

## **Christ's Enemies Are *Your* Enemies**

by Steve Barwick

Christ has enemies. Unfortunately, ninety-nine out of one hundred Christians cannot accurately identify Christ's chief enemies, because the churches no longer teach on this matter from the Scriptures. To the religious leaders of today, God's enemies are those who don't attend church. The old drunk down on the corner bar. Or the atheist. Or the multitudes of non-Sabbatarians who prefer to stay home and watch football on Sundays. Or people of other religious beliefs.

But the fact of the matter is that Christ has a very specific set of enemies who, by their self-stated religious tenets, and by their very actions, demonstrate that they despise Him, reject His atoning sacrifice, and are hell bent on defeating Him and subduing Christianity under their feet. And because of that, they are *your* enemies too.

Unfortunately, in the case of the Christian churches, Christ's chief enemies are the last people on earth they would ever think. So who are these enemies...what characteristics make them Christ's enemies...where did they come from...how do they operate against Him...and why have they chosen to be His enemies? We will attempt to answer these questions in the following study of our heavenly Father's Word.

In Hebrews chapter 10, St. Paul is trying to help the Hebrews understand how Jesus Christ's great sacrifice on the cross perfectly fulfilled the Old Testament laws regarding the ritual animal sacrifices, and how the Old Testament sacrifices were only a type of that true, once-and-for-all-times sacrifice to come. So let's begin with this important point in Hebrews chapter 10, because it is central to our understanding of who Christ's enemies -- and yours -- really are.

### **Christ's enemies reject His great atoning sacrifice**

**Heb 10:6** In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

God never took pleasure in the killing of oxen and sheep and other animals for our sins. Those sacrifices were an object lesson for us, designed to teach us about the nature of sin and its dire consequences. They were also types of the perfect, once-and-for-all-times sacrifice that would eventually come, in which our heavenly Father would demonstrate His love for His children by manifesting Himself in the flesh (I Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6) and giving His own life in order to pay the price for our sins. In other words, He loves us so much, He was willing to take the punishment for what we deserved.

**Heb 10:7** Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

It was written of throughout the Old Testament that our heavenly Father would send a Savior. And so, our heavenly Father manifested Himself in the flesh, in the person of

Jesus Christ, which properly translated means, "Yahveh's Savior, the Messiah." And Jesus Christ then set about to do God's will by giving His life in payment for the sins of mankind.

**Heb 10:8** Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

**Heb 10:9** Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

In other words, the ritual sacrifices for sin were done away with, when our heavenly Father, in the person of Jesus Christ, gave His own life in payment for our sins.

**Heb 10:10** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

There is no other sacrifice necessary. Christ's sacrifice was the "once for all" atoning sacrifice, so that God's children could return to His family household cleansed of their sins. It is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ -- and His sacrifice alone -- that we can return to our heavenly Father and live with Him eternally.

**Heb 10:11** And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Animal sacrifice is fruitless. By its very nature, it has to be done over and over and over again. Why? Because man tends to sin over and over and over again. We all fall short. We miss the mark continually. But Jesus Christ paid the price for our sins, and when we are faithful to Him for His great sacrifice, and sincerely repent of our sins as they occur, He is faithful in turn to forgive us and grant us that entrance back into the eternal family household of God.

**Heb 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

**Heb 10:13** From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

Whoa! What's this? Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has enemies. This is what we came to these Scriptures for.

The fact that Christ has enemies -- and that His enemies are *our* enemies -- is one of the central focal points of the Bible. Indeed, St. Paul is quoting here from Psalm 110:1, in which God promises to bring Christ's enemies into subjection to Him. Ultimately, His enemies are to be made His footstool, which is to say, they will be subjected to him, or perish. Let's learn more about this by taking a look at the definition of the Greek word translated "enemies" in this verse:

-----  
Strong's Concordance

**enemies G2190**

ἐχθρός  
echthros  
ekh-thros'

**From a primary word ἐχθω echthō (to hate); hateful (passively odious, or actively hostile); usually as a noun, an adversary (especially Satan): - enemy, foe.**

-----

Yes, Christ has enemies, which, as you can see from the Strong's definition above, are also known as *adversaries*, or *foes*. And you can always tell who they are, because by their very nature they hate Him. As a whole, they are *actively hostile* against Him. Their hatred is indeed, *Satanic in nature*. Again, look carefully at the definition above.

This is not talking about some poor drunk down at the corner bar who ignores His salvation due to drunkenness. And this is not talking about some hapless atheist who has been taken in by Darwin's theory of so-called "evolution." For the most part, atheists don't hate Christ. They just don't believe in Him. The enemies mentioned by St. Paul above are brought up in the context of Christ's great atoning sacrifice precisely because they *hate Him passionately*, and they *reject Him as the atoning sacrifice* for all of mankind. What we are speaking of in the verse above are people who know who Christ is, and who, as a tenet of their religious doctrine, openly despise Him. They do everything in their power to denigrate and oppose Him, to disrupt His way, to rob God's children of their inheritance in Christ, and to otherwise corrupt and degrade His children.

And ultimately, they will be made His footstool, which means they will be either bow at His feet in willing subjection (Revelation 3:9), or be crushed there under (Malachi 4:3).

You see, our heavenly Father has promised us a return to the safety, security and harmony of His family household, in return for our faith in His Savior Jesus Christ. And He has promised us that all danger, all evil, all disruption, will be done away with forever so we can all live together in peace and harmony eternally. So He will either convert the enemy to His side. Or He will destroy them altogether. It is *their* choice. One way or another. They can bow at His feet. Or be crushed there under. But He will keep His promise to those who remain faithful to Him, and provide a secure and peaceful and harmonious family environment for the eternity. Don't let anyone -- ever -- take your place in God's family household away from you by leading you away from Christ Jesus. He is the only way back in. Period.

To better understand who Christ's enemies are, you must see past the flesh and look into the spiritual. Again, His enemies are not some poor old brainwashed atheist. Atheists as a whole do not hate God. They simply don't believe in him. What we are speaking of here is a group of people who know who Jesus is, and as a major tenet of their own religious belief, vehemently hate Him, reject Him as God's Messiah, and as the atoning sacrifice for all of mankind.

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

One offering is all that was needed. And Christ Jesus was that offering. And now anyone who will sincerely call on His name can be saved.

**Heb 10:15** Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

**Heb 10:16** This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

**Heb 10:17** And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

In the above two verses, Paul is quoting directly from the Old Testament book of Jeremiah 31:31-33. You see, God Himself promised long ago to make a brand new covenant with His children. The Old Covenant, with its continual ritualistic animal sacrifices for sin, would fade away. And the new covenant, in which Yahveh's Savior would give His life for the sins of mankind, once-for-all-times, would take its place. Mankind could now be saved simply by following Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God. This put a lot of religionists completely out of business. They enjoyed the seat of judgment, and being in charge of your salvation. But Christ Jesus brought their phony religious system to a screeching halt, through His atoning sacrifice.

Yes, thanks to Christ Jesus, your sins are blotted out, upon sincere repentance. Erased from the book. Like shaking an Etch-a-sketch until you get a blank screen. Your Lord and Savior did this for you! You have no need of continual animal sacrifices, nor of priests to act as intermediaries between you and God. Christ Jesus is your high priest. And He is your direct access to God and His throne.

**Heb 10:18** Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

If you have sincerely repented, your sins are forgiven. And there is no further sacrifice needed, except for the sacrifice of love and praise due your heavenly Father through Christ Jesus.

**Heb 10:19** Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

**Heb 10:20** By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

When His flesh was pierced with that spear while He hung on the cross after He had given His life for us, the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom, and the way was opened up for our return to our heavenly Father. As Paul would say in another place, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Through Christ, we can go right to the throne of God, in prayer, and be heard of our heavenly Father. There are no obstacles. No flesh intermediary needed. If you are in good standing with Christ, you can go straight to your heavenly Father in His name. And don't you ever doubt that your prayers are heard. They are.

**Heb 10:21** And having an high priest over the house of God;

**Heb 10:22** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

The phrase "evil conscience" means a degenerate perception, or perhaps better stated a diseased thought process. To draw near to your heavenly Father, you have to have your mind right. And that means you have to recognize Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, your high priest Who presented Himself as the once-and-for-all-times sacrifice for the sins of mankind, and Who now presides over the family household of God in heaven. There is no substitute for His sacrifice. There is no other way. Anything else set forth as a means of salvation or deliverance is a result of a diseased mindset. And anyone who tells you they have some other way of salvation...some other method of deliverance from sin into the kingdom of heaven -- is flat out lying. They are Christ's enemies, and yours.

**Heb 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Paul's concern was that Christians in his time would stumble or waver in their faith, and as a result they would return to the old religion and the old sacrifices, which is to say, return to playing church with the Jewish religious leaders. But God promised He would send a Savior Who would give His life for the sins of mankind. And He did. Jesus is Lord. Stand firm in that. Never doubt it for one minute. Don't let the naysayers pull you off track. God has enemies, and as we will see elsewhere in this study, their job is to pull you off track -- unless, of course, spiritually speaking, you are smart enough to kick them in the teeth.

**Heb 10:24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

**Heb 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

We are to come together and back each other up in the Word of God. No man is an island. We all need a little building up from time to time. Never neglect to come together in the Lord and comfort and build up each other in His Word. It is what will get us through the hard times as we see the dark day of tribulation approaching.

**Heb 10:26** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

What is this "knowledge of the truth" spoken of in this verse? The knowledge of the truth is the clear understanding that our heavenly Father kept His promise and sent a Savior to give His life for our sins. As it is written in Isaiah chapter 53, He would bear the horrific punishment we deserve, so that we could be healed and forgiven, and welcomed back into our heavenly Father's eternal household.

Therefore, keeping Paul's words in complete context, to "sin wilfully" is to have the knowledge of Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah who gave His life for our sins, but to willfully return to the old way -- to join back in with those who reject Christ Jesus and His sacrifice. In so doing, there is no sacrifice left for you. You have turned your back on the once-and-for-all-times sacrifice. And you now have no way left to be forgiven. There is ONLY ONE WAY of salvation...ONE WAY of forgiveness of sins. And it is through Jesus Christ's once-and-for-all-times sacrifice of Himself in payment for your sins.

Look, we all sin. And sometimes we do so willingly. And God doesn't wink at such things. In particular, if you are one of His election, He will turn your life upside down if need be to bring you to sincere repentance. Then He can forgive you and get you back on the right track.

But if, after you have received the knowledge of the truth, you stumble backwards to embrace those who reject that truth...who hate that truth...then there is no sacrifice left for your sins. In embracing the Christ-haters, you have denied the only Sacrifice through which one can be saved.

The problem is this: the haters of Christ frequently pass themselves off as "godly" people. Though they openly reject Christ's atoning sacrifice, they call themselves "God's chosen." And therein all too many Christians are stumbled. "But we have the same God they do," they argue. Sorry, but Jesus is God (I Timothy 3:16; John 1:1). And if they hate Jesus, and reject and deny His great sacrifice for our sins, then they hate God too, for Jesus and God are one (John 10:30 -- "I and my Father are one.") It is their hatred of Christ and His atoning sacrifice that always gives them away, regardless of how "religious" or "godly" they may seem to be.

