

Part 1 – When to Flee and How to Fight

In chapter 10, part 1, we learned how the wicked persecute those who are ‘poor’ by man’s standards because they are unable to defend themselves legally; those who don’t have the financial means, or social influences, to be able to stop the wicked from persecuting them. This usually happens when the government becomes corrupted and those in powerful positions (both in the government and in all aspects of society) are too proud, covetous and selfish to have compassion on others. And we also learned, again, of the ‘common theme’ the Bible promises - that the wicked will *not* get away with their wickedness *forever* but will be ensnared by the own wicked devices they have imagined (and are working to carry out) against others. Though they rejoice (celebrate) in the temporary riches they gain on earth for their wickedness, they cannot take these things with them when they die. And, when Jesus Christ returns, all that they have sold their soul to the devil for will also be gone in ‘one hour’ as Jesus tears down their wicked ‘city’ that controls the world. And, through their pride and covetous they show how much they abhor God Almighty (YHVH) and His righteous Laws, which in turn makes Him abhor them. That’s why they will not forever prevail against the righteous who love and serve Jesus Christ.

In part 2 we learned that the thoughts of the wicked are devoid of God’s Laws. He’s not in *any* of their thoughts, let alone all of them. And this is because their foolish pride blinds them into thinking they don’t need His advice. This is why their ways are always grievous and their judgments are so perverted. That’s also why they stoop to doing such horribly wicked things that most of us can’t believe anyone would be that wicked to do. But the truth is, there are (sadly) people on earth who do extremely wicked things. There are people who enjoy raping and murdering children, who love to oppress and extort others, who love to work on making a world wide government that will enslave all humanity (to them, of course). And we must understand, and remember this, so we are not fooled by their lies, for the wicked *never* (ever) claim they are wicked. No, they always claim they are righteous and the things they do are ‘for our good’. Lies, lies and more lies. As the saying goes: you know how a politician is lying don’t you? It’s when their lips are moving! Well, this is applicable to more than just politicians, sadly. And so, while the wicked claim to love humanity, and that they are working to help all us ‘little people’, they are in reality working to enslave us all (physically *and* spiritually). Instead of caring for us (as they claim) they truly despise us – insomuch they are doing all they can to keep God’s truth from people, because *they know* that is the one thing they cannot fight against – truth. And if God’s truth was in the hearts and mind of a majority of the people, the wicked would have absolutely no chance of fulfilling their wicked and ‘vain’ thoughts and desires. So, if we don’t want to be wicked (and reap the subsequent punishments they will receive) we must learn to *stop thinking like them* and put on (through consistent study of God’s Word) the mind of Jesus Christ, for His thoughts are so far above the thoughts of the wicked (as heaven is higher than the earth) that, the only way we can be a part of His body (the Body of Christ) is to put on His ‘mind’ (mindset) by studying His Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in our daily life.

In part 3 we learned more about the method of operations of the wicked as well as how they think. And, they really do not think that God Almighty (YHVH) will hold them accountable for

their evil actions; that's why they don't fear to do evil. They really don't think that anything 'bad' will come from their wickedness because they have blinded their hearts through believing in lies. That's why their mouths are full of cursings (calling for evil to come on the righteous) and deceit and fraud. There's always mischief and vanity (emptiness) 'under their tongues', meaning in their thoughts. And they look for secret ways to deceive, harm, oppress and extort (steal from) all people, especially those who love our Heavenly Father (and His Son, Jesus Christ). Sadly, much of the 'secret' ways they do this is through religion itself, for Satan's favorite place to 'work' is by infiltrating Churches. They strive to keep people Biblically illiterate so they are spiritually disarmed of the Gospel armor and are thus unable to fight back. In short, they think their wealth and power in this fleshly realm gives them immunity for their wickedness, but they are truly deceived - for there really is a Supreme and Sovereign God over all (because He had created the earth, heaven and all that is therein) who will hold them accountable for their actions. Thus, we continue to see the 'common theme' of the Bible: that the wicked will be punished for their wickedness and their own wicked ways, and words, will be poured out upon their own heads. Sometimes this happens even now, but it will also happen when Jesus Christ returns to pour out God's wrath upon those who hate Him and persecute the Body of Christ. So, we know that the wicked will not forever go unpunished, and that's a promise we *must* remember so we continue to 'keep up the good fight' spiritually and strive to share the Gospel of Christ with those who are willing to hear it.

