. We talked about the "chosen of ELOHIM", the eklektos, the selected, and the eklesia, the called-out ones, the church. However, the church has a great detractor, just as the man and the woman had; Satan.

Let's look at a very interesting contrast in the spirit world.

- Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Here we have 7 spirits of the MOST HIGH who are "sent forth into all the earth". Solomon gave us some insight on this.

- Pro 15:3 The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

This is their commission. So also, we see where CHRIST is pictured as having seven horns and seven eyes.

- Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. Rev 12:4 And his 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.

Now here we have a dragon appearing with 7 heads, 10 horns, and 7 crowns. Remember the following verses.

- 2Co 11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 2Co 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 2Co 11:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

So, Satan is even presented metaphorically as appearing spiritually as the MESSIAH. When he was kicked down to the earth, he drew a third of the angels with him. They assist him in his commission. We previously saw how he presented himself to the woman. In Rev 12:4 we see where he attempted to devour the woman. Who was this woman?

- Rev 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: Rev 12:2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

The woman is pictured as the sun and the moon, with 12 stars. Let's identify this metaphor.

- Gen 37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. Gen 37:6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: Gen 37:7 For, behold, we *were* binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. Gen 37:8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. Gen 37:9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. Gen 37:10 And he told *it* to his FATHER, and to his brethren: and his FATHER rebuked him, and said unto him, What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? Gen 37:11 And his brethren envied him; but his FATHER observed the saying.

Here we have Joseph (Yoseph) telling his dream to his brothers and his parents. In verse 9 we see the sun, the moon and 11 stars. In verse 10 we notice that his father, Yacob, understood that the dream was about he, his wife and their sons. Yoseph was the 12th star. We know that Yacob's name was changed to Yisrael; and that he, his wife and his sons are the foundation for the COY, or, the Nation of Yisrael. So, the woman in Rev 12:1 was the Nation of Yisrael. The child was YESHUA.

As Satan sought to destroy the child, he constantly sought to destroy Yisrael and redirect it from its commission. As we remember from a previous lesson, Yisrael was the first church.

Now notice something about how the MOST HIGH works. In Rev 5:6 we saw the 7 eyes/spirits of the MOST HIGH “sent forth into all the earth”.

- Rev 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; Rev 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

So, we have these angelic beings, who are the eyes of YESHUA. Here we further note they are 7 angels carrying HIS message to the 7 churches. This is also their commission. Let's all remember the following.

- Heb 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.
- Heb 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

The spirits that YESHUA provides the New Covenant church are commissioned to provide what the church needs to obtain salvation. They collectively roam throughout the earth doing the missions they were commissioned to do. Who else goes throughout the world that we are we told in scripture?

- Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

- Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Now we need to constantly remind ourselves that Satan goes to and fro seeking to divide and conquer, just as he did the man and the woman in the garden. The Apostle Peter gave the following warning to the Household of Faith.

- 1Pe 5:8 Stay sober, stay alert! Your enemy, the Adversary, stalks about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

However, there is one element we need to recognize about this process. Just because Satan is actively seeking to devour, he isn't out of control He is performing his commission. Remember, we also previously learned that ELOHIM calls the end from the beginning. ELOHIM is in total control as HE executes HIS plan.

- Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Here we see that Satan is encouraged and allowed to test Job. He cannot do his evil without permission. Why not? This next verse is not universally taught amongst some of the Household of Faith. Yet, it is a vital lesson that should be universally understood by every member of the Household of Faith. Why, because we are commissioned “to live by every word from the mouth of ELOHIM”.

- Isa 45:5 **I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me:** I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: Isa 45:6 **That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.** Isa 45:7 **I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.** Isa 45:8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; **I the LORD have created it.** Isa 45:9 **Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?**

Here, YAHWEH lets us know that HE is the CREATOR. The Household of Faith should know this. HE creates peace. HE also creates evil. The clay, the man and the woman, strive against their commissions. Evil is created and used wherever ELOHIM deems it necessary.

- Pro 16:4 The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

YAHWEH created Satan for a purpose. We saw how Satan was used to test Job. Is there anything more wicked in the creation than Satan? Why Job? We remember the mercy and grace of ELOHIM.

- 1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 1Co 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1Co 10:13 **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

Job didn't flinch; even though he was encouraged to do so. Yisrael, as the first church had a great opportunity. However, it flinched from the beginning. Now, remember, Satan was probably allowed to know parts of ELOHIM's plans; thus, his persecution of the first church. Now remember as well that he drew a third of the angels to the earth with him. ELOHIM uses them as well.