As the Holy Spirit would say through St. Paul in another place, "...what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" The answer is none. To join back in with the haters of Jesus Christ, Who is Almighty God's Living Word, is to reject your one and only avenue of salvation, that once-and-for-all-times sacrifice He provided to pay the price for your sins. Be careful, dear ones, who you hook up with. If they hate Christ Jesus, their profession of godliness is a sham, no matter how religious they appear, or how much they claim to "love God."

**Heb 10:27** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

There's those adversaries again. The Christ-haters. God is going to devour them in fiery indignation at the time of judgment. Why? Because when He sent His Savior to give His life for the sins of mankind, they rejected Him *and made rejection of His atoning sacrifice one of the chief tenets of their religious tradition*. It is that simple. They flat out hate Him. And therefore they hate the Father who sent Him. Short of repentance on their part, He is ultimately going to destroy them.

**Heb 10:28** He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

That's right. If one denied the law of Moses in Old Testament times, he was to be put to death without mercy at the hands of two or three witnesses. Why? Because the law of Moses was given to Moses by God Himself, for the people of Israel. It was God's Law. If you despised it, you despised God. And if you despise God, there is no place for you in His family household. His law is designed to enforce the harmony and security of His family household. It is His promise to us that there will be no more disrupters, no more lawbreakers, in the eternity (Revelation 21:8). They will either be subjected to Him willingly, or blotted out entirely.

In like manner, Jesus Christ was sent by God. He was given to us by God, just as the law of Moses was given by God to the people of Israel. This is why the prophet Isaiah said, "Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born." (Isaiah 9:6). Therefore, if you despise Christ Jesus, the One given to us by God to pay the price for our sins, then you despise God Who sent Him. This is what St. Paul is trying to get across. It is a serious thing to get hooked up with the Christ haters. Their fate could become yours.

As you can see from the Strong's definition below, the word "despised" in the above verse means to set aside...to disesteem...to cast off...to reject. Again, be very careful about embracing those who reject your Lord and Savior. You just might end up haplessly under the same fiery indignation they will find themselves under.

-----  
Strong's Concordance

**despised G114**

ἄθετέω  
atheteō  
ath-et-eh'-o

**From a compound of G1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of G5087; to set aside, that is, (by implication) to disesteem, neutralize or violate: - cast off, despise, disannul, frustrate, bring to nought, reject.**  
-----

**Heb 10:29** Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Again, the sin we are speaking of here is to reject, *as a religious tenet*, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is an insult to the Spirit of grace. Those who reject Christ are in essence saying "I don't need your grace. I have a means of salvation of my own." And so it is that we have a people on this earth today who assert vehemently, as a major tenet of their religion, that they have a means of salvation that does not include Jesus Christ. They have a different messiah. They have a messiah instead-of Christ, which is to say, the antichrist.

**Heb 10:30** For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Our heavenly Father is most certainly going to judge His Christian people, and all of His children. The subject matter here is continued from verse 26, which is in regard to having tasted God's Word regarding Christ's great sacrifice, but turning back to the empty traditions of man instead, which can lead to embracing the enemy and his doctrines i.e., playing church with the blind instead of moving forward in your Father's Word in awe of its precepts and revelations, and in sincere obedience to His commands therein.

This is why, during His first advent, Christ told the parable regarding His 2nd advent, when many of the church leaders and their followers would come running up to Him saying, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" They will be expecting to be congratulated by Him when He returns, and rewarded for their labor as good Christians. Yet instead, He says to them, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:22-23)

You see, their great works, done in His name, were all for naught. They spent all of their time building churches, roping in congregations, making prophetic-sounding statements from the pulpit, putting on pageants, holding church bake sales, and presiding over or participating in all kinds of events in the name of their religion. But they never quite got around to teaching their congregations the deeper truths of God's Word. They never

properly fed the flock. In particular, they never bothered to teach them about God's enemies. The religious leaders left God's children in an ignorant state -- a spiritual kindergarten, if you would -- instead of training them up to wear the Gospel Armor of Ephesians chapter six with pride, and stand firm against God's enemies.

It is important to understand that God's Christian people constitute the many-membered Body of Christ. Therefore, His enemies are *our* enemies, because we are of *one and the same body*. And as such, we are to know how to do our part to help make the enemies of Christ our footstool, which is to say, we are to spiritually subject them to God's Word. And Jesus is that Living Word!

Yet instead, most Christians today have done exactly the opposite. Instead of working to subject the enemy to Jesus Christ, they have unwittingly fallen under the spell of the enemy. They have been led by empty church tradition to believe that the haters of Christ are actually "God's chosen." They have even accepted in their hearts the "any moment now Jesus" as their Lord and Savior. Thus they will worship the very first supernatural being who sets foot on this earth claiming to be the Lord, even though God's Word clearly states that this will be the "son of perdition" (II Thessalonians 2:1-4) – the very antichrist himself.

What does this mean? It means that most Christians today unwittingly await the same messiah the enemy awaits, the false messiah. Just as the Christ haters await a messiah who can arrive to this earth at any moment, so too do most Christians. Thanks to the "Jesus can come any moment now" church tradition, most Christians remain blissfully unaware that the antichrist – the false messiah – comes at the sixth trump, and Jesus Christ – the true Messiah -- doesn't arrive to this earth for His second advent until the sound of the seventh trump.

So, rather than putting on the Gospel Armor in defense of the true faith, and preparing themselves to stand firmly against the antichrist by studying God's Word, they have instead unwittingly embraced the antichrist as their Lord and Savior. In this sense, they have unwittingly abandoned the once-and-for-all-times sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and have substituted in His place the very "messiah" of the enemy.

**Heb 10:31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Indeed it is. You do not want to be found as one of those who have "counted the blood of the covenant" as "an unholy thing" at Christ's second advent. But such will be the case for many Christians who, after having tasted the "knowledge of the truth," turn from that truth to embrace the empty traditions of man in its place. Christ's enemies are those who hate Him as a central tenet of their religious faith, and who reject His great atoning sacrifice. Be careful not to become yoked with them, in the mistaken belief that they are somehow exempt from God's plan of salvation, or in the mistaken belief that it's okay to be yoked together with them because "any moment now Jesus will return and they will be converted and saved." Though this is a widely accepted tradition of man, it is sheer un-Biblical nonsense. Indeed, it is the believer in such tradition who is being converted, and

not the enemy. In short, spiritually speaking, it is a potentially deadly mistake on the part of any Christian, because it is a big step toward being turned from the “knowledge of the truth” to the love of the lie (II Thessalonians 2:11-12).

Let's turn to the great book of Matthew, chapter 13, to learn some more about Christ's enemies.

**The Parable of the Tares:  
Christ's #1 enemy and his children...**

In Matthew chapter 13 Jesus tells a very interesting parable. And then later in that chapter, He thoroughly explains that parable, point-by-point so that a child could understand it. While God's elect are quite familiar with this parable and its explanation, let's take another look at it in relation to this study on Christ's enemies.

**Mat 13:24** Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

**Mat 13:25** But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

The word "tare" is a type of darnel, or false grain (Strong's G-2215). It is a bitter, very poisonous plant called *zewan* in the middle east. It looks a lot like wheat when it is growing, and in its early stages of growth can easily be mistaken for wheat. According to Smith's Dictionary, "The grains of the *L. temulentum* [i.e., tare plant], if eaten, produce convulsions, and even death."

Here, we are told that an ENEMY came and sowed this false grain among the wheat, so that the deadly poisonous grain would be growing up side by side with good grain.

**Mat 13:26** But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

In the latter stages of its growth, the tare becomes more obvious and easier to distinguish from the wheat, at least, to the well-trained eye.

**Mat 13:27** So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

The household servants ask the head of the household, "Where did this poisonous, false grain come from?"

**Mat 13:28** He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

The head of the household knows instantly that an ENEMY sowed this poisonous false wheat among the good wheat. The servants are eager to pull up the false wheat by the roots and get rid of it immediately.

**Mat 13:29** But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

**Mat 13:30** Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The head of the household realizes that the false wheat has been so tightly interspersed among the good wheat, that rooting up the bad could also root up some of the good. So he gives strict orders to his household servants to leave the false wheat alone until harvest time, when experienced reapers will be available to pick the bad from the good. The bad will be bundled for burning, so that it is not mistakenly eaten. And the good will be gathered into the householder's barn.

We now jump down to verse 34, where it is explained exactly why Jesus spake to the multitudes in such parables, rather than speaking plainly to them. And then we will hear Christ's complete, point-by-point explanation of the parable, to His closest followers, the disciples.

**Mat 13:34** All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

**Mat 13:35** That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

It had been prophesied of old that when the Messiah arrived to this earth, He would speak to the multitudes in parables, because He would be discussing things that had been "kept secret from the foundation of the world."

The word "foundation" of course, is the Greek word *katabole* (Strong's G-2602 from G-2598), meaning a casting down resulting in a new foundation. This refers to the overthrow that took place in the first earth age, when Satan rebelled and drew one-third of God's children with him. Rather than destroy His own children for their sin, God destroyed that entire earth age and instituted this second, flesh earth age, through which each one of His children must pass one time, to make up their minds whether to serve God or serve Satan.

Christ spoke of these things in parables, so that only those who have eyes to see and ears to hear -- which is to say, those proven responsible enough to handle the information -- would fully understand.

**Mat 13:36** Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

The disciples wanted to fully understand the parable. And indeed, He would now tell them what it meant, point-by-point, in simple, child's language.

**Mat 13:37** He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

It is Jesus Christ that sowed the good seed in that field. He is that head of the family household of God. Indeed, as we are told clearly in John 1:1-3, it is Jesus Christ, the Word of God, Who created all things: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*"

**Mat 13:38** The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

Well, you can hardly beat that for clarity now, can you? The field is the world, which is to say, the very same world you are living in right now. The good seed are the children of the kingdom. And the tares are the children of the wicked one.

You see, the wicked one, Satan himself, has children too. They are symbolized by the tares -- the *zewan* -- that bitter, poisonous plant that looks just like the wheat. Remember earlier in the parable, when Christ stated that "his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way"? Now you know that enemy is Satan.

And just in case it is difficult for you to grasp the idea that Satan has sired children on this earth, the word Christ Jesus uses in the verse above for "seed" is the Greek word *sperma* (see Strong's G-4690) from whence we derive our English word "sperm." He is not talking about planting wheat. He is talking about two distinctly different lineages of children. Indeed, the usual word for "seed" as used in the Bible is *sporos* (Strong's G-4703) or *speiro* (Strong's G-4687), both of which mean actual seed grain for growing a plant. But here, our Lord and Savior purposely used the word most commonly used for the male sperm, because that is exactly what He was talking about -- offspring.