In part 4 we learned more about the ways of the wicked and how they think. They lure people into a 'net' of deception with lies, of course. But they do so *very subtly*. Sometimes they claim to be a 'victim', only for the purpose of gaining more power. And sometimes they claim to be 'humble servants' of the common people who only want to 'help' humanity. But, these tactics are simply a coke for their true intentions (to overthrow society, and governments, to bring in their wicked worldwide government) and we should be careful not to fall for their deceptive lies. We'll now move on to learn of David's 'call' for God to 'take action' on the wicked ones, especially THE wicked one (Satan), who is the instigator of *all* rebellion *and* evil in the world.

In part 5 we learned how the wicked are so foolish they don't think they need our Heavenly Father and even condemn His righteous ways as though they were unjust. And they don't even think that He will hold them accountable for their wickedness; yet, they are sadly mistaken. For, indeed, our Heavenly Father is the one and only true God who is the Supreme, and Sovereign, ruler of all the earth, as well as heaven. And He therefore does see all that goes on and will render 'judgment' to everyone for all we've done in our life, be it good or bad. And while the wicked rage and plot against Him (and His faithful followers), those who love Him, commit their lives to Him and will trust in His promises to save them from the wicked. Which He will do even now, but all wickedness *will* be put to and end when Jesus Christ returns, to this earth, to take over and rule with His faithful followers. That is why He alone is the King of kings forever. We also learned how He (through Jesus' intercession by the Holy Spirit) prepares the hearts of those who love and serve Him by helping them turn their heart 'upright' (back to Him) so they can indeed serve Him faithfully and be productive servants (John 15). And these are the people who will be allowed to rule (over the wicked and 'workers of iniquity) during the Millennium; yea,

even into eternity. So, thankfully, when Jesus Christ returns, the ‘man of the earth’ (even Satan himself) will never be allowed to oppress anyone ever again. And these grand promises of God are what should both comfort us and give us spiritual strength in times of trouble.

We now move on to another delightful Psalm which is another prayer (Psalm) of David and it is ‘in view of Psalms 9 and 10’ – the chapters we’ve just covered. This means, after David wrote those two Psalms (which are truly one), he then wrote this Psalm after thinking deeply about the conclusion of what those two Psalms said. So, let’s get to it...

Psalm 11

1 Psalm of David.

In the LORD put I my trust: How say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?

This Psalm was obviously written at a time when David was being encouraged to go ‘on the run’. It could have been when he was fleeing from Saul, or (more likely) perhaps when his son Absalom, and nearly all of Israel, rebelled against him (1 Sam 15-18). However, we’re not given any information about the timeline here (as we were in Ps 3), so we can only guess. Whatever the case, David did not agree with his advisors about fleeing and his reasoning was because he truly trusted in God Almighty (YHVH). However, if it was concerning the rebellion of Absalom, David’s advisors did eventually get him to flee Jerusalem, which was probably the right thing to do in that situation, for as 2 Samuel 15 tells us...

