

June 2015
Battle Against The Five Kings

Dear Friend,

It should come as no surprise that we have an unseen enemy in our midst. Although most believers acknowledge the devil's existence, so few are actually aware of his methods. Sadly, too many are afraid of the enemy and avoid even talking about him for fear of retaliation. By all means, we shouldn't underestimate our opponent. But, there is no reason to fear him because our Lord Jesus Christ has defeated him. (Colossians 2:15)

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

Even though the enemy is defeated, it is still vitally important that we understand how he operates. For example, the devil doesn't have the legal right to randomly kill people or he would destroy every person on the planet instantly. Instead, the devil lures people into doing his bidding for him. The enemy does this through thoughts, uncontrolled emotions, and pressure that he exerts on the weaknesses he helps cultivate in people's flesh. Sinners are obviously most susceptible to his devices, but don't think that believers are immune to his methods.

Think about it, who is in a better position for the enemy to use to cause strife and division among the brethren other than another brother? That being the case, what we need to understand is how the enemy is so good at successfully accomplishing his objectives through born again people who should know better. It all boils down to the weaknesses allowed to remain inside believers that become the breeding ground the enemy uses to sow his seeds of strife.

Have you ever seen a “shell game” being played on the street by someone out to take people's money? The scammer uses “sleight of hand” and “misdirection” to divert the attention of the “mark” while he quickly changes hands. The end result is that the scammer takes the “mark's” money. The devil uses this same technique against Christians by drawing their attention towards what is obvious demonic activity and away from the real avenue he is using to infiltrate their lives.

Any believer so deceived to think that the enemy isn't making inroads into their life through the avenue of their own weaknesses is already his victim. The weaknesses are there no matter who we are. They range from wrong thought patterns about ourselves that we have carried with us for years, to patterns of behavior we may have adopted from our childhood. This may involve how we view ourselves or how we view others. Maybe in our minds we are the outsiders looking in or maybe we are the ones needing the attention. Some people have a need to be right while others never feel like they do anything right.

No matter what issues a person deals with, the answer isn't to ignore it and hope it goes away. Even if we don't know what our weaknesses are, suffice it to say that each of us has some and the enemy knows what they are. The key then is to continue to give the Holy Ghost, our Helper, everything He needs to attack our weaknesses so that they don't become what the enemy uses against us to hurt us and our brothers in the Lord.

I can hear some of you saying to yourselves, "that can't happen to me", which is exactly what the enemy wants you to think. He wants your attention directed away from the real threat. Another favorite thought pattern is this; "I'm not the problem here, it's that other guy. He's the problem". This is a good example of "projecting" in which the person projects all the blame for a situation on someone else and refuses to take ownership of anything.

Next comes the "self-justification" in which the person proves to themselves why they are right and the other person is wrong. All the while the devil has been given an open door to rain down havoc because of the weaknesses of the people. The end result is that the Body of Christ is divided against itself because people were not willing to deal with their weaknesses. The master of deception wins again without lifting a finger simply by using willing accomplices.

Here's what the Holy Ghost said through the Apostle Paul about our war.
(Ephesians 6:12)

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Following this statement, we see the description of the Armor of God. Notice that God isn't putting this Armor on for you. Before each piece is mentioned we are admonished to take up the whole Armor of God ourselves. (Ephesians 6:13)

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Putting on the Armor of God is what we do when we put God’s word inside of us and empower the Holy Ghost to become our Teacher. In so doing, we clothe ourselves with God’s protection against the enemy, while simultaneously empowering the Holy Ghost to put to death the weaknesses in our own flesh that the enemy would use against us.

Paul warned us against satan getting an advantage of us. (II Corinthians 2:11)

“Lest satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

When we step back a verse to see how satan might get an advantage over us, look at what is said. (II Corinthians 2:10)

“To whom you forgive anything, I forgive also: for if I forgave anything, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ.”

The way satan is given an advantage is through unforgiveness that stems from the weaknesses of the brethren that is allowed to persist and fester. The end result is that satan wins. ***When division is allowed to persist, no one is right and everyone involved is wrong no matter how right they think they are.*** Everyone needs to beg the forgiveness of his brother in the hopes of stopping the destruction of the enemy.

Over the past few months we have been looking at how God warned us of the enemy’s methods through the illustration of Israel taking possession of their Promised Land.