**Mat 13:39** The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

There's that enemy, which is the subject of this study. And it should now be abundantly clear that the enemy has children of his own seed line. They are likened unto the tare plant -- the bitter, poisonous false wheat -- because while they look much like the children of the kingdom, and live closely among us, their doctrine is a spiritually poisonous one. They are the avowed enemy of our Lord and Savior, the Head of the family household of God.

We further see that the harvest spoken of by Christ in the parable represents the end of the world, meaning the end of this flesh earth age. Of course, we now live in the end days, and the end of this flesh earth age is soon upon us.

What did we learn earlier when Jesus was telling the parable about the tares? We learned that in the latter stages of its growth, the tare becomes more obvious and easier to distinguish from the wheat, at least, to the well-trained eye. In other words, for those with eyes to see and ears to hear, the tares will be easier to recognize toward the end of the harvest. Can you see today the rise in prominence in world affairs of that specific people who distinguish themselves from us, through their hatred of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and their utter rejection of His great atoning sacrifice as a chief tenet of their religious doctrine, even while they proclaim themselves to be “God’s Chosen”?

**Mat 13:40** As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Our heavenly Father is kind, and does not seek the death of any of His children. As it is written in II Peter 3:9-10, He wants everyone to come to repentance and rejoin His family household. But if one continues to reject His great atoning sacrifice, then as we quoted St. Paul earlier in this study, there is no sacrifice left for them, as all other sacrifices have been done away with by Christ’s. This leaves only the fire of God’s wrath. *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”*

**Mat 13:41** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

The offense and iniquity spoken of here is not the usual offenses the Christian church seems to be obsessed with, such as drinking too much on Friday night, or smoking cigarettes, or cursing, or even missing church on Sunday. It is the sin of the tares and their father the devil -- hatred of Jesus Christ, and rejection of His atoning sacrifice. The tares “offend” (i.e., stumble others in their faith”) in that they work against Christ Jesus and His atoning sacrifice as a major tenet of their religious traditions. Through clever propaganda, they work to instill false doctrines into the Christian churches, in the form of empty traditions. For example, they love to label themselves “God’s chosen,” when Christ Himself labeled them as “those who say they are Jews, but are not and do lie, and are the synagogue of Satan” (Revelation 2:9/3:9).

By working against Christ Jesus, they acknowledge His existence. And in acknowledging His existence, yet working against Him rather than choosing to embrace Him, they show their utter hatred for Him. Though they have grown up side by side with us in this flesh earth age, as the parable of the tares reveals, they will be gathered out of

the kingdom of God -- which is to say, out of His family household -- and they will be destroyed.

**Mat 13:42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Short of repentance, and acceptance of Jesus Christ's great atoning sacrifice, it is over for them. The devil and his wicked children will no longer exist.

**Mat 13:43** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Do you have the ears to hear? The righteous shall shine forth as the sun, in the kingdom of their Father, once the Christ-haters are gone. This means God's Word will go forth to *all* of His children, through His faithful elect, once the chief stumbling block has been taken out of the way, meaning the devil and his children.

### **Who Are The Devil's Children, And Where Did They Come From?**

We don't have a lot of time to spend on this subject, in this study. It is a lengthy study in its own right. Pastor Arnold Murray's three-tape study on the first six chapters of Genesis will give anyone a good, solid foundation in this matter. For the sake of keeping this study a reasonable length, we will suffice it to go to two places to document who the tares are, and where they came from. We will start in I John chapter 3:

**1Jo 3:11** For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

**1Jo 3:12** Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

It was Cain who was of that wicked one. The word "of" in the above verse is a very important qualifying word. It is *ek* in the Greek (see Strong's G-1537), and it always denotes the origin of something. It literally means "out from the interior of." This stands in stark contrast to the usual Greek word for "of," which is *apo* and denotes motion from the surface of an object, rather than from the interior.

Cain was *out from the interior of* that wicked one, meaning he was the birth son of Satan. John explains above that this is why he slew his righteous brother Abel. And this is why you will not find Cain listed in Adam's genealogy in Genesis chapter 5. Instead, Cain is given his own separate genealogy in Genesis chapter 4, beginning with verse 17. Many will try to tell you that Cain is not listed in Adam's genealogy, because he was kicked out when he killed his brother Abel. But of course, this is ridiculous. You can't be kicked out of a bloodline. If you are a part of someone's genealogy, you are part of that

genealogy, whether you are good, or bad. Cain was simply not part of Adam's genealogy.

So how did the devil "sow" this seed of tare (false wheat) named Cain? Let's turn to II Corinthians chapter 11 to find out from the beloved St. Paul:

**2Co 11:2** For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Paul clearly sets the subject matter here of a marriage engagement, and the responsibility of the bride-to-be to remain true to her bridegroom before the marriage takes place. Spiritually speaking, as part of the body of Christ, we are espoused to but one Husband, Jesus Christ, and we are to remain faithful to that one Husband until He arrives at His second advent to take His bride. But what if, when He arrives, He finds his bride messing around with another "Jesus" i.e., a false Christ, also known as the antichrist or the "any moment now" Jesus?

**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.

Remember, the subject matter here is to be espoused to one husband, and to remain faithful during the espousal, so that you can be presented to your husband as a chaste virgin, which means one who was faithful to their engagement, and did not hanky around with others beforehand. But Paul says Eve messed up in this decisive responsibility to her husband Adam. She was beguiled by the serpent. The word "beguiled" in the Greek is *exapatao* (Strong's G-1818), and it has only one meaning, to be *wholly seduced*. You see, Eve was not just seduced by what the serpent had to say. She was wholly seduced, meaning she had lost her virginity to him as well. This is precisely why St. John said, in the verses we studied above, that Cain was *of* (i.e., originated from) that evil one.

Indeed, we learn in Revelation 12:9 that the serpent of old – yes, the very serpent of the Old Testament who seduced Eve in the garden -- is none other than Satan himself:

**Rev. 12:9** And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Yes, Satan was in the garden of Eden, where he was referred to as the serpent because of his sneaky, subtil nature. And as one of God's most beautiful angels (Ezekiel 28:12), he was able to beguile – which is to say wholly seduce -- mother Eve. And the progeny born between them was Eve's (but not Adam's) firstborn son, Cain.

What's more, Satan will be back again, at the end of this flesh earth age, when he and his fallen angels are cast out of heaven to this earth, this time to deceive the whole world into believing that he is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Indeed, the word "deceiveth" in the above verse is another Greek word that refers strongly to a seduction. It is the Greek

word *planao* (Strong's G-4105) which means, "to cause to roam from safety, truth or virtue; to lead astray, deceive, err, seduce."

Yes, Satan seduced mother Eve in the garden. And as we learned in the parable of the tares, he produced a physical planting, a child. That child was named Cain, who was so evil he became the first murderer. And when Satan is kicked out of heaven and arrives to this earth with his angels in the final days of this flesh earth age, he will be attempting to seduce the whole world into accepting him as the true Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

Continuing in second Corinthians where we left off, this is why St. Paul says:

**2Co 11:4** For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

You see, Paul is saying that he fears the bride of Christ – that's you, and me, and all other Christians -- will be seduced away from our Lord and Savior by another who comes in his place, under the influence of another spirit, and preaching another gospel. Just as the serpent seduced Eve away from Adam, Paul is worried that this time, the serpent will be able to seduce Christ's bride away from Him. And he is warning Christians they should be very careful not to make the mistake Eve made in the garden.

In short, St. Paul is warning here that just as Satan *physically* seduced Eve in the garden, so he is returning to this earth to *spiritually* seduce the bride of Christ. He is a grand actor. A powerful angel who failed to remain faithful to God (Ezekiel 28:13-15), and now wants nothing more than to take the place of our God (Isaiah 14:12-15), our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This is why Christ spoke another parable about marriage and birth to the multitudes during His first advent, warning about the seduction to come. In Matthew 24:15-18, He warns of the coming of the antichrist to Jerusalem, stating, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:): Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes."

In other words, when you see the false Christ – that abomination of desolation – setting himself up as God in the land of Judea, don't dilly-dally around if you are in that area. Get out of there quickly, because of the spiritual seduction that is about to take place. Then, in the very next verse, which is verse 19, Christ warns, "And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!" You see, spiritually speaking, Christ expects to find a faithful virgin bride when He returns. But the antichrist arrives to this earth first, to deceive God's children into engaging in a spiritual marriage with him. His goal is to spiritually seduce the bride of Christ, so that she is spiritually soiled at Christ's arrival, and no longer fit to be taken as a bride. No longer fit for the Kingdom of God.

In short, it is a seduction on a grand scale...far greater in scope than his physical seduction of Eve in the garden. And so Christ speaks spiritually here, warning in parable form that you are not to be found “with child” or “giving suck” in those days, which simply means he expects you to remain faithful to Him throughout Satan’s great deception, and not allow yourself to become be spiritually impregnated with the lies and false doctrine that will flow forth from the false Christ. Just as a bridegroom does not want to return home eagerly from a long trip, only to find that his espoused loved one has fallen for the wiles and temptations of another man, so too Christ Jesus does not want to return to this earth eagerly for His bride, only to find that she has fallen for the wiles and temptations of the false Christ...the antichrist...that old serpent called Satan and the devil.

### **Characteristics of Christ's Enemies**

I have stated that one of the chief characteristics of Christ’s enemies is that they hate Him, and reject his atoning sacrifice, as a matter of religious doctrine. Let us take a quick look at several of these tares who, in Christ’s time, professed to follow Him, and see whether or not we can learn some more about their character.

**Joh 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

Here Christ defines a true disciple as one who *continues* in His Word. In other words, a disciple is one who becomes a *doer* of the Word, and not a hearer only (James 1:23-25). To be a doer of His Word requires one to stand faithfully by His side, and resist His enemies rather than embrace them (James 4:7).

It is important to understand that the word “Jews” used above is not in reference to a specific bloodline but instead to a geographic area. The word used is *Ioudaios* in the Greek (Strong’s G-2453, from G-2448), and it means “a resident of the land of Judea.” It does not necessarily mean the people being spoken of are bloodline members of the tribe of Judah i.e., Jews. Just as a Texan can be of any race, color or creed, so a “resident of the land of Judea” could be, also, of any race, color or creed. These were, as we will see, religious “Jews,” but not necessarily bloodline Jews.

**Joh 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

To continue in His Word brings light, which means knowledge. And that knowledge sets you free of the empty traditions of man which are specifically designed to pull you away from God and His Word.

**Joh 8:33** They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

As God's elect know, it is right here that these residents of Judea give themselves away as not being true bloodline Jews. The people of Israel, including the tribe of Judah which are now so commonly referred to as "Jews," were not only in bondage to the Egyptians in Egypt, but also to the Babylonians when they were carried away out of their land by king Nebuchadnezzar and taken into the land of Babylon for over seventy years. This is basic Bible history. Yet by admitting they had never been in bondage to any man, these "Jews" (i.e., residents of Judea) were admitting they were not of the true Israel bloodline, even as they claimed to be of "Abraham's seed." (By the way, the word "seed" used here is the Greek word *sperma*, the same word Christ used in the parable of the tares to indicate offspring rather than grain seed. So we see here a second witness as to the meaning of this word, as the tares who are speaking with Christ also use the word *sperma* to mean offspring.)