13 And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

14 And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

2 Sam 15:13-14

David was worried about civil war in the city, as well as (not only his life but also) the safety of his family and all those (the few left) who were loyal to him. So, although fleeing went ‘against his grain’ (for he was a mighty warrior) he decided to indeed flee into the mountain next to Jerusalem (Mount of Olives, 2 Sam 15:30) during Absalom’s rebellion and they even had to flee further than that. So, this could very well be why he said ‘*How say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain*’. Now, it is significant that David used God’s Sacred Name here. The word ‘LORD’ in all caps is *Yehovah* (#3068), which means: (the) *self-Existent or Eternal*. The reason it is significant is because Yehovah (of which YHVH is the etymology) is God’s ‘covenant Name’ with Israel. And, that covenant was based upon whether or not Israel would obey His Commandments or not. In Deut 28, and Lev 26, God gave Israel a list of blessings they would receive for obeying His Laws and a list of cursing’s they would receive for disobeying His laws. His Laws include, not only the Ten Commandments, but also the Statutes, Judgments and Ordinances. Since Jesus Christ has died for us, all the Ordinances and any Statutes which pertain to the blood sacrifices have *all* been done away with *forever* (Heb 10:10) because the atoning

blood of Jesus Christ replaces them (Eph 2:14, Col 2:15). However, the Ten Commandments (which govern individual conduct), Statutes (laws of national administration – the ones *not* pertaining to blood sacrifices) and Judgments (which are to be used in the courts) are still to be obeyed, as Jesus confirmed in His teachings (Mth 5:17-48 for example). Therefore, the cursings and blessings still apply to us *today*. Therefore, we should understand that ‘fleeing’ is a part of the cursing’s. For example...

*And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and **ye shall flee** when none pursueth you.*
Lev 26:17

*And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and **they shall flee**, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth.*
Lev 26:36

So, we can see why David was reluctant to flee. He truly trusted in YHVH and knew He is always true to His Word to provide protection for those who love and obey Him (as Psalms like 37 and 91 so beautifully declare). However, just as there was a time for David to flee, there is also a time that Jesus has warned us to flee - and that is pertaining to the ‘latter days’ when the false Christ (Satan) will be kicked out of heaven, to earth (Rev 12) and pretend he is the Messiah (Savior) of the world. At that time, he will rule from Jerusalem. And, because the return of the *true* Christ is shortly imminent (five months away, as Rev 9 tells us) we are *not* to stay in Jerusalem (if that’s where we happen to be). Why? Because those who want to worship Satan as God (they think he’s the Savior they have been waiting for) will flock to Jerusalem *to worship Satan*. Therefore, Jesus tells us we should *not* go to Jerusalem but instead flee the city. Why? Well, first off, we should *not* be worshipping Satan! But also, when Jesus Christ returns (shortly after Satan) He will destroy the city of Jerusalem, so that’s not somewhere we ought to be. Let’s look at one place Jesus warns us about this...

*15 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:)*

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

*21 For **then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.***

*22 And **except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.** [again, Rev 9 tells us the time it’s been shortened to]*

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

25 Behold, I have told you before.

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; **go not forth**: behold, he is in the secret chambers; **believe it not**.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so **shall also the coming of the Son of man be**.

28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And **then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven**: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory**.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matt 24:15-31

This same warning can also be found in Mark 13 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Mark/17] and Luke 21 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBookof_Luke/450]. So, we see that Jesus did tell us to flee if we happen to be in Jerusalem when we see the *abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place* (vs 15). And we should understand that the ‘abomination of desolation’ is not a condition, it’s an *entity*, as Daniel 9:27, 11:31 and 12:11 makes quite clear. 2 Thess 2 and Rev 13 also explain that Satan IS the abomination ‘that maketh desolate’ because he not only desolates (defiles) the holy city – *with his evil spirit* – but he also makes God’s children desolate (spiritually defiled) by seducing them into worshiping *him* instead of the *true* Jesus Christ. Learn more about this with the special studies below...

Antichrist, Satan or Man - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>

Identifying Antichrist - <https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/100>

Now, Jesus also tells us that it’s ok to flee from a city when we are being persecuted during the reign of the ‘antichrist’ (which, in the Greek means ‘*instead of Christ*’, meaning Satan will come to be the ‘Christ’ instead of the true Christ, Jesus). Let’s look at it...

