

Evil Is The Rejection Of God

Bible Studies, Volume 20

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Published by Leslie Rendell, 2024.

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Published by Leslie Rendell at Draught2Digital

First edition 2024

Chapter 1 - Prelude

Why should we study the bible? Isn't it enough to go to church once a week and listen to the Pastor?

Most Pastors who belong to one of the modern day churches have to follow what the church leaders tell them. They all have their own "statement of beliefs" to adhere too, and these doctrines vary greatly from church to church in what they see as the truth. So since they cannot all be right, then some must be wrong. What if that refers to the church you are attending, if indeed you attend any church at all. How can you know what God sees as the truth. Well, it is up to the individual to sort the wheat from the chaff. How do we do that? Only by seeking the truth that God has concealed in his book, the bible.

Consider the following passage of scripture in the book of Proverbs.

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

This is what God expects from us. We are to constantly look into the holy scriptures and find the truth that he has concealed there for us to find. Please notice that God has not concealed them from us to keep it all a secret. No, he wants us to look for the truth. This is further emphasized in the following verses from the book of Isaiah

Isa 28:9 "To whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message? Those who are weaned from the milk, those taken from the breast?"

Isa 28:10 For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little."

This backs up what we read in Proverbs 25:2, that we must search out a matter that God has concealed. This is a real treasure hunt. If we can seek the will of God in our lives, we are not rejecting him, but we are embracing him and his way of

life. There is a great reward for those who are prepared to seek God with their whole hearts, read the following verse and see what this reward is.

Rom 2:7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

This is why we must spend time in searching the scriptures. Looking for precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little there a little. Looking for the things God has concealed. We must search for these pearls of wisdom.

Chapter 2 Introduction

I have heard it said in the past that evil is the absence of God. But since God is omnipresent, meaning there is nowhere in all of his creation that he is not present, then this simply cannot be the case. Evil is not the absence of God, but evil is the rejection of God. There is a major difference.

Prior to the creation of the world, God lived in Heaven surrounded by millions of angels he had created. They lived in perfect harmony and sin and evil did not exist. God had a hierarchy in the angelic realm, and this is where Lucifer dwelt in Heaven. He was perfect in wisdom and beauty, and God appointed him as a guardian cherub. This same Lucifer, who now has many other names such as “the king of Tyre”, would have been amazing in his appearance. Unfortunately for him, and for the rest of creation, this beauty would become his and our downfall.

Eze 28:11 Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me:

Eze 28:12 “Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Eze 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

Eze 28:14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

Eze 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

Eze 28:16 In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the

mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Eze 28:17 Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

Eze 28:18 By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you.

This passage of scripture is very descriptive of who Satan was when God created him, who he finally became, and then what his future will be. The first thing we can see is that God created him in perfect beauty, as we see in verse 12-14. Then in verse 17, we are told he became proud and corrupted his wisdom because of his brightness, or because of his beauty. This is when he rebelled against God and sought ways to dethrone him. He cannot believe God is far superior to him and that he will never achieve what he has been planning to do. From the day his beauty and wisdom corrupted him, he rebelled against God and became his enemy and ours.

Too many churches today will try to teach you Satan is an eternal being who will live in a place called hell forever. But please consider what we are told in verse 18 above, when God declares' "and I turned you to ashes on the earth". Satan will become like ashes, and this is the same destiny for anyone who rebels against Almighty God, as Malachi 4:3 clearly tells us.

Mal 4:3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

So this is the ultimate destiny of Satan and the angels who sided with him against God. Unfortunately, this time is still some way in the future. So in the meantime, we have to contend with the influences Satan has over the entire world, and that includes all of those who follow Jesus Christ. We are not exempt from his

attempts to corrupt us, but if we cling to the hope we have in Jesus, we will remain loyal to the end and receive the promises God has made to his true church.

One aspect of all this is that we do not know exactly when Satan rebelled against God? Was it prior to the 7 days of creation when God created the world and all that is in it, or was it after the creation when God placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden? We don't have clarity on this, but the timing of his rebellion is not really important. He was present in the Garden of Eden where he tempted Eve to eat from the wrong tree.