**Joh 8:34** Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

**Joh 8:35** And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

**Joh 8:36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Here, Christ tells the men questioning Him that He is that Head of the Eternal Family Household of God, and that He is the one who has the power and the authority to free you from the sin that would otherwise prevent you from being part of that eternal family household. Of course, He would later give His life on the cross, as the atoning sacrifice for all of mankind, to pay the price for our sins and thus free us from them, so that we can rejoin the family household of God forever. It is only His sacrifice that can do this for us. There is no exemption for any person, any race, or any creed. The common teaching among Christians today is that the "Jews" have a separate salvation, or a separate covenant of deliverance, aside from Christ. But here Christ tells those Jews who were following Him that He, and only He, is the source of salvation. Will they continue to believe on Him?

**Joh 8:37** I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

Don't let this statement throw you. Spiritually speaking, when you become a faithful follower of Christ, you become one of the seed of Abraham, regardless of your racial heritage (Romans 4:13-17). Indeed, the very name Abraham means "father of many nations." But we will see momentarily that these men who claimed to be of Abraham's seed indeed were not, neither through faith in Christ, nor through bloodline. Indeed, they were imposters.

**Joh 8:38** I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

Now this is quite interesting, isn't it? Here Christ differentiates rather starkly between *His* Father (i.e., God) and *their* father. Jesus tells them says He speaks that which His Father has shown Him, and they DO that which their father has shown them. If their father is not God, then who is he? And what actions has their father shown them to do? Christ will answer those important questions for us in the following verses...

**Joh 8:39** They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

Ah...now we can see that they were not truly Abraham's children. You see, speaking broadly, and as we learned in the parable of the tares, there is a good seed line and a bad one. And the good seed line does chiefly good works, on Christ's behalf. While the bad one works chiefly against Christ.

**Joh 8:40** But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

These guys were pretending to follow Christ, but all along they intended to kill Him. They had murder in their hearts. I wonder where they got it? They certainly didn't get it from Abraham, though they claimed to be of his seed line. Abraham met Melchizedek (i.e., King of the Just) in the desert, and tithed to Him, looking forward to that day when He would return to this earth as the Lamb of God and give His life for the sins of mankind. But these "Jews" were planning to murder the One telling them the truth. They did not want to be set free by the truth. They wanted to murder the truth-teller, so that their own father could keep God's children in bondage to the lie.

**Joh 8:41** Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Christ tells them they do the deeds of their father, letting them know that He knows they are not of Abraham's parentage, but of another. In response, they claim there is no fornication in their heritage, and that they are the children of God.

**Joh 8:42** Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Here, Christ begins to let them have it with both barrels. The very fact that they were secretly acting with malice in their hearts toward him was evidence enough that they were not the children of God. Christ tells them plainly that since He proceeded forth and came directly from God, their hatred of Him was proof that *they* were not of God. You see, those who love God also love God's plan to save His children. And Christ Jesus is the centerpiece, so to speak, of that wonderful plan of salvation. But these had no love for God's plan, and thus, could not possibly be of His family household.

**Joh 8:43** Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Their ears are plugged to God's Word. They claim to be God's children...even God's chosen. But when it comes to God's Word, they reject it. Jesus *is* the Living Word of God. Yet they will not hear God's Word. It is anathema to them. They follow a different word – a word summarized in empty religious traditions that make void the word of God (Mark 7:13).

**Joh 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.

Now Jesus really let's them have it. Remember the parable of the tares? There was bitter poisonous wheat, sewn in among the good wheat. The good wheat represented the children of the kingdom. While the bitter poisonous wheat – the tare plants -- represented the children of the wicked one.

You see, these Jews who followed Christ were actually of the bloodline of Cain, that evil seed sown in the garden of Eden. They claim to be Abraham's children, and even live among the Jews. But they are truly of their Father the devil. And the lusts of their father is what they do best.

It is important to note at this point that the word "of" in the phrase "ye are *of* your father the devil" is that same Greek word we studied earlier, *ek* (Strong's G-1537), which always denotes a point of origin, and literally means "out from the interior of." In other words, when Christ says they were "of their father the devil" He literally means they are the devil's children. They came forth from the interior of the devil. It is their point of origin. They are of the devil's *sperma*, from the seduction of Eve in the garden by that old serpent, the devil, also known as Satan.

Note also that Christ tells them their father was a murderer from the beginning. Who was the first murderer? It was Cain, of course. And that murder took place in the beginning of this flesh earth age. Indeed, it is recorded in the book of Genesis, which means *the beginning*. Yes, their father was Cain, who was the devil's own son through the seduction of Eve in the garden of Eden. These "Jews" were actually Kenites (i.e., meaning descendants of Cain), and not bloodline members of the tribe of Judah, or even true Israelites.

It is also important to note that, regarding their father the devil, Christ tells these imposters, "When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." You see, just as Satan will soon come to this earth pretending to be God (II Thessalonians 2:1-4), these children of Cain pretend to be "God's chosen," which is to say, they claim to be Jews. As Jesus would later confirm to the beloved St. John in Revelation 2:9 and 3:9, "I know the blasphemy of those who *say they are Jews, but are not and do lie, and are the synagogue of Satan.*" Yes, they are the religious congregation of Satan on this earth.

**Joh 8:45** And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

They don't want to hear the truth. It is completely anathema to them. Unfortunately, over the many centuries since this time, they have been able to substitute enough of their vain traditions into Christian church doctrine, often by pretending to be "converted Jews," that the church now once again believes they are "God's chosen." And in accepting the "Jesus can come at any moment now" doctrine, the church has also set itself up to embrace their father the devil as God when he arrives at the sixth trump, instead of waiting for Christ to arrive at the seventh trump.

As St. Paul tried to strongly to warn Christians, there would be a great deception in the final days of this flesh earth age. Regarding the second advent of Christ, he warned, "*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*"

Yes, here is the church's "any moment now" Jesus. It is the devil, the very father of the children of Cain, who pretend to be Jews "but are not and do lie" as Christ Himself revealed.

As it is further explained in Revelation chapter 12:7-9, Satan will be kicked out of heaven in the final days of this flesh earth age, and will come to this earth with his fallen angels. "*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*"

Indeed, he will come to this earth to deceive the whole world with the lie that he is our God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In short, just as his children pretend to be Jews, and imitate the Jewish people, so Satan and his fallen angels will arrive to this earth in imitation of the second coming of Christ. And already, the whole world has been set up to receive it. This is why Christ stated in the 44<sup>th</sup> above verse, "When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

**Joh 8:46** Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

The word "convinceth" should be translated "convicts." Christ asks, "Which of you can convict me of any sin?" And he asks them, "Why don't you believe me when I tell you the truth?" You see, none of them could find any sin in Christ, for He was indeed that precious, pure and perfect Lamb of God. So when He told them the truth, why didn't they believe him?

**Joh 8:47** He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

They were no more “God’s chosen people” than their father Cain. They could not hear His words, because they were not of God. For those who are watching, once again the word “of” in this verse is the Greek word *ek*, connoting the actual origin of the subject matter. The literal meaning is “out from the interior of.” These so-called Jews were not *of* God, meaning they were not of His planting on this flesh earth. They were of the planting of their father the devil, which we learned about earlier in the parable of the tares. They are the *zewan*, or tares – that poisonous grain that was planted among the wheat.

**Joh 8:48** Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

Ah...the last refuge of true scoundrels is name-calling. Here, the ones possessed with the murderous spirit of their father the devil were claiming that Christ Jesus Himself was possessed by a devil! Even today they use this tactic with relish, claiming that Christians are intolerant, when it is they who are intolerant of Christ and Christianity.

**Joh 8:49** Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

Yes, as Paul described earlier in Hebrews 10:29, these false Jews “trample under foot the Son of God” and “count the blood of the covenant, wherewith He was sanctified, an unholy thing.” Their salvation was standing right in front of them. They could have embraced Him, and He would have embraced them. Just as God told Cain in Genesis 4:7, “*If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*” Yes, the desire of the children of Cain is sin. They could have chosen Jesus, and had their sins forgiven. But instead they chose to rule over the greatest sin of all, in the name of their father the devil. They chose to work against God and His Savior, the Messiah Jesus Christ!

This is why their willingness to follow Christ lasted only until He told them the truth. Then they were gone. They turned against God’s Living Word the very moment it was properly and righteously delivered to them. It offended them. Why? Because God’s Living Word exposed the illusion these false Jews had created through their religious traditions – the illusion that they were “God’s chosen people the Jews” when in reality they were the children of Cain, who was the son of the devil himself. Did they really expect Jesus to go along with their lie, in order to gain a few more followers?

**Joh 8:50** And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

Jesus wasn’t out to seek glory for Himself. They would have followed Him, if He was willing to be their leader without spilling the beans on their little charade, and upsetting their religious power base. But our Lord and Savior had a job to do. He would give His

life for our sins. And He knew that those who hated Him most would ultimately betray Him. And so it would be these false Jews who would later instigate His crucifixion at the hands of the Roman authorities.

**Joh 8:51** Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

Christ says, “Stick with Me, and you will live eternally!”

**Joh 8:52** Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

They were rejecting God’s very Word that He would send a Savior Who would bring light and eternal life to the world...

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined... For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace... Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be no end*, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:2/9:6-7)

Yes, they rejected God’s Word of Life, focusing only upon the death of the flesh.

**Joh 8:53** Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

Again, as soon as He told them the truth... as soon as He said He was the One sent by our heavenly Father to bring eternal life to those who would believe on Him, they rejected Him. “Just who do you think you are?” they ridiculed.

**Joh 8:54** Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

**Joh 8:55** Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

Christ was not looking for the kind of honor that earthly rulers look for. He had come to serve. To give His very life for the sins of mankind. He was keeping God’s Word that a savior would be born, and would live a perfect life, and then willingly give His life for our sins, so that we could live forever in the family household of God.

**Joh 8:56** Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

Here Christ speaks to them spiritually again. He is giving them another opportunity to embrace Him. They had followed Him. Hence, they could rightfully be called children of Abraham. But would they continue with Him? Or would they reject the eternal heritage that comes only from embracing God's Word regarding His only begotten Son?

**Joh 8:57** Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

Of course He had seen Abraham. He was Abraham's very Creator.

**Joh 8:58** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

"I am" connotes the sacred name of God, Yahveh, which means "I am that I am." In other words, He is telling them "I am the Creator." As it is written in John 1:1-3, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*"

**Joh 8:59** Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Very nice people. Tell them the truth, and they will try to kill you. But He disappeared right in front of them, and left the temple. A supernatural act. Why? Because they would have killed Him right then and there – right in the temple -- for speaking the truth. But it was not yet time for His death.

Interesting, isn't it, that this entire conversation between Christ and these children of Cain took place right in the temple? So where did they get the stones? They had them there already, waiting for Him. You see, they had been planning His death for some time.