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

17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

20 *For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.*

21 *And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.*

22 *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but **he that endureth to the end shall be saved.***

23 *But **when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.***

24 *The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.*

25 *It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?*

26 ***Fear them not therefore:** for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.*

27 *What I tell you in darkness, **that speak ye in light:** and what ye hear in the ear, that **preach ye upon the housetops.***

28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Matt 10:16-28

This warning that Jesus gave to His apostles *still applies* to those who serve Him *today*.

Therefore, our job is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ our *entire life*. This means, even if we are living during the ‘great tribulation’, when Satan and his fallen angels are on earth ruling the world, we should *still* be sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And Jesus knew we would have troubles. He warned we be hated by many (most all people) and would be delivered up (as the apostles also were) to councils before governors and kings for His sake (for testifying to the Gospel of the *true* Jesus Christ). As such, He warns us to allow His Holy Spirit to speak through us, at that time, and not to worry about being persecuted. We are to let the truth shine through us (Mth 5:16) and not worry about those who can kill our body but rather, fear to disobey God (the Holy Spirit and His Son, Jesus Christ) because He has the ability to put our soul to death (blot out our very existence). Therefore, if we need to flee from city to city at that time (or even country to country) in order to continue to preach the Gospel (or to use whatever gift God has given you) then we should do so, because the purpose is to warn those who are worshiping Satan to ‘come out of’ the lies and deception (Rev 18:4) and repent before the *true* Jesus Christ comes, because Satan is NOT God nor is he the Messiah, Jesus Christ. So, we must prepare ourselves to serve Jesus Christ even during the ‘great tribulation’ because we are not going to be raptured away before it comes. Jesus Himself declared this in John 17:15 when He prayed to God, the Father: *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil*. And that’s why we are to put on the Gospel Armor (Eph 6), so we are able to take a stand against Satan and his seductive lies to warn God’s children not to worship Satan, or to stop worshiping him if they already have. As Matt 24:14 says: *this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

So, we need to learn to firmly connect to our Heavenly Father, through His Holy Word *and* Holy Spirit *now*, in order to be able to serve Him during that time (or even before that time). And, we

learn to do so through God's Word, of course. And these beautiful Psalms gives us much insight on how to do so. This is why David says he puts his trust in YHVH. Now the words '**put my trust**' in this verse 1 (of Psalm 11) are the Hebrew word *chacah* (#2620), which is a primitive root that means: **to flee for protection** or figuratively, **to confide in**. And it comes from *batach* (#982), a primitive root that means: **to hide for refuge**; figuratively, **to trust, be confident or sure**. While we don't literally flee physically to God (because He's in another dimension) we are to flee *spiritually* to Him, by learning to trust in His Word (the promises contained in it) and His Holy Spirit (learn to hear, trust and obey His Holy Spirit - <https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/39>). We must be able to discern when His Holy Spirit is speaking to us so we know how to avoid the traps of the wicked (physical and spiritual). *This* is what will enable us to be able to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ now, *and* during the 'great tribulation', when Satan and his fallen angel followers are on earth deceiving the world into thinking he is the Messiah. Remember, nearly all religions of the world are waiting for a 'Messiah' (Savior) to come to 'fix things' on earth. So, when Satan comes, it won't be too hard for him to convince them that he is that entity. Dan 11:21 tells us that *he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries*. So, contrary to what many Christian pastors teach, Satan is not going to come in like a 'bad' guy. Jesus warned us that he is the *best liar* there ever has been in John 8:44, and this is because he's been doing it the longest since he is the one that first started to lie! (Ezek 28). Therefore, when Daniel 11:21 says he'll obtain the kingdom (the worldwide government) with '**flatteries**' we should understand that this word *chalaqlaqqah* (#2519) means: **something very smooth**; i.e. *a treacherous spot*; figuratively, *blandishment*. Indeed, Satan does use very 'smooth' words. The word 'blandishment' means: *something that tends to coax or cajole or to allure*. The word 'cajole' means: **to persuade with flattery or gentle urging especially in the face of reluctance** and the word 'allure' means: **to entice by charm or attraction**. Ezek 28 tells us that Satan is the most beautiful of all of God's creations. And he is thus very likeable, charming and very good with words. In fact, *Satan is everything that people envision the true Jesus Christ to be*, which is why he'll be able to convince nearly the entire world into worshiping him, with the exception of those who are 'written in the book of life' because they remain faithful to the true Jesus Christ (Rev 13:8). This is why Paul warns us...