- Jdg 9:22 When Abimelech had reigned three years over Yisrael, Jdg 9:23 **Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem**; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:

Notice that an evil spirit was sent by whom? It was sent by ELOHIM. But what about the church.

- Sa 8:1 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Yisrael. 1Sa 8:2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: 1Sa 8:3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. 1Sa 8:4 Then all the elders of Yisrael gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, 1Sa 8:5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. 1Sa 8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. 1Sa 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. 1Sa 8:8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. 1Sa 8:9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

Up until this time, the original church, Yisrael, did not have a human king. Its protector, its king was YAHWEH. Here again, we see that the COY did not appear to truly understand the spiritual significance of their existence. Satan and his cohorts were used to teach it a lesson.

- 1Sa 16:13 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. 1Sa 16:14 **But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.** 1Sa 16:15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.

First, we see that the Spirit of the YAHWEH came upon David. I believe many have mistaught and as such, misunderstood this. But if we allow it, ELOHIM's WORD interprets itself. In verse 14 this spirit is shown as departing from Saul and another evil spirit, from YAHWEH, coming upon him. Both of these spirits are angelic beings, who are totally controlled by ELOHIM. When the Old Covenant church, Yisrael, lived according to ELOHIM's commandments, they enjoyed the blessings of holy spirits. When it did not, Satan and his followers of evil spirits were dispatched.

- 1Ki 21:25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. 1Ki 21:26 And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all *things* as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Yisrael. 1Ki 21:27 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. 1Ki 21:28 And **the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,** 1Ki 21:29 Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, **I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.**

Here again we see that if evil was to come upon Ahab, it would be from YAHWEH. One thing to remember is that beginning with Adam, man and woman were given the freedom to choose. They were shown the way that leads to life. They had the choice to not eat of the fruit that leads to death. The choice was theirs. The COY had those same choices. So too does the Household of Faith. The wrong choices that were made brought on severe punishments from YAHWEH.

- 1Ki 22:18 And the king of Yisrael said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? 1Ki 22:19 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. 1Ki 22:20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. 1Ki 22:21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. 1Ki 22:22 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. 1Ki 22:23 **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.**

Here we see a lying spirit being authorized by YAHWEH to deceive Ahab's prophets. Just as Satan reported to YAHWEH in the Job account, the evil angels that followed him are held accountable to YAHWEH as well. They were allowed to entice Yisrael to not fulfill its commission. Yet, we know that there some individuals that endured.

- Heb 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.

- Heb 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Yisrael; and gave commandment concerning his bones. Heb 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw *he was* a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Heb 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Heb 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. Heb 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Heb 11:28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. Heb 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace. Heb 11:32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and *of* Barak, and *of* Samson, and *of* Jephthae; *of* David also, and Samuel, and *of* the prophets: Heb 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Heb 11:34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

While we see these individuals, who endured and overcame the evil, the COY as a nation did not endure and was taken out of the land. Is it any different under the New Covenant? Is it any different for the church of today?

- Mat 2:3 When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Mat 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

Is there any doubt that it was an evil spirit that troubled Herod, just as it was with Saul?

- Mat 2:13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. Mat 2:14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: Mat 2:15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Mat 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

We see how Herod attempted to do what was previously read. Remember Rev 12:4.

- Rev 12:4 And his 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.

So, we see the confirmation of who troubled Herod. Satan tried to kill YESHUA before HIS commission could even get started. Yet, we know he could not before YESHUA fulfilled HIS commission.

- Mat 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Mat 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. Mat 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Mat 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, Mat 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

The first mention of Satan by name in the New Covenant writings is his attempt to thwart YESHUA from HIS commission at the beginning of HIS ministry in His human form; after his failed attempt to kill HIM after HIS birth. We also see where YESHUA gave the New Covenant church the example of the sword of the spirit in verse 4 as HE stated, “it is written”. The MESSIAH constantly taught the New Covenant using the same metaphors from the beginning to show us how the tree of the knowledge of good and evil lurks to thwart ELOHIM’s plan.

We also must remember that he is allowed to do so by ELOHIM. It is the church’s responsibility to understand this and continually bear good fruit in spite of his presence.

- Luk 13:6 He spake also this parable; A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 13:7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come Luk seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? Luk 13:8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*: Luk 13:9 And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down.