The bottom line is that the children of Cain control the religious dynasty. And from that high seat they set in place the religious traditions that allow them to set the world up for the return of their father the devil, as it is written in II Thessalonians 2:1-4. And so it is that anything that threatens their control of the religious dynasty is vehemently rejected. This is why Christ would later enter into the very temple with a whip, and drive out the moneychangers. It was one of His last acts before the religious leaders had Him captured and delivered up to Pilate to be crucified.

A little while after the incident we have been studying in the previous verses, Christ returned to the temple, and once again confronted the so-called Jewish religious leaders. And what happened? Let's turn to John chapter 10 and find out...

**Joh 10:23** And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

**Joh 10:24** Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

They surrounded Him, right there in the temple. And this time they planned to pin Him down, and take care of business. They demanded of Him, "If you're the Messiah, then say so plainly!"

**Joh 10:25** Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

He had told them right to their face that He was indeed the One God had promised to send – the Messiah Himself. And they were well aware of all of the miracles He had performed to prove He was the Messiah of God, including the raising of the dead.

But He also told these Jewish religious leaders who *they* were, too. Remember? He told them they were the children of the devil, and that ultimately they would fulfill the devil's lusts by killing Him.

You see, if He would have said, "I'm the Messiah, and YOU are my Chosen People," then perhaps they would have continued to follow Him, rather than rejecting Him. After all, as "God's Chosen," they would rule and reign with Him. But because He is the Living Word of God, He could not lie. He told them the truth. He spoke openly to them of who their father really was. He began to break down the illusion they had cast upon the face of the people with their vain religious traditions. And now they had reason to fear Him. They could see He was not going to go along with their little game. They would not be ruling and reigning with Him, so they chose instead to reject Him and even to kill Him. He was simply too dangerous for them to leave alive.

**Joh 10:26** But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

They were not of His sheep. Yes, He told them they were not even God's children, much less His Chosen People. As Christ had told them earlier, they were of their father the devil.

**Joh 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

God's children hear God's Word. And Jesus *is* the Living Word. There is no other Word but His that can bring salvation.

Jesus is saying that just as sheep in a flock know the voice of their shepherd and will eagerly follow their shepherd whenever he calls out to them, so too God's children know the voice of the True Shepherd, and will eagerly follow His Word. Is He calling you into His truth, even now? Can you hear His voice, which is to say, His Word of Truth?

What's more, Jesus says "My sheep hear my voice, *and I know them...*" In other words, He knows the difference between the true children of the kingdom, and the false ones. He knows the difference between the good wheat, and the false poisonous grain that was planted by the devil. He knows the difference between God's children, and the children of Satan. God's children follow Him, even when His doctrine seems startling. They believe Him, because He is the living embodiment of God's Word, and He knows what He is talking about. But the children of the devil reject Him outright, because the truth He taught would have destroyed their rulership over the people. And rulership is what they want more than anything else, because it is only from their position of religious rulership that they can set things up for the arrival of their father the devil.

**Joh 10:28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Stick with Christ. He is the only One who can give you eternal life. And if you stick with Him, NO ONE can pull you back into the fires of hell. You are safe in His capable hands. Believe Him. Follow His Word. Remain faithful to Him. And He will remain faithful to you eternally. He loves you so much, He gave His life to prove it!

**Joh 10:29** My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

No man – not even that man of sin, the son of perdition, the devil himself – can pluck you out of your Father's hand when you are faithful to God and His Word. You have absolutely nothing to fear. Jesus saves.

**Joh 10:30** I and my Father are one.

Jesus and God are one and the same person. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

**Joh 10:31** Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

Here they were in the temple again, ready with another nice heap of stones waiting to cast at Jesus. They simply despise God's Word. And they will do whatever it takes to prevent the truth from going forth.

How about you? Can you handle the truth? Or does it drive you back to the empty religious traditions of man taught in the churches? For all too many Christians today, it is simply safer and more comfortable to pay homage to the children of the devil – calling the very people who reject Christ's great atoning sacrifice "God's chosen" rather than listening to Christ's Words and marking the enemy for who they really are.

## **Your Enemy Is Those Who Seek To Turn You Away From Your Faith...**

Let's turn for a moment to Acts chapter 13, to look at another characteristic of Christ's enemies, and yours. Here we see St. Paul (known here as Saul) and the disciple Barnabas being sent to a place called Salamis, on the isle of Cyprus, to preach God's Word.

**Act 13:5** And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

This is Mark John, who wrote the Gospel of Mark. Not the apostle John. He has joined with St. Paul (Saul) and Barnabas in Salamis to preach God's Word.

It is interesting that Salamis means "salt." As it is recorded in Matthew 5:11-13, our Lord and Savior stated that sometimes we have to be a little bit salty in order to get our point across, particularly when we are being persecuted by the enemy. We have to boldly stand our ground on behalf of God's Word, and not let the enemy get the upper hand on us. Here we will see an example of this.

**Act 13:6** And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:

Once again, the word "Jew" as used here is *Ioudaios*, meaning "a resident of Judea" (see Strong's G-2453). So this is not necessarily a bloodline member of the tribe of Judah, nor even necessarily one of God's people Israel. Instead, we are speaking here of someone who is merely a resident of Judea, visiting the same area Paul, Barnabas and Mark John were visiting. We will let his *deeds* tell us whether he is one of God's children, or not.

The above verse says he was a sorcerer, from the Greek word *magos*, meaning a Magi (a government or religious official). What's more he was a false prophet, meaning a religious imposter. And he called himself Barjesus, meaning "the son of Jesus," or the "son of Yahveh's Savior." Of course, this is a blasphemous title. And it should bring to mind a recent hit Hollywood movie which claimed that Jesus was not really the son of God, but merely a man who had sired children of His own through Mary Magdalene, and that His descendants are behind much of the world's ills today. Yes, like their forefathers who accused Christ Jesus of being possessed, the false Jews in Hollywood still love to point their fingers of blame at our Lord and Savior, while it is indeed they who continue to spew out their lies and deception through the cinematic filth that contaminates this world today. The men behind the DaVinci Code are the modern-day versions of old Barjesus.

**Act 13:7** Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

Wow. This false prophet was really moving up in the world. As we learned earlier, the false Jews love the seats of religious power. This one was right up there with the deputy of the country. Unfortunately for this false prophet, Paul, Barnabas and Mark John were in town. And his days as “Barjesus” the religious official, were just about numbered, for as a prudent man, the deputy of the country desired to hear the truth of God’s Word for himself.

**Act 13:8** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Elymas means “the wise one” or “the knowing one.” In other words, he called himself “Barjesus, the knowing one.” But note carefully the deeds of this “wise one.” He sought to turn away the deputy of the country from the faith, which is to say, he sought to prevent him from hearing God’s Word and embracing Christianity.

This is one of the chief characteristics of the enemies of Christ. And Christ’s enemies are *your* enemies, because they will seek to prevent you from hearing God’s Word in its fullness and truth, and thereby keep you from fully embracing your faith. How do they do this? They do it by worming their ways into high religious offices where they can make sure empty traditions of man have been substituted for *your consumption* in place of God’s Word. They make sure that what you hear coming from most pulpits on Sunday is so far removed from what the actual Word of God says, that you wouldn’t recognize the Word of God if you heard it.

In short, while they claim to be religious leaders, they are religious imposters. They teach words that sound oh, so very religious. But when you compare their words to what God says, the difference is all too frequently like the difference between night and day. For example, when was the last time you heard one of your local preachers teach Christ’s words about the parable of the tares, showing Christ’s explanation of the parable in regards to the fact that the devil has literal physical children on this earth? Or where those children came from and how they were planted? Or what their chief characteristics are, so you can easily identify them by the actions? Not lately, you say? Then perhaps you should be studying God’s Word for yourself, rather than waiting for your preacher to get around to it. He may be just as ignorant of it as most other Christians.

**Act 13:9** Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

Oh, oh. St. Paul is going to follow Christ’s example, and get a little salty with old Barjesus Elymas! Note that Paul is “filled with the Holy Ghost.” This means his words are coming to him straight from God, through the Holy Spirit. So you can count on them to be absolutely true.

**Act 13:10** And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

St. Paul identifies old Barjesus Elymas as a child of the devil, and an enemy of all righteousness. You see, Paul knew God's Word inside out. He was not a pew potato, like most Christians today who merely listen to preachers all of their lives and never crack open the Good Book for any real length of time to see what it actually says. No sir. Paul studied the Word of God daily. And he knew exactly what the Word of God says about the tares...those children of Satan himself who "say they are Jews, but are not and do lie, and are the synagogue of Satan" (Revelation 2:9/3:9) and who work to pervert the way of the Lord, while pretending all of the while to be "God's chosen."

Paul even used the phrase "full of all subtilty and all mischief"...a direct reference to God's description of the serpent in Genesis 3:1 as being "...more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made."

Indeed, fully interpreting Paul's words from the Greek, what he actually said was, "*O thou thoroughly replete with deceitful bait and with every reckless malignity, thou son of the devil, thou hateful adversary of all righteousness, wilt thou not stop distorting the true road of the Lord?*"

You see, old Barjesus Elymas wanted the power to himself. He was not about to allow the Word of God to be preached openly, in its fullness and truth, to the deputy of the country. Why? *Because it would have exposed him for the religious fraud he was*, just as Christ's Words in John chapter 8 exposed the temple Jews who claimed to be Christ's followers for exactly what *they* really were.

**Act 13:11** And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Spiritually speaking, old Barjesus Elymas had sought to keep the deputy of the country spiritually blind to God's Word of truth by preventing Paul, Barnabas and Mark John from preaching to him. And because of that, God struck that religious imposter with physical blindness, as a lesson.

**Act 13:12** Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Note very carefully that the deputy wasn't astonished at the miracle. He was astonished at the doctrine of the Lord which brought about the miracle. What was that doctrine he had just heard, that astonished him so much? It was the doctrine that Elymas was a child of the devil whose life's works were to pervert the ways of the Lord! Re-read Acts 13:10 above, and you'll see exactly what doctrine so astonished the deputy of the country.

You see, most Christians have no idea what God's Word says about Christ's enemies. If they were to hear it, it would indeed astonish them, too. It would blow their minds. Many have attended church regularly for 20, 30 or even 40 years and have never heard

the doctrine of the Lord taught, regarding Christ's enemies. And for many, if they were to hear it, it would take a miracle for them to accept it, so steeped they have become in the empty traditions of man.

### **God's Direct Orders to Christians About Those Who Reject Christ Jesus as the Once-and-for-All Sacrifice for Sin...**

As we learned earlier in Hebrews chapter 10, St. Paul was very concerned that Christians would allow themselves to be stumbled from the simple faith of Christ.

One of his greatest concerns was that they would be seduced into returning to the perceived comfort of the deceptive religious traditions they had originally been brought up in – religious traditions that made void the Word of God by substituting man's words for God's Word.