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.

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.

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.

2 Cor 11:2-4

After Paul founded the Church in Corinth, he left to take the Gospel elsewhere. But then, false prophets, and ministers, came to the Corinthians and (with very smooth words) convinced some of them they had to obey the blood sacrifices to obtain salvation (especially circumcision), which is contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which teaches us that the blood of Jesus Christ paid for

our sins for all times (Heb 10:10), and we therefore need not (and should not) perform blood sacrifices anymore (even that of circumcision, for religious reasons). Paul was informed about this and, because he could not personally go there to see them, he wrote them a letter. And that's why he is saying he's worried they are allowing Satan to deceive them, just as he did Eve. He did not want them their understanding of the Gospel to be corrupted, for if they believed in a perversion of the Gospel then they would not be spiritual virgins for Jesus Christ anymore. This means they would not be accepted into the Body of Christ when Jesus returns and allowed to govern with Him. So, it's a very large threat to all Christians, *even today*, to be seduced into *any* corrupted form of the Gospel. And while this warning was given thousands of years ago, it is no less important to us today. We too need to make sure we're not spiritually seduced into following *any* perverted form of the Gospel, which is why 'traditions of man', like the Rapture Theory and supporting the supposed 'Jews' in Israel, are so dangerous - *for they will lead us directly to worshiping the false Christ, Satan, when he comes*. As Paul goes on to warn (which Daniel did as well), Satan and his followers are very, *very* cunning in the way they deceive others...

*13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ**.*

*14 And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light**.*

*15 Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness**; whose end shall be according to their works.*

2 Cor 11:13-15

The words '**transformed**' and '**transforming**' here are both the Greek word *metaschematizo* (#3345), which means: *to transfigure or **disguise***; figuratively, *to apply* (by accommodation). Indeed, Satan disguises himself as an 'angel of light' (truth) and his ministers disguise themselves as 'apostles of Christ' who are 'ministers of righteousness'. This is why Jesus called them 'wolves in sheep's clothing' in Matt 7:15 and warned us to check their fruits (Mth 7:16-20) to tell if they are true prophets, and preachers, of the Gospel of Christ, or not. And in Luke 21:8 He directly warns us to: *Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them*. So, what we must learn to put our trust in is God Almighty (YHVH) (flee spiritually to Him for refuge), for He alone is protects us from deception and helps us through all persecutions (1 Cor 10:13). Remember, Satan, and his followers are incredibly good at deceiving. Satan is *not* a mean, ugly man who comes to earth threatening to blow the whole place up if we don't worship him. Not at all. He will be the most charismatic, good-looking, smooth-talking person you have ever seen in your life. And his fallen angels will be nearly as good as him. And *that's* what we have to be on guard for, and prepare ourselves for. And if we don't do what David did – learn to put our trust in God by fleeing to His Word, and Holy Spirit, for spiritual safety... then we *will* be deceived - Satan is that good.

Psalm 11

*2 For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may **privily** shoot at the upright in heart.*