Another point I must make before going on is this. God did not create evil. What he made in the middle of the garden was, "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil", not the evil itself, only the knowledge of it. If Adam and Eve had not eaten from this tree, but ate from the "tree of Life" instead, we would not be in the position we find ourselves in today.

The problems started when Eve believed Satan rather than God. Satan, "the father of lies," deceived her with the promise that they would not die, and she believed him. The third chapter of Genesis reveals the fall of humankind starting in.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

Gen 3:3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Gen 3:4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Gen 3:5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Gen 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Some will also teach that God does not allow Satan in His presence, but this is also incorrect. Read the revelation given to us in the book of Job 1:6-7.

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

Job 1:7 The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

Evil was in the world when Satan rebelled against God. When he tempted Eve to eat from the wrong tree, this evil then spread to all humanity. Now we all have the knowledge of good and evil, and it is up to each individual to respond by either following the lead of Satan and the ways of this world, or follow the teaching of Jesus Christ. This will be our free will in action.

It is very unfortunate that most of the world's population has gone the way of the world. Most are only involved in the minor evils, while a few enjoy taking part in all the evil they can. No one is perfect. We all indulge in some evil. We notice this from Rom 3:10.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Notice there are no levels of sin mentioned here. A sin is a sin, no matter how small it may be. But they all carry the same sentence as we see in Rom 6:23. The death sentence. But the same verse gives us the answer to how we can avoid this

sentence. Through believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Some modern day churches want us to believe there is a difference between mortal and venial sins. But don't allow yourself to be deceived. God does not differentiate. To him, all sin is the same and carries the same penalty as we saw in Rom 6:23 above.

One of the most important parts of this puzzle is to realise that God has given every human free will. There is no way God will ever force you to do what you do not want to do. If your inclination is to sin, then you have this choice. Satan has always known this, and he used it to entice Eve to eat from the wrong tree. She had a choice, to eat or not to eat. She made the wrong choice. It is exactly the same for every one of us. By using this free will, we can be heirs with Jesus Christ, or the enemies of God. Only you can decide which way you want to go..

Chapter 3 - Satan's Deceptions

Satan has many names that show different sides to his character. None of his names are flattering to him, and they all expose another evil part of his make-up. As much as I hate to mention his name, we need to be aware of him and how he will try to lead us away from our Heavenly Father. One side of his character is that he is a deceiver, as we can see in.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

As we can see from this verse, Satan deceives the entire world, not just a part of it, but the whole. This includes Christians. We have all experienced deception. Satan told Eve a lie, and she became deceived, as revealed in....

Gen 3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So the first lie and deception recorded in the bible shows how Satan got Eve to eat from the wrong tree in the garden. Eve then admitted to God that Satan had deceived her. He has been doing this throughout the entire world ever since. Satan is very subtle in the way he works and he knows the best way to delude us all. He has enticed many to not believe in God at all, but to believe in the lie of evolution. The word of God tells us we are without excuse for denying God even exists. From creation until now, we have clear evidence of the wonders of God's creation. But humanity refuses to see what God has made and rejects him as their God and creator. This is clear from Romans 1:18-21.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Rom 1:19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Rom 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Over the last 100 years, the knowledge in the world has exploded. Consider how we now understand a great deal about our universe. It's about how the DNA strands in every cell of our bodies regulate our lives. We can now fly to the other side of the world quickly and in comfort. We know what is happening in other parts of the world almost as soon as they occur. These are the things God has revealed to us and that should make us all aware that he exists and has made these things available for us to use

In the book of Daniel, we are told knowledge shall increase in the end times. Therefore, we must consider the possibility that we may be in these last days because of what we have learned and how we have made so many amazing inventions that have, many times, given us more comfort in our lives. Even though we may have these comforts, they are only for a minority of people, the majority still live in third world conditions, and cannot enjoy the improvements many countries experience.