This is why he warned so eloquently in Hebrews chapter 10 that to “sin willfully” -- meaning to return to the empty religious traditions after tasting of the fullness of God's Word -- was to turn ones' back on Christ's great atoning sacrifice, and thereby have no means of salvation left for oneself. You cannot return to, and embrace, those who reject Christ's great sacrifice, and simultaneously enjoy the forgiveness of sins purchased by that great sacrifice. This is why St. Paul would later warn in the second book of Corinthians that Christians were not to yoke themselves together with unbelievers, which is to say, with those who reject Christ's great atoning sacrifice. As it is written:

**2Co 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Let's pick this verse apart carefully, word by word:

The word “unbelievers” is from the Greek word *apistos*, meaning “devoid of trust” (Strong's 571 and 4103). It refers to those who do not trust in Christ's great atoning sacrifice. Instead, they claim to have a covenant of deliverance of their own with God, which does not include Jesus Christ.

The word yoked means *to be coupled with*, or *to join together with* (Strong's G-2218). Here, Paul is simply saying that to couple ourselves with those who reject Christ's great atoning sacrifice presents a clear conflict of interest. It is a discordant coupling. They have an overriding interest in rejecting, denigrating and even defeating Christ. And we have an overriding interest in embracing, exalting and standing faithfully with Christ. Therefore, we have no common ground with those who are devoid of trust in Christ's great atoning sacrifice.

The word “fellowship,” as used here, simply means *participation* or *sharing* (Strong's G-3352 and 3348). What participation can we have in the works of those who reject the great atoning sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? The very thought of sharing

or participating in their works is ludicrous – anathema -- for a true Christian. Yet Christians are constantly bombarded with admonitions to support and embrace the very Christ haters that God’s Word says to have nothing to do with.

The word “righteousness,” as used above, means *equitable* or *just* (Strong’s G-1343 and 1342). Unrighteousness, as used above, means *a violation of law* (Strong’s G-459). Paul is saying that you can no more be coupled with those who reject Christ’s great atoning sacrifice, than the just can engage in violations of the law.

**2Co 6:15** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

The word “concord” means *harmonious agreement* (Strong’s G-4857 and 4856). “Belial” means *worthlessness*, and is one of the nicknames of Satan. The word “infidel” means “without Christian faith” (G-571). Paul is saying that just as there is no harmonious agreement between Christ and Satan, Christians likewise cannot be in harmonious agreement with those who reject Christ’s great atoning sacrifice.

Unfortunately, as we grow closer and closer to the end of this flesh earth age, we see Christians being told they must “come together” with the Christ-haters...practice “tolerance” and “interfaith harmony”...and even embrace them as our elders in the faith of God. This is an example of the traditions of man in action. And they are in complete opposition to God’s Word.

**2Co 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The word “agreement” means *to be sentimentally in accord with* (Strong’s G-4783 and 4784).

An idol is a false God. We learned in John 8:44 that the haters of Christ do the lusts of their father the devil. He is their idol. They help carry out His deceptive will, like Elymas the sorcerer, working to prevent Christians from coming to the full knowledge of the truth.

The temple of God is composed of the many-membered body of Christ, which is to say, His church. He dwells in us, and walks in us. And as such, we cannot be in sentimental accord with those who reject, despise and work against Him.

**2Co 6:17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

You cannot get any plainer than that. This is not speaking of some poor old atheist who has been deceived by Darwin’s so-called theory of evolution. Nor is this about some poor old drunk down at the local bar. Or some misguided harlot on a street corner. We

are to witness the Word of God to such as that. Instead, this is speaking solely of those who despise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...who reject His great atoning sacrifice... and who openly work against Him. We are to come out from among them, and be separate. The word “separate” as used above, means *to set a boundary* or *to exclude* (Strong’s G-873). God’s Word has set a boundary between us and them. We are to honor that boundary. We are to be separate. Short of repentance on their part, *we are to exclude them from our support*.

Therefore, we are not to be hornswaggled into embracing and supporting them. The vain traditions of man, as taught in most Christian churches today, would have you believe that to fail to support those who say they are Jews is to be in violation of God’s Word. But God’s Word is crystal clear that those who reject His great atoning sacrifice, and work against him, are to be excluded from our embrace and support.

**2Co 6:18** And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

If you want the Lord God Almighty to be a Father to you...if you want to be considered one of His sons or daughters...you have to be obedient to His commands in this matter. You are to come out from among those who reject His chosen Savior’s redeeming sacrifice, and be separate from them, just as Christ is separate from the devil.

### **Christ’s Enemies Will Persecute You, if You Stand Firmly in the Truth...**

Those who stand firm in God’s Word, and teach truthfully about Christ’s enemies, will certainly be persecuted for it, just as Christ was persecuted for telling the whole, unvarnished truth. This is particularly true of when the antichrist arrives. While the whole world rushes into his embrace, unwittingly believing he is Jesus, we will begin our witness against him and his children. And we will bear effective witness against His enemies, because God has promised to open our mouths in truth, and to shut theirs.

**Joh 15:20** Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

Those who persecuted Christ will persecute you also. It is their job. They do it for their father, the devil.

Likewise, those who have kept Christ’s words, will keep yours also. Why? Because they are your brother and sisters in Christ. If they don’t keep your words, they never had Christ’s in the first place. They were Christians in name only.

**Joh 15:21** But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

Christ's enemies will persecute you, because they don't know the Father. They may even claim to be "God's chosen." But if they hate Christ, they can't possibly be God's chosen, because God's chosen do not work against God's chosen Savior.

As Christ said to the Jews in the temple in John 8:44, "But now ye seek to kill me; a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham." The children of Abraham, through Isaac, are God's chosen people (Romans 9:7). Christ is saying that it was not in Abraham's nature to seek to kill someone who told him the truth. Nor is it in the nature of Abraham's *children* to seek to kill someone who has told them the truth. Therefore, as we learned earlier in this study, these fakes were not God's chosen at all. They were not Abraham's children. They murderously sought to choke off the Word of God, rejecting Christ's atoning sacrifice, and looking for every opportunity to kill Him.

And they seek to choke off God's Word regarding Christ's atoning sacrifice even *today*, while still proclaiming themselves to be "God's chosen" and "Abraham's children." Don't be fooled, beloved.

**Joh 15:22** If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

He told them the truth. And He offered them salvation. But they rejected His salvation, so they could continue on in the sin. Now they have no covering for their sin. They are on their own. Be careful not to be found yoked together with them.

**Joh 15:23** He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

That's the bottom line. You cannot simultaneously reject Christ's great atoning sacrifice and say that you love God. It is no more possible than for light and darkness to walk hand-in-hand together. If you reject God's Messiah, you are rejecting God (Isaiah 9:6).

**Joh 15:25** But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

Here Christ is quoting from Psalm 35:19-28, where King David is asking for God's help against his enemies. It is a good Psalm of prayer to know and understand, for Christ quoted from this Psalm because the same enemies that persecuted king David, later persecuted Him. And now persecute us.

They had no cause to persecute David. But the knowledge that the true Messiah would come through David's lineage caused the enemy to persecute David unmercifully. They knew if they could make David fail, perhaps they could derail the coming of the Messiah. But David prevailed, and they failed, because God keeps His promises to those who are faithful to Him.

**Joh 15:26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

**Joh 15:27** And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

You are going to teach, beloved. Your heavenly Father is going to speak through your lips when you are delivered up to His enemies, to those trials described in Mark 13:11 when the antichrist is on this earth. You are going to set the proper example for His children of how to stand in faith without wavering or faltering.

And don't ever worry that you are not good enough. If you are sincerely making the effort to stay in His Word each day, He will do the rest. As it is written in the great book of Psalms:

**Psa 8:2** Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

God is going to open your mouth, and shut theirs. The enemy and the avenger -- which is to say Satan and his children -- are going down. And God is going to make it happen by opening the mouths of His faithful servants during those trials spoken of in Mark 13:11. We will put the enemy under Christ's feet, which is to say, we will subject them to God's Word. And Jesus *is* the Living Word.

### **Christ's Enemies and the Great Deception of His Children...**

Because God's children have not been properly taught who God's enemies are, they are ripe for deception. The enemy takes them in so easily, and it causes our heavenly Father great displeasure, because this deception results in the spiritual destruction of His children. They are seduced to the side of the enemy. Yet they will not turn from the vain traditions of man they so unwittingly follow, and embrace the truth of His Word instead. They love playing church more than they love God's Word.

As it is written in Hosea 4:6, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."*

In other words, God's children are simply not fit for service in His ranks, because they have been spoiled by the deception cast upon them by Christ's enemies. They no longer have the knowledge of the truth, because they prefer listening to empty traditions taught in church far more than they like hearing God's Word of truth taught correctly.

Let's go to the great book of Isaiah to see what our heavenly Father has to say about this sad situation...

**Isa 59:15** Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.

The truth of God's Word is basically no longer taught in the churches. The churches are too afraid of offending God's enemies -- those who hate Jesus Christ without a cause -- to teach the truth any longer. Instead, they feed their congregations baby food -- mere traditions of man dressed up as religion. And anyone who departs from this evil becomes the target of ridicule. The churches turn against you, calling you all kinds of vile names, and casting aspersions against you, if you turn away from their vain traditions and embrace the full-on truth of God's Word instead.

Why? Because otherwise they would have to embrace the truth too, and take a stand against God's enemies. They would have to risk losing their stature. They would have to risk being labeled "intolerant." They would have to risk losing large numbers of their congregations, who would rebel upon hearing the truth taught forthrightly.

So you see, the religious leaders don't really trust God, do they? They trust in their churches. Which is to say, they trust in *churchianity*, not Christianity. In Christianity, Christ has enemies, and His faithful children are supposed to be trained up in His Word so they can stand firmly against those enemies, setting the example for the rest of the world to follow. They are to learn how to help make Christ's enemies His footstool, by subjecting them to the Word of God. Jesus *is* the Living Word.

But to the leaders of churchianity, Christ has no real enemies to speak of, except maybe some poor old deceived atheist over at the local college. Or some poor old drunk down at the local bar. Everything else is just love, love, love. But it is phony. If they truly loved Jesus, they would take a stand against His enemies by teaching who they are, and what God's Word has to say about them.

**Isa 59:16** And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

In the end, God sees that there is no one left to stand firm against the enemy. The church has fallen into the clutches of the enemy, even doing the work of the enemy by teaching the "Jesus can come at any moment now" doctrine, and thereby leading their congregations to accept the first supernatural being who sets foot on this earth claiming to be Jesus, when in reality it is the antichrist himself. But our heavenly Father is going to intervene mightily. He has had enough of this nonsense.

**Isa 59:17** For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

The enemy -- the haters of Christ Jesus, who persecuted Him at His first advent and now persecute His faithful elect in the days leading up to His second advent -- are going to be destroyed. Our heavenly Father's vengeance will be swift and furious. Make sure you are on the right side, beloved. The time is growing short.