David now uses an analogy to teach us something spiritual. We all have seen how a bow is used in the physical sense. A person must put the arrow in the bow and pull the bowstring back before it's ready to shoot the arrow. And David is saying that the wicked (even THE wicked one, Satan) are always ready to shoot their bows, *spiritually*. In other words, they metaphorically *always* have their 'arrows in the bow' and the bowstring 'bent', *ready to shoot* at those who are 'upright' in heart, meaning the righteous – those who sincerely follow the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Further, the word '**privity**' is not a good translation. It's the Hebrew word '*ophel* (#652), which means: **dusk**. It's been translated in the KJV as - **darkness**, **obscurity**, and **privity**. And it comes from the Hebrew word '*aphel* (#651), which means: **to set as the sun; dusky**. It's been translated also as **very dark**. So, what this tells us is that the wicked ones (even Satan himself) are *always* ready, and *always* working, to draw the upright in heart into the same spiritual darkness they are in. Proverbs 4:19 tells us that *the way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble* and verse 18 tells us that *the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day*. The difference between the followers of Jesus Christ and everyone else is literally the difference between 'night and day'. The darkness is spiritually a perverted mindset – a state of confusion. We should understand where this spiritual darkness (the inability to see truth) comes from. In Acts 26, Paul is explaining the time when he was converted by Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus said to him...

14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

*15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.***

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Acts 26:14-18

Jesus pointed out to Paul that his mission (to preach and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ) was to open the eyes (heart and mind) of those who were enslaved, spiritually, to Satan. To those who are so tangled up with sin that they can't see how their own sins are destroying their soul. Truth is powerful and it's truly the one thing Satan is afraid of. That's why he, and all those who follow him, always have their spiritual bows 'bent and ready' to 'shoot' out lies (in many forms) to those who still 'cling' to salvation through Jesus Christ. Those who are in spiritual darkness are so confused they really cannot tell the difference between right and wrong, as Isaiah pointed out...

20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

Isa 5:20-21

Their minds are so messed up that they end up calling that which is good, evil and vice versa. And that's why they think they are wise and righteous while those who really do what's right they condemn. But Jesus told us what the true condemnation really is...

*19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

*20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, **lest his deeds should be reprov'd.***

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:19-21

Those who love to sin (because they don't realize the consequences of it will cause them to lose their soul, their very *existence*) hate the Light (truth) and therefore they shun it like cockroaches scatter when the light is turned on. That's why they keep their 'bows of deception' *always* bent, trying to convince those 'upright in heart' that what they are saying (and believe in) is wrong. This is why, throughout all ages, they work *extremely* hard (as we learned in Ps 10) to shut up all those who speak, and teach, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They did this with Jesus Christ, as the Gospels record. And they did this with the apostles, as the book of Acts records too. And they'll continue to do so until the day that Jesus Christ returns to 'shut *them*' up. So again, we must get ready for the spiritual battles that lay ahead by putting on the Gospel of Armor...

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

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

Eph 6:12-13

We not only wrestle with the wicked rules of this world (who are in spiritual darkness because they believe Satan's lies) we also wrestle (fight against) the spiritual wickedness in 'high places' which means the evil spirit of Satan, his fallen angels and other evil (demonic) spirits in the other realm. This is why we must keep the Gospel armor on and strive to discipline ourselves to kick out (and keep out) all negative and sinful thoughts, desires and emotions. We can't let our mind, or emotions, be manipulated by anyone, anywhere. Now, another key point about those who are in spiritual darkness is their hatred for others, especially those who follow the true Jesus Christ...

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9 *He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.*
10 *He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.*
11 *But **he that hateth his brother is in darkness**, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, **because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.***
1 John 2:8-11

John is simply reiterating the commandment that Jesus gave the apostles in John 13:34. A key feature of those who are truly part of the Body of Christ is that they sincerely love God's children. They can do this because the Holy Spirit is within them, helping them love each other sincerely, learn to forgive others (from the heart, Mth 18:35), kick out their selfishness and to have compassion on His children. So, there is a noticeable difference between those who truly have the Holy Spirit (the Light) within them verses those who are still in spiritual darkness. And the wicked (and the 'workers of iniquity') are not hard to spot because they always have their dirty hearts ready to shoot arrows of hate and deception whenever confronted with the truth. Ps 50:19 says that they *give their mouth to evil and their tongue to frame deceit*. Ps 52:2 says their tongue *deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully*. Ps 64:3-4 says they *whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words: That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not*. So, indeed, the wicked (in heaven and in earth) are very skilled at using their tongues in very wicked ways and we can see the Psalms is full of this analogy of using physical weapons of war to explain the spiritual weapons of war – lies. However, the Proverbs also gives us good insight in the spiritual war...