Then there are the inventions for war that make the killing of our enemies much more efficient. They can also eliminate all life from this planet in a matter of days. Listen to what we are told in the book of Daniel, chapter 12:4.

Dan 12:4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

This knowledge has certainly increased, not always for the good, but it has still increased. We are now very close to the end of days. How close only God knows.

Satan's deception causes us to sin, and this separates us from God. In the above verses, men suppress the truth willingly. They reject what creation reveals to them about God; they refuse to glorify him and are not thankful for what they have.

So great is Satan's deception, and so forceful that very sincere men are prepared to argue and fight against God and against his chosen people. Jesus was certainly right when he warned us about these people about two thousand years ago. Listen to what he had to say in Joh 16:1-3.

Joh 16:1 "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away."

Joh 16:2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.

Joh 16:3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.

This prophecy of Jesus is coming so true today. Just look around the world and see all the different so-called religious fanatics who are more than willing to kill women and children in the name of their god. These fanatics revel in, and brag about, how they have slaughtered innocent women and children. Raping them and mutilating them and all in the name of their god. This is about as evil as you can get, and it is all orchestrated by Satan himself. This is how effective the deception of Satan has been, is still being today, and will continue to be until our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ returns to this world, and claims the crown as King of Kings and Lord of Lords that is so rightfully his.

The gulf that separates humanity from God is so great because of the success Satan has had in deceiving the entire world. This has always been his plan to disrupt everything that is good and destroy our relationship with our Creator God. The religious fanatics are just doing the work of Satan, yet they believe they are doing the work of God.

Humanity has rejected the true God from their lives and has followed whatever is in their own hearts. They are not really interested in the truth, they only want to hear what they already believe. Whether it is the truth is not really a concern

for them. The apostle Paul warned us in his second letter to Timothy that this is what would happen and it is exactly what we are seeing and hearing today. Listen to what he said in 2Ti 4:3-4.

2Ti 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

2Ti 4:4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

I have always loved the term “itching ears” used in this verse. It so accurately describes what the vast majority of people want to hear. They are not really concerned with the truth. They just want their preachers to tell them what they already believe, because this is what their itching ears want to hear.

One perfect example of this is in the teaching of a “Pre-tribulation rapture”. Another lie perpetrated by Satan to draw people away from God. The theory lacks any biblical evidence, but some individuals have manipulated passages of scripture to give the illusion of authenticity to the theory.. But a lie is still a lie.

Is it any wonder the world is in such a mess today? We have rejected the truth of God and replaced it with the lies of Satan. Churches are a prime target for Satan, and he is very successful in introducing heresy into the churches.

What do you think God is doing because of Satan’s deception of the world? We can find the answer to this question in Rom 1:18.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

How does this “wrath of God” manifest itself in the world? Look at the conditions we are currently living with. The natural disasters like earthquakes, volcanoes, fires, floods and tsunamis. Then add to those the general health problems and diseases that affect us all and the enormous cost these events come

with. Consider the disruption to the entire world because of the corona virus and the billions of dollars governments have spent on trying to control this disease.

These are only the start of our troubles, as we can see from the book of Matthew and chapter 24. Read this entire chapter to get a better understanding of what is coming.

Chapter 4 - Lust Of The Flesh

Satan is the one who is constantly trying to deceive us. He wants us to fit into the pattern of this world, something God warns us not to do as we see in.

Rom 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The way we transform our minds is by the study of God's words in his holy bible. By seeking the truth in all matters. Solomon knew this when he wrote to book of proverbs. Listen to what he has to say in.

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

God has hidden many matters in his holy scriptures and he expects us to search for the answers we may be seeking. If we do this, we will not be conforming to the ways of this world, and this world is currently Satan's world.

Therefore, we are told not to love the world. If we do, then we are loving the things Satan is tempting us with, and this will cause the love from the Father to leave us as we see in.

1Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1Jn 2:17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

We can see from these verses just three things that God hates,. Three things that, if you indulge in them, will put you on a collision course with God. Lust of the flesh. Lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

As we can plainly see in verse 16, to lust is to follow the ways of the world. This is not the ways of God. Then verse 17 tells us the world and all its lusts will pass away. But those who resist the powers of lust, and do the will of God, will abide, or live forever. Rom 8:12-14 emphasizes this point..