**Isa 59:18** According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence.

Once things reach this point, there is no turning back. Our heavenly Father has had it with the enemy. It is time for payback (i.e., recompense). And it is going to be harsh on those who are found on the wrong side of the line. They reject Christ's great atoning sacrifice, and work against it. And frankly, there is going to be hell to pay, so to speak. There will be no stone left unturned. From the major countries, all of the way to the little tiny islands, God's furious anger at His enemies will be felt.

**Isa 59:19** So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

This refers to the advent of the false Christ, spoken of in Revelation chapter 12, when Michael the archangel is given the go-ahead to kick Satan and his fallen angels out of heaven, to this earth. And when he arrives, Satan and company unleash a flood of sweet lies unlike anything the world has ever seen, in an attempt to lure the bride of Christ into bowing to him instead of waiting for the arrival of the true Christ, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As it is written in Rev 12:15, "*And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.*" This is the final persecution of God's faithful saints, by His chief enemy. But it won't last long! Our heavenly Father will lift up a standard against them, which means He will bring about Christ's second advent. He will send Jesus Christ Almighty, His Redeemer, to the rescue!

**Isa 59:20** And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

Are you one of those who "turn from transgression in Jacob"? This refers to God's People of these end days -- meaning the true body Christ -- who have turned away from the falsehoods and vain traditions of man being taught in the churches, and have embraced God's Word for what it actually says. Our heavenly Father is not going to leave them easy pickings for the enemy. Though the whole world turns against them, He will come to their rescue, for they will stand firm even unto the very end. As it is written in Mark 13:13, "*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*"

**Isa 59:21** As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

A covenant is a legal contract. This is your heavenly Father's legal contract with you. You stick faithfully with Him, and He will put His Holy Spirit of truth upon you, and His Words in your mouth, and they shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of your children's mouths, nor out of your grandchildren's mouths, forever. It is an amazing reward for your faithfulness. He will save your family, in the end. And He will never leave you, nor forsake you. His Word will always be with you. You can count on it. For it is written in His contract, and His contract is His Word. How familiar are you with it, dear one? If you are not that familiar with it, how can you claim the clauses therein that pertain to you? Perhaps you are spending so much time playing religion that you have not had time to become intimately familiar with your Father's contract with you? You can't lay claim to promises you do not even know about.

### **God Takes Care of Those Who Stand Faithfully By His Word in the Face of the Persecution...**

Sometimes your enemies will be they of your own household. Not necessarily because they are evil. But because they are so steeped in the traditions of man, that what you are teaching about God's enemies is completely foreign to them. And your message is therefore offensive to them, even though it is straight from God's Word.

You see, God's children prefer happy messages of deliverance. And when you go telling them that they are unwittingly being taken captive by the enemies of Christ, they don't want to hear it. They don't even want to know there is such an enemy. It just doesn't fit in with the empty traditions they are being taught in church. This is why many Christians have placed the rapture theory as the centerpiece of their doctrine. It gives them an escape. "If there's an enemy, we won't be here to see it," they say. Yet it is not Biblical. God's children are going to go into captivity to the enemy (i.e., Satan, in his role as the false messiah, or false Christ) and *his* children (the descendants of Cain who "say they are Jews, but are not, and do lie -- Rev. 2:9/3:9). Why? Because God's Christian people do not listen to their Father's Word any longer. They prefer the vain traditions of man as a substitute for God's Word.

Let's turn to the great book of Jeremiah, to see how, in the days of Jeremiah the prophet, God's people only wanted to hear messages of deliverance too. We will see that when Jeremiah, under God's direction, began prophesying that the king of Babylon was coming to carry them all away captive because they had turned their back on God's Word, *his own people turned against him*, and became his foes. As Christ stated in Mat 10:36, "And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."

**Jer 15:11** The LORD said, Verily it shall be well with thy remnant; verily I will cause the enemy to entreat thee well in the time of evil and in the time of affliction.

Hey...that's part of God's contract with His faithful servants! The word "verily" means truly. God is saying that truly, He will cause the enemy to treat you well during the time of the great deception. You don't have anything to worry about. If you are faithful to Him, He will be faithful to His Word, and will make sure the enemy treats you right.

Of course, when the antichrist arrives you'll be delivered up to those trials mentioned in Mark 13:9-11 for teaching the truth. But remember, the antichrist is going to be trying to win you over to his side. Not draw and quarter you. He will treat you well, alright. But don't fall for his wiles. Let him play little "Jesus" boy, for it is his final act. And then he is going down for the count. All you have to do is stand firm in your heavenly Father's Word, and let the Holy Spirit speak through you at those trials. As God has promised us in Luke chapter 21, He is going to put the words in our mouths.

We don't even have to worry about what to say in our own defense. As it is written in Luke 21:12-15, *"But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."* We have the victory, because our heavenly Father gives it to us!

**Jer 15:12** Shall iron break the northern iron and the steel?

God is asking, "Is there anything on earth that can disannul my Word on this matter?" Of course, the answer is no. God's will be done. If you are familiar with the contract, you will be well taken care of.

**Jer 15:13** Thy substance and thy treasures will I give to the spoil without price, and that for all thy sins, even in all thy borders.

Prophetically speaking, this means God is going to allow antichrist to come in and take over the whole ball of wax. People will believe he is Jesus. And so they will give him complete control of the entire world and all of its wealth. But as St. Paul warned in II Thessalonians 2:1-4, he is the false Christ, that son of perdition who loves to play God.

Yes, God is going to allow this to happen, because His children have turned their backs on His Word. They don't study it at all anymore. They simply play church on weekends. He is going to teach them the lesson of their lives – i.e., that without His Word of truth firmly embedded into their minds, they would bow to the devil himself thinking it is Jesus, and to the devil's children, thinking they are "God's chosen."

**Jer 15:14** And I will make thee to pass with thine enemies into a land which thou knowest not: for a fire is kindled in mine anger, which shall burn upon you.

And so it is happening, even today. Our Father is angry at His children for turning their backs on His Word, to the point that when they hear it properly taught, it is actually foreign to them. They prefer instead the vain traditions of man taught in the churches.

Hence, we now see the New World Order forming, and the nations of the world giving up their independence and sovereignty, one by one, to join in. Never before in world history has such a One-World unification been attempted on such a grand scale. God's people are going into captivity to one-worldism. And it is taking place now, so that the "any moment now Jesus" -- the antichrist -- can arrive to Jerusalem in imitation of Christ Jesus, to rule this one-world kingdom that is now rapidly being formed, but will soon suffer a deadly wound. As the verse above says, we are passing with our enemies into a land which we know not, because we have never experienced one-worldism like this before.

Of course, this is part and parcel of God's great plan to correct His wayward children. As our heavenly Father says to His faithful servants in Zephaniah 3:8, "*Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: **for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.***"

Yes, God is sending His children into captivity, to teach them a huge lesson. He is allowing His enemies to rise up very high, and take over, so they can usher in their father the devil. Then, He is going to pour upon them His mighty indignation, even all of His fierce anger. He will put an end to it, once and for all, so that His children will know that He is the living God, and that He is in charge.

**Jer 15:15** O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke.

If you are learning and teaching the God's Word of truth, you will have persecutors, and you will suffer a little rebuke. They will call you every name in the book, because what you are teaching is so foreign to them. It is outside of their understanding, because they are so steeped in the empty religious traditions they have been brought up in. Because of this, they will make up lies about you.

As it is written in Psalm 35:21, "*Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it,*" meaning they will even give false witness against you, claiming they saw you transgress against God's law. But as did Jeremiah, and as did David before him, you have only to call out to God for help. He has promised to cause the enemy to treat you well. He will intervene on your behalf.

**Jer 15:16** Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

If you are one who regularly partakes of your heavenly Father's Word of truth, you know the same joy Jeremiah knew. Your heart rejoices too, at His Word. For once you understand His great plan to save His children from the enemy, nothing else really matters. It becomes your focal point in life. It gives you a purpose and a destiny!

**Jer 15:17** I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation.

The "assembly of the mockers" means the councils of those who deride God's Word, and who make a mockery of the truth. This includes those who hate our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for they reject God's Word of truth on the matter of Christ's great atoning sacrifice. And it includes those ignorant Christians who unwittingly align themselves with the enemy, thinking they are "God's chosen," and then mock God's faithful servants for carrying forth His Word of truth. It even includes those churches who make a mockery of God's Word by teaching the empty traditions of man, such as the "Jesus can come at any moment now" doctrine, thus setting up their congregations to embrace as their Lord and Savior the first supernatural being who sets foot on this earth claiming to be Jesus.

Here Jeremiah is saying he refused to take part in these things, though the rest of the people did. He sat alone, in righteous indignation at the way God's children were being deceived, and in the way they were treating him because they did not want to hear the message he carried about God's enemies. But don't ever feel alone, dear one. Your heavenly Father is with you. And you and He make a majority. So stay in His Word every day, and refresh your spirit in His Word. Fellowship with Him in His Word. That always dispels the loneliness. It gives you strength and courage.

**Jer 15:18** Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?

Jeremiah was dog-tired and depressed. He was asking, "God, are you going to make a liar out of me?"

You see, for 20-some years he had prophesied that God's children were going into captivity to the king of Babylon. And God's People ignored the message, and even persecuted Jeremiah for preaching it. They preferred the message of deliverance. But the problem is, you can't have deliverance from God, if you are not walking faithfully *with* God. If you are ignoring God's Word of truth so you can "play religion" and pass along vain traditions to each other which have no basis in God's Word, then the negative part of God's plan sooner or later kicks in. Sooner or later, the captivity becomes a reality. In Jeremiah's time it was *physical* captivity to the king of Babylon that finally came about.

In our time, it will be *spiritual* captivity to the end days' king of Babylon, which is to say, the antichrist himself.

You see, like the Christian church today, the people of Israel most definitely preferred the vain religious traditions of their religious leaders to the truth of God's Word. So Jeremiah stood firmly against the religious leaders and their congregations -- alone -- preferring to stick faithfully with God's Word rather than to ease his loneliness by abandoning the truth in order to embrace the temporal pleasures of fellowship with the religious multitudes.

It took 23 years for the king of Babylon to arrive, from the day Jeremiah started delivering God's message to Israel, to the day the Babylonian army appeared on the scene and began the siege of Jerusalem. And so it is once again today, that while God's elect work to tell the Christian world they will soon enter into captivity to the antichrist himself, time seems to drag on. But don't let it get you down. It is coming faster than you think. As you can already see Mystery, Babylon the Great – the New World Order of these end days – is moving faster and faster into fruition as the world falls further and further under the spell of one-worldism.

What did our heavenly Father have to say about Jeremiah's complaint?

**Jer 15:19** Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.

God is telling Jeremiah to get up off of his pity pot and return to work. Teach the truth. It will come to pass exactly as God has stated, in God's perfect timing. And if in that time the people return to God's Word in faith and in love of the truth, then he will heal and forgive them. But don't count on that happening. As it was in Jeremiah's time, where he was held up as a laughing stock for preaching the truth about the coming enemy, so again it is once again in our time. The people don't want to hear it. They want to hear messages about how they will be "raptured out" before antichrist gets here. But it simply will not happen. It is not written.