We have seen how Achan’s disobedience by keeping some of the plunder of Jericho resulted in all of Israel being put at risk. This represents how our hidden weaknesses, those things we don’t want to turn loose of, not only threaten our advancement in our Promised Land but also those around us.

Then we watched how the inhabitants of Gibeon fooled Israel into making a peace treaty with them instead of destroying them. They clothed themselves with ragged clothes, filled their bags with spoiled food, all in an effort to fool Israel into believing they were from a far off land and not their neighbors. If Israel had known they were neighbors Israel would have destroyed them.

The actions of the inhabitants of Gibeon, in fooling Israel, represents how our flesh lies and tries to fool our spirit. The flesh attempts to fool our spirit into making peace with it instead of destroying it. The flesh works to convince us that it is no threat to us.

What we are going to see in this lesson is that our unmortified flesh is, in fact, a threat to us. It is our unmortified flesh that our enemy will use to defeat us and it does it through our five senses.

After Israel had defeated Jericho and Ai and made a treaty with the inhabitants of Gibeon, Adonizedek, king of Jerusalem, greatly feared Israel. As a result, he gathered four kings and planned to smite Gibeon. (Joshua 10:3-4)

“Wherefore Adonizedek king of Jerusalem sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying, (4) Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.

Make sure you don't miss this important point. **Who did the five kings attack?** Did they go directly after Israel? No! They attacked the ones whom Israel had made peace with, the inhabitants of Gibeon. The point made by this illustration is that when we allow something to remain in our flesh it becomes our weakest point **AND** the first place the enemy will target.

It is important to understand that the inhabitants of Gibeon were already present in the land before Israel arrived. What this illustrates is the fact that the weaknesses in our flesh were already present before we are born again. By allowing them to remain we continue to make ourselves vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy. We do this every time we think, “well this is just the way I am and I can't change”, which is the equivalent of making a peace treaty with our flesh.

In order to understand what these five kings represent, keep in mind that the enemy doesn't have the legal right to destroy us at will. What he does do is use our own weaknesses against us to destroy us. The five kings that waged war against the inhabitants of Gibeon represent none other than our five physical senses which put us in contact with this natural world. It is through the avenue of these five physical senses that the enemy exploits our weaknesses in an effort to destroy us.

Notice that, even though Israel opened themselves up to attack by making peace with the inhabitants of Gibeon, God still delivered the five kings over into their hands. (Joshua 10:8)

“And the Lord said unto Joshua, ‘Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.’ ”

Joshua fought against them all night. But, look at who really fought the battle. (Joshua 10:10)

“And the Lord discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.”

God fought for Israel. Praise God! If we will give God what He needs to fight for us, He will rid our flesh of the weaknesses the enemy would use to destroy us. God is so committed to our victory over our flesh that He demonstrated it by performing one of the most unusual miracles in the Word of God. (Joshua 10:13-14)

“And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. (14) And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.”

So long as we continue to keep the pressure applied to our flesh, the Lord will continue to fight for us, no matter how long it takes. That is the message illustrated here. We must never abandon our quest to rid more and more of our flesh of its weaknesses. This is done by putting God’s Word inside of us and empowering the Holy Ghost to become our Teacher. Furthermore, one additional tool at our disposal is illustrated by the following verses.

The five kings ran away and hid themselves in a cave. Joshua commanded that stones be rolled over the ***mouth*** of the cave, after which Israel destroyed all their armies. After the fighting ended, Joshua ordered the mouth of the cave be opened and the kings brought out. (Joshua 10:24)

“...Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.”

The covering of the ***mouth*** of the cave, which sealed up the five kings while their armies were defeated, represents fasting. By closing our mouth to food, for any amount of time, we are rendering our five senses powerless over us and the forces of darkness that would love to destroy us are rendered powerless on our behalf.

We hold the key to our success or failure over our flesh. What we do to rid our flesh of these weaknesses will mean either our victory or continued struggles as the enemy uses these weaknesses against us. Just as God caused the sun to stand still so Israel could succeed over its enemy, God will do the same for us. But, we must give Him what He needs so that He can fight for us. That means putting His Word inside us, speaking His Word out of our mouth, empowering the Holy Ghost through praying in other tongues, and last but not least, fasting.

All of these things will enable God to fight for us and shut the door to the enemy's reign in our lives through the weaknesses of our own flesh.

~ Grace be with you

Mark Jenkins