Rom 8:12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Satan is not just sitting around waiting for us to sin. No, he is out and about looking for ways to distract us from what God wants us to do. He and his demon friends are actively seeking our destruction, as the book of 1 Peter explains for us in chapter 5, verse 8.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Many times, we will feel tempted to try something new. And this is a good thing because we can choose our own paths in this life. But along with free will, we must temper our desires with what God expects from us as Christians.

Christians must know Satan's plans and how he operates if we are to be on guard against him. There are many ways he can distract us from God. Consider all the activities humanity has invented to keep himself amused when he is not working. The many sports that keep us entertained on the weekends. These activities by themselves are not necessarily bad, but when they consume all of our spare time,

when we become fanatics for our sports teams, we are sacrificing valuable time where we should study God's words and learning as much as possible about him and what he wants from us.

The Sabbath day is no longer honoured. People have replaced this day of rest with Sunday worship, and they use the true Sabbath for every activity that draws them away from God. Sports of all kinds keep us occupied instead of the study of God's word.

Satan exploits man's free will. He knows God will force none of us to do what is right. We must choose to do these things ourselves. So he puts as many temptations as possible in front of us, knowing many of us will succumb to these temptations. He has had thousands of years to perfect his craft, and he is a past-master of distraction.

What are the benefits of seeking the will of God? You can find the answer to this in the following passage of scripture. Here, we can see the results of both obedience and disobedience.

Rom 8:12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Rom 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Obedience leads to eternal life, to being regarded as the sons and daughters of God. To be joint-heirs with Jesus Christ and to be glorified together with him. Surely there is no greater reward than this. Therefore, we must “keep our eyes on the prize”.

One thing we can be sure of is that we will have troubles in this world. Jesus Christ himself made the following promise to us in.

Job 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

The apostle Paul understood this very well. We may think Paul had a peaceful life, but this is far from the truth. Listen to what he had to say about the treatment he received from the Jews in 2Co 11:24.

2Co 11:24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.

They flogged him 195 times because he was a follower of our Lord. His faith in his future with Jesus was amazing, and he was prepared to go through this torture for the sake of his Lord.

Apart from these troubles, Paul also had his own personal problems, the same as we have today. He knew what was the right thing to do and what was not right. Listen to his confession from Rom 7:15-19.

Rom 7:15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

Rom 7:16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.

Rom 7:17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Rom 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

Rom 7:19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

Paul knew he would have troubles, and in these verses he has related to us how he does the things he really does not want to do, and the things he should do, he neglects. This is the same problem we all have. We must choose between living by the standards of the world, or by God's laws. It will not always be easy, but it will be well worth it in the long run.

In the book of Galatians Chapter 5 and verses 16-26, we have a perfect contrast between walking by the spirit, or fulfilling the lust of the flesh. Listen to the following advice from Paul:

Gal 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

Gal 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

Gal 5:21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Gal 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Gal 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

The temptations to lust after what is wrong in this world are strong. The rewards are tempting, but they are also very temporary. Christians must produce the fruits of the spirit if we are to enter the Kingdom of God. There is no easy road to travel on. Only a straight and narrow path surrounded with Satan's temptations.

Chapter 5 - Dangers of The Occult

Satan is responsible for the many ways humanity tries to see into the future. Where he hopes to gain knowledge that will bring him fame and fortune later in life. Satan uses our desires to find how we can achieve better things in our lives by introducing us to the dark world of the occult.

What exactly is the occult? And why is it regarded as a dangerous activity for Christians to be involved with? There are many forms of the occult, such as the Ouija board, channelling and other means of divination of spirits, fortune telling, crystal ball gazing, tarot cards, astrology, seances, palm reading and numerology. The more dangerous forms are witchcraft, and the most dangerous would have to be Satanism.