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.
Prov 18:21

Indeed, death and life are in the power of the tongue for words come out of the mouth; and it is words that can either produce truth or lies. Which one do you like to 'eat' of?

A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.
Prov 26:28

A lying tongue comes from those who hate others; these are the people in spiritual darkness who have no concept of what's truly right verses wrong. And another thing we should be careful of is flattery, because it too is a spiritual weapon used by the wicked. Why flattery is so dangerous is because it stirs up pride within us, which is blinding to our soul. It makes us so puffed up that we can't see the truth about ourselves and that's exactly how Satan is then able to deceive us into sinning. We can easily excuse our sins when we allow pride to swell in our soul. And Satan should know; pride was his own downfall [learn more about this in this special study: **Pride, the Number One Sin** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/308>]. Prov 29:5 also warns us that *a man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet*. While not everyone who gives us compliments does so with evil intent, oftentimes it is done with guile; so we should always be on guard when anyone uses flattery on us, if even only to make sure we don't let our pride begin to puff up, because it will blind us spiritually, sucking us into darkness (lies).

Now, the book of Jeremiah also has something to say about the spiritual weapons of war. Jer 9:8 says (speaking of the wicked) *that: their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.* So, again we see how dangerous some people's mouths can be! Therefore, in any conversation we have, we must learn to rightly discern, and this is something we need the Holy Spirit's help with. We should also continue to study God's Word to gain wisdom but always pray for discernment from the Holy Spirit, because It is truly the very best shield and buckler there is. Ps 91:4 tells us that God's Word is our spiritual shield and buckler and John 16:13 says that: *when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.* So, the Word of God is simply the Holy Spirit in written form. Therefore, as we study to learn God's Word, His Holy Spirit not only helps us to understand it (which increases our faith, which is our spiritual shield, Eph 6:16) but His Holy Spirit also helps us learn how to discern lies as we hear them. When we have a good, working knowledge of God's Word, the Holy Spirit will help us remember His Words (John 14:26) so that when we hear a lie, we'll discern it's a lie and *not believe it.* This is a critical part of being able to deflect the spiritual arrows that the wicked are always ready to shoot at us!

Now, while there are many places in God's Word that teach us how to fight the spiritual warfare against the 'fiery darts' of the wicked (Eph 6:16 for example), the book of Proverbs also tells us how to protect ourselves, spiritually, from these 'arrows' of lies that pull us into the depths of spiritual darkness...

*10 When **wisdom** entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;
11 **Discretion** shall preserve thee, **understanding** shall keep thee:
12 **To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;**
13 **Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;**
14 **Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;**
15 **Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:**
Prov 2:10-15*

So again: wisdom, discretion and understanding are spiritual attributes that we can have in our soul when we study God's Word, for as Ps 111:10 says: *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments.* Prov 9:10 also says this as well. When we 'fear' God we fear to disobey Him. And this causes us to seek knowledge, wisdom and understanding from His Word, so we can obey Him and be pleasing to Him. And these spiritual attributes that the Word of God (and the Holy Spirit) give us **are** what protects us from the fiery darts (Eph 6:17) of the wicked's 'bow and arrows' that they have always ready to shoot at us. So, let's remember...

*13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day** [i.e. the 'great tribulation'], and having done all, to stand.*

*14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with **truth**, and having on the breastplate of **righteousness**;*

*15 And your feet shod with the **preparation of the gospel of peace**;*

*16 Above all, taking the shield of **faith**, **wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***

*17 And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**:*

*18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all **perseverance and supplication** for all saints;*

Eph 6:13-18

Keep up the good spiritual fight my, friend. And keep your ‘shield and buckler’ ready always!
We’ll pick this up in part 2...

AMEN.