Here we find a vineyard that is expected to bear fruit. What is this vineyard?

- Isa 5:1 Now will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:
- Isa 5:7 **For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Yisrael, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant:** and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

This is the vineyard that YESHUA spoke about in HIS parable, the House of Yisrael. Even during the time period when HE came unto Yisrael in the flesh, they did not understand.

- Luk 13:10 And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. Luk 13:11 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up *herself*. Luk 13:12 And when Jesus saw her, he called *her to him*, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. Luk 13:13 And he laid *his* hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. Luk 13:14 And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. Luk 13:15 The Lord then answered him, and said, *Thou* hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or *his* ass from the stall, and lead *him* away to watering? Luk 13:16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? Luk 13:17 and when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

Satan and his coworkers are allowed to inflict harm in part to fulfil prophecy, as we note during Passover with Judas Iscariot.

Here he was allowed to bind this daughter of Abraham to teach Yisrael that it is the Tree of Life that heals. This Tree was in their presence; yet were they blinded. Even in this day HE tried to enlighten them.

- Luk 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Luk 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Here the Pharisees demanded YESHUA tell them when the Kingdom of should come. According to the KJV HIS response to the Pharisees was that the Kingdom was within them. Now many ministers have taken this and created a doctrine about the church of today being the Kingdom. However, let's read the next verse.

- Luk 17:22 And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see *it*.

Notice here that YESHUA's entire focus in answering their question was about HIMSELF. HE was the Kingdom. Here again is one of those verses where the KJV is weak. Notice how the NASB translates verse 21.

- Luk 17:21 nor will they say, 'Look, here *it is!*' or, 'There *it is!*' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

And the CJB.

- Luk 17:21 nor will people be able to say, 'Look! Here it is!' or, 'Over there!' Because, you see, the Kingdom of God is among you."

You see the Greek word translated within is entos, which can mean within, in the midst, or amongst.

Verse 22 clearly shows that YESHUA's focus in discussing when the Kingdom should come was on HIMSELF, and as such, using in your midst and even amongst, was more appropriate. Again, the vineyard failed to recognize the influence that was upon them. Who then are these ministers of unrighteousness that the Apostle Paul spoke of when he described Satan's attempt to appear righteous in 2Cor 11? We read YESHUA's response to this in previous weeks and earlier tonight.

- Joh 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your fatherye 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.

These words HE spoke to the Pharisees, the pillar of the church in that day. To the church of today, HE constantly warned it to stay humble because of the influence of Satan.

- Luk 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as wheat: Luk 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Over and over we learn how Satan's commission is to redirect the church from its mission. If he sought to do so with Peter and the Apostles, who are we to think we are immune. It is just when we think the world is fantastic, that we are at our weakest.

Why is the church of today warned about those who may be closest to us?

- Mat 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my FATHER which is in heaven. Mat 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

- Mat 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. Mat 10:36 And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household. Mat 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Mat 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

The church of today is made up of individuals called out to bear fruit for the Kingdom of ELOHIM. It is warned that our families have the greatest potential to allow a pathway for Satan to redirect our paths. Who amongst us is it that we sacrifice YESHUA to please? And, how do we sacrifice YESHUA to these persons?

- 1Jn 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 1Jn 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 1Jn 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

There was a stark contrast made between Satan's way and ELOHIM's way, beginning with the man and the woman in the Garden of Eden. It continues even until this day. Satan is a master at using loved ones, who may or may not be "called out ones", to entice us towards compromise. And here is where each us must be mindful of his tricks.

- Heb 5:13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. Heb 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

There are more false elohim in the world today than ever, and Satan has the authority to use them all. Why? Consider the reward, to truly become a true image of ELOHIM in HIS Kingdom. This truly blows the mind when you really think about it. And so, let's revisit a verse we read earlier as we close out.

- 1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 1Pe 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1Pe 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 1Pe 5:10 **But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.**

Let's continue to grow in the knowledge of the sword of the Spirit, the WORD of ELOHIM/YAHWEH, in a humble manner knowing that standing alone we are vulnerable; together we can form a bond that will see us through the tribulations that are to come. And in the end, we stand as one, not simply agreeing to disagree, as some are being led to do.

Let's stand on the WORD of ELOHIM! When we do this, Satan has no authority over us. And this is how each us can "endure until the end".

Shalom Brothers and Sisters!