Many people do not see the dangers of being involved with these activities. Things like palm reading and astrology seem harmless enough, but they are still a distraction from real Christian spirituality. They may also lead one into more potent forms of the occult.

When people start to deal with evil spiritual powers, they are exposing themselves to powers they simply do not understand.

Children may remain unaware of the dangers while being exposed to various forms of spiritual practices. There are many children's books and games that are fantasy stories, but they still contain instances of witchcraft and sorcery that may influence a young and growing mind. Parents should be very selective when they are choosing the activities they want their children to be involved in.

Christians who are readers of the bible will understand the dangers of the occult. Christians who are readers of the bible will understand the dangers of the occult. One passage of scripture found in Deu 18:9-12 warns us to avoid these practices.

Deu 18:9 "When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations."

Deu 18:10 There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer

Deu 18:11 or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,

Deu 18:12 for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

It is unfortunate that many Christians do not read their bibles at all, and may not be aware of what they are getting themselves into. In the above verses, God clarifies he opposes the practices of the occult. Read verse 12 again and see why God drove nations out of their lands. It was because of these detestable practices. Another warning against being involved with the occult is present in the following verse.

Lev 19:31 “Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.”

To be found indulging in the occult is to be defiled in the eyes of God. These practices are a way Satan is trying to get into the minds of people who do not understand his strategies for destroying our relationship with God.

Satan is a powerful and clever adversary. Satan uses many tricks to distract us from our relationship with God, but we can overcome him. We need to recognise what he is up to and what he is capable of. Then we can defeat him. One way to defeat Satan is by taking the advice we find in.

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1Jn 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.

1Jn 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

1Jn 4:4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Satan is a spiritual being. Therefore, our struggle with him is spiritual. If we are to win this fight, then we must engage with spiritual powers of our own. We must learn to depend upon our Lord Jesus Christ. Read verse 4 above again and you see that the one in us (Jesus Christ) is greater than the one in the world (Satan).

We can have the power of Jesus in our battle only if we are prepared to accept him into our lives by studying his precious words recorded for us in the bible. Spend time there and avoid the activities of the world, because Satan still influences this world. Read the following verse to see the results of being friends with the world.

Jas 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

If we follow the ways of the world, we will make a very grave decision (pardon the pun) A worldly person seeks his own happiness and has little care for those less fortunate than himself. The spirit of the world is the spirit of Satan, something we must avoid at all costs.

By being involved in the occult, people are siding with Satan against God. This is not always apparent because the lesser activities of the occult, like palm reading and fortune telling, may seem harmless, but they are an entry point for the greater powers of Satan.

Therefore, if you claim to be a Christian, please have nothing to do with these occult powers. Do not think they are harmless and that they will not affect your relationship with Almighty God. They will influence your thoughts and even if they only affect you by a tiny amount, they are still dangerous and will lead to much greater harm.

Chapter 6 - What Is Our Future

Jesus often spoke about the future and the fact that we can know what lies ahead for us. He has also stated that we can and should look for the signs of the times in which we live. There are several examples of this in the new testament, let us look a few and understand what Jesus means. Let us start in.

Luk 12:54 He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens.

Luk 12:55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens.

Luk 12:56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Luk 12:57 "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?"

Jesus is telling the people of his day, that even though they can read the signs of the clouds and the south winds, they still do not get what he is plainly telling them. He describes this further in.

Mat 24:32 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.

Mat 24:33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

The sign of the fig tree is used by Jesus to illustrate how we can know when his return is close. Just as we know summer is near when the fig tree puts out its leaves, we know he is near when we see all the signs that he has given us in the first 31 verses of Matthew 24 eventuating.

One of these signs in Matthew 24 is the coming of false prophets and false Christs. What are we told in Mat 24:24-25?

Mat 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Mat 24:25 See, I have told you beforehand.

We are not left in the dark, all we need to do is to search the scriptures. Jesus repeats the fact they we are forewarned on many occasions, read the following verses and you should understand that you have been told what will happen in the days ahead.

Mark 13:23 But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

John 14:29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

John 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 16:1 "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

John 16:4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

John 16:32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.

John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Philippians 3:17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Philippians 3:18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Philippians 3:19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Philippians 3:21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

One extremely important verse from the book of Philippians above is verse 18. Many will make themselves enemies of the cross of Christ. The reason for this is because they refuse to imitate the behaviour of the apostles, and instead live by the standards of this world. Satan's world.

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

This is what God expects from us. We are to constantly look into the holy scriptures and find the truth that he has concealed there for us to find. Please notice that God has not concealed them from us to keep it all a secret. No, he wants us to look for the truth. This is further emphasized in the following verses from the book of Isaiah

Isa 28:9 "To whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message? Those who are weaned from the milk, those taken from the breast?"

Isa 28:10 For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little."

This backs up what we read in Proverbs 25:2, that we must search out a matter that God has concealed. This is a real treasure hunt. If we can seek the will of God in our lives, we are not rejecting him, but we are embracing him and his way of life. There is a great reward for those who are prepared to seek God with their whole hearts, read the following verse and see what this reward is.

Rom 2:7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

To end this book, I pray you will follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. That you will diligently seek to understand what God requires of you, and that you will respond to him in a very positive way.

God bless you and your family, and thank you for reading this book.

Chapter 7 - Conclusion

It is almost discernible that western nations are unravelling quickly. They are falling apart and are lurching wildly out of control. We can see evidence of this daily on our televisions, we can hear about it on our radios and we can also see it on the social media outlets.

There is political unrest and our politicians are more interested in being re-elected than worrying about the welfare of those they are serving.

The attitudes of many people are very selfish, and their only concern is for themselves. This is one aspect of our generation that the apostle Paul saw and has warned us it is coming. Listen to what he has to say in.

2Ti 3:1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

2Ti 3:2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

2Ti 3:4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2Ti 3:5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

2Ti 3:6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,

2Ti 3:7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

Most of these traits are becoming more obvious every day. Many of the woke people fit comfortably into these characteristics. They do not care what other

people, and especially Christians, believe. They are just determined to make us all conform to the ways of the world, to their ways, to Satan's ways. Do not get me wrong, there are many good young people in this world who do not fit into this category. But they are a minority these days, and what we saw from Paul above is clear in the world today.

Watch the news on television each night, or read some comments on face-book and other social media sites, and you will see much of this type of behaviour. Our world has been spiralling out of control for several decades and is becoming worse by the day.

Few are those who honestly seek the teachings and laws of our God. The modern day mega churches are more places for being entertained rather than places for the true worship of God. The primary concern for the leaders of these churches is the financial gain they hope to harvest from their faithful followers. Music, or entertainment, is their way to draw in the crowds, and the money.

So we have seen Satan's deception at work in this world. Using so many tactics to draw us away from God. Sports, the occult, lusts for pleasure and also the heresies he has injected into the churches. His influence extends into our governments and schools and the church. Evil now permeates every aspect of our lives, and will continue to do so until our Lord returns in all power and glory. We can best describe this evil as the absence, rejection or exclusion, of God.

God has been very patient with this world up to now, but that patience will not last much longer. This present evil age will end when Jesus Christ returns in all power and glory. It does not matter what non believers may think, this will change nothing. God will have the last word.

Therefore, my advice to anyone who may be reading or listening to this book, is to seek God while he may be found. The evil and corruption in this world will increase rapidly

About The Author

Leslie Rendell worked most of his life in an agricultural support industry, mostly in the supply of spare parts for machinery. Since his retirement in 2014 he has dedicated much of his time to bible study and writing books as he comes to understand biblical topics.

He understands the bible is a very complex book and one that is easy to misinterpret and believes this is one of the main reasons why there are so many different version of the bible and different religions around the world.

What he writes is his own interpretation of God's holy scriptures. He studies the thoughts of other writers to try to see things from their point of view, but always comes back to the bible as the final authority on any topic. His main aim in writing, is to give anyone who is seeking the truth from God's words a starting point in their own research.

Leslie's other interest are photography, and his growing family.

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