

DICKSON

**THE
SEEDLINE
WARS**

**Conflict And Conquest
of
The Gospel Of Jesus Christ**

The Seedline Wars

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INTRODUCTION

The Bible is not primarily about us. It is about God working in the history of this world in order to bring into the world the Savior of the world, and then, finalize His plan for the world by taking the saved out of the world. We must view the Old Testament Scriptures from the viewpoint of God working in the affairs of man in order to accomplish this eternal gospel plan of redemption. One's study of the work of God throughout history in order to bring forth the promised Seed of woman explains the purpose for the existence of the nation of Israel. If we understand the eternal purpose of God to accomplish the sin offering of His Son on the cross, then we will understand the work of God as it is recorded in the Old Testament. Every effort was made by God to preserve the seedline of woman in order that the Lamb of God meet His destiny on a cross outside Jerusalem. It is because of this faithful work of God that we stand in His grace today. But this also explains the existence of the nation of Israel. God did not create the nation of Israel because they were a favored people. He saw His foreplanned gospel through Jesus on the cross, and thus, He sought through Israel to preserve a segment of humanity for the purpose of bringing the Savior into the world. This was the teleological purpose for Israel's very existence. Israel existed for the purpose of preserving the seedline in order that the gospel be revealed in the incarnation of the Son of God.

All of us seek meaning to life. We thirst for spiritual substance and sustenance in a world that seems to be in constant chaos and confusion. Most people never find the answers to those questions that provide the peace of mind that passes all human understanding. They never discover the answers because they are searching through the wrong material, the material of this material world.

Unfortunately, we live in a world that has an assortment of religiously zealous people who have gone astray in reference to finding the knowledge of the God of heaven who has the correct answers for correct living. Men struggle through a maze of entangled religious doctrines. They