God further tells Jeremiah that he is to separate the truth from the lies (i.e., "take forth the precious from the vile") and that if he faithfully does so, he will continue to be God's spoken representative to the people. And so it is even today, as God's Word through Jeremiah continues to come forth through His elect, bringing light and understanding to those who will hear them with understanding.

Finally, God tells Jeremiah that he is to wait for the people to willingly return to him, but he is not to return to them. In other words, if they want to follow the truth, they can come to him. But he is to remain separate from them, as long as they prefer to reject the truth in order to "play church."

**Jer 15:20** And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

If you stick with God's truth, and do things His way, He will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). And the naysayers will not prevail against you. But you must stand firmly in His Word without fear, no matter how long it takes to come to pass. Some of God's faithful servants have been teaching about the coming worldwide captivity to antichrist for many years now. God Himself holds them up, and strengthens them. As long as you stay in His Word, He will be there for *you*, too, when He is most needed. He will strengthen you through His Holy Spirit, and you will be "like a fenced brasen wall" against the naysayers, meaning that He will totally fortify you with His truth. You will be able to kick dragon with the best of them. You can count on it.

**Jer 15:21** And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.

He will save you from His enemies. While they will not have deliverance, you will. His Word of deliverance comes to pass for those who are obedient to it.

As it is written in Hosea 8:3, "*Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him.*"

So today the church has cast off the thing that is good -- which is to say God's Word of truth -- in order to devise a religion based not on God's Word but instead of empty traditions of men. And so it is that "...the enemy shall pursue them." The antichrist will arrive to this earth, when everyone is expecting Jesus. And they will bow to him, unwittingly believing he is Jesus, and they will be taken into spiritual captivity by him, exactly as it is written. Deliverance will be for those who remain faithful and obedient in the face of persecution at that time, not for the disobedient.

As we have seen, it is written in the great book of Mark chapter 13, "*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*" Endure in His Word. It is the Word of God that saves. Not playing religion.

### **The Ultimate Demise of Christ's Enemies...**

The good news is that Christ's enemies will not prevail. While it is true they will take God's Christian people into captivity, they will go down for the count in the end. That's because our Lord and Savior loves God's children, and seeks to save them from the wiles of the enemy. At His second advent, the enemy will get what they deserve.

**Rev 20:1** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

**Rev 20:2** And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

This takes place directly after Christ's second advent. Satan is put into chains, and locked up. He will not have the ability to deceive God's children for the entire millennial teaching period.

That's why it is written in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of the great book of Isaiah that when our heavenly Father has Satan thrown in the pit, the people of the world will look at him in astonishment and say, "*Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?*"

You see, through his great power of deception Satan will spiritually destroy the world. But at Christ's arrival, he is cast into the pit like so much excess baggage. And the people will be amazed that the one they accepted as their messiah in place of Jesus Christ is now in such a weak and pathetic state.

The bottom line is that our heavenly Father is going to make sure that everyone -- even the Kenites, the very children of the enemy -- understand His Word completely, without any interference from Satan. Hence Satan will be bound for those thousand years.

**Rev 20:3** And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

At the end of the one thousand years of teaching, God is going to release Satan for "a little season." You see, our heavenly Father is going to test His wayward children at that point. Will they return to "playing church" with Satan when he is released? Or will they stick with God's Word of truth, and reject the imposter once and for all?

Let's jump down to verse 7...

**Rev 20:7** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

**Rev 20:8** And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Here's the test: After one thousand years of teaching, God's wayward children are going to be exposed to Satan and his lies one last time. They will have a choice to make. They can either willingly and sincerely embrace the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Or they can take a stand with their "any moment now Jesus" and continue to play church with God's enemy. You see, Satan gives the people what they *want*, for the here and now.

But God gives them what they *need* in order to live eternally. And now they have to choose between the two.

**Rev 20:9** And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Satan and his followers try to take the holy city back from God and His faithful saints. Satan is obviously convinced that he is the rightful heir to the throne. He wants to take Jesus' seat of power and authority over the family household of God. That is the final straw, for our heavenly Father. Anyone who, after one thousand years of teaching, still prefers to take a stand with Christ's enemies instead of with Christ Himself, deserves to die. They will not be able to enter into the eternal family household of God, with His saints. They will be destroyed by fire, instantaneously.

**Rev 20:10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

This is a euphemism that means there is no way to reverse these deaths. Though the devil sought to take God's place, he cannot rise from the dead, as Christ Jesus did. He does not have the power to give himself eternal life. His death in the lake of fire is as irreversible. It is an eternal torment, in that there is not a thing he can do about it. He is gone for good.

**Rev 20:11** And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

This flesh earth age will be gone for good after the millennium. At that time there will be a new (i.e., "rejuvenated") heaven and a new (i.e., rejuvenated earth). This present earth and heaven age will be over for good.

As it is written in Rev 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Yes, there will be no more sea. Even the lake of fire, and everything in it, will be gone. Our heavenly Father is going to do away with everything that can bring sorrow, and start over fresh with His faithful saints. At that point we enter into the eternity with Him.

**Rev 20:12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

As St. James said, your works are what follow you into heaven. Works are nothing more than your faith, in action. God expects you to take a faithful stand for His Savior, Jesus Christ. As it is written in James 2:14, "*What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man*

*say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"* Faith saves, but only when it is translated into action.

As St. James would say in Jam 1:22, "But be ye *doers* of the word, and not *hearers* only, deceiving your own selves." If you have heard the Word of God, and understand who His enemies are, then you had better be prepared to take a firm stand against them. The time is coming soon when you will have to teach others the truth. Or at least stand in support of those who do.

If you have stood firmly in faith for His Word, rejecting the vain traditions of man in spite of the persecutions that may come your way for doing so, you will find yourself written in the book of life. Otherwise, you will be judged from one of the other books mentioned in the verse above.

**Rev 20:13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

That's twice for emphasis. It is your faithful works on His behalf that you will be judged by. Make sure you have some.

**Rev 20:14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The final enemy is death and hell. As St. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:22-26, "*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*"

And so it is that all enemies will be subdued under Christ's feet. And even death itself will be destroyed. And eternal life will reign, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

**Rev 20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

That's it. If they prefer to continue playing church with those who reject Christ's great atoning sacrifice, they are goners. God has promised us that there will be no more disruption, no more confusion, and no more enemy at all in His eternal family household. His faithful children will enjoy the peace and security of His family household forever.

**Salvation for Christ's Enemies?  
Indeed...But Only If...**

There are many other places in the Scripture that we can go to study and learn about Christ's enemies. I have included a short list below, which you may want to follow up on, on your own. For now, let it be sufficient to end this study with a powerful lesson on God's great mercy, even to the enemy. Let's turn to Psalm 68...

**Psa 68:1** <To the chief Musician, A Psalm *or* Song of David.> Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.

And they will. As it is written in Revelation 6:16, they will be so afraid they will cry for the rocks to fall on them: "*And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.*"

**Psa 68:2** As smoke is driven away, *so* drive *them* away: as wax melteth before the fire, *so* let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

In the end, after the millennium teaching period has finished, when Satan is released from the pit for that short period of time, those who want to follow him into the lake of fire will be allowed to (Revelation 20:7-15). And they will perish forever, like smoke being driven away by a stiff breeze. But they will go to their end with full knowledge. God will not let anyone burn without having first having had the opportunity to understand the full truth, and to repent. He loves all of His children. Even those the enemy planted in this flesh earth age.

**Psa 68:3** But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

We will rejoice that it is over, and that we can now move in to the eternal family household of God with no more disruption from the enemy. God promised us perfect peace. And when the enemy is gone, we will have that peace.

Let's skip on down to verse 18...

**Psa 68:18** Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.

To "lead captivity captive" means to end the spiritual captivity of His children forever. We will even be free from the captivity of these flesh bodies, and most importantly of all from the captive hold of death itself.

The word "received" in this verse should be properly translated "reserved." And the word "gifts" should read *a sacrificial offering* (Strong's H-4979). Therefore, this verse actually reads, "thou has *reserved a sacrificial offering* for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them."

In other words, He wants to save the rebellious, too. God takes no pleasure in the deaths of any of His children (Ezekiel 18:32) – not even those Satan planted here through the seduction of Eve in the garden. He seeks their return to Him, instead. And the same wonderful gift of salvation that is open to us through Christ’s atoning sacrifice is offered equally to the enemy as well. They too can be part of God’s eternal family household, if they will but repent of their sinful ways, and sincerely embrace the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**Psa 68:19** Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, *even* the God of our salvation. Selah.

Selah means “pause for a moment, and contemplate what has just been said.” His salvation is awesome. He loads us with the many wonderful benefits of His forgiveness every single day. And although Satan has been irrevocably condemned to death (Ezekiel 28:18-19), even those who served in the enemy camp will have the opportunity to repent of their evil ways, and be covered under Christ’s great atoning sacrifice!

Psa 68:20 He that is our God *is* the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death.

God is in complete control. No one dies without His permission.

**Psa 68:21** But God shall wound the head of his enemies, *and* the hairy scalp of such an one as goeth on still in his trespasses.

The word “wound” means *to crush violently* (Strong’s H-4272). And the word “enemies” means *to hate* or *to be actively hostile towards* (Strong’s H-341 and 340).

The gift of salvation has been reserved for all of His children. Even the rebellious enemy will receive one final offer to accept it, during the millennium teaching period. But after the millennium is over, when Satan is loosed from the pit for that short time, any of the enemy who choose to continue on in their trespasses by following Satan and thereby continuing to reject Christ’s great atoning sacrifice, will be done away with for good. And that is God’s final word on the matter.

Additional passages of Scripture to follow up on, on your own:

- Is. 14:12-22 (with emphasis on vs. 13 & 14) -- what makes Satan God's enemy
- 1 Corinthians 15:26 – the last enemy is death
- Hebrews 2:14 -- Satan had the power of death; in short, he is death
- Luke 10:19 – through Christ Jesus, we have complete power over the enemy

- James 4:7 -- the devil prefers easy pickings; resist him in Christ and he will flee from you
- 2 Th. 3:15 – understanding the difference between an enemy and a wayward brother
- Ps. 37 – the demise of the enemy, and how we are to handle things when we see the enemy rising in great power.
- Ephesians ch. 6 -- how we are to take our firm stand against the enemy
- Deuteronomy 32:36-43 – the enemy is going to be defeated by God, and God will judge His people; those who are found unwittingly cavorting with the enemy will learn who the true God is at that time.

-- End --

You can sign up to receive Steve's periodic "News & Current Events from a Bible Perspective" email commentaries, and gain instant access to Steve's other in-depth Bible studies, at [www.HaveYeNotRead.com](http://www.HaveYeNotRead.com)

© Copyright 2006. [Have Ye Not Read?](http://www.HaveYeNotRead.com) an independent Christian Bible study ministry unaffiliated with any church or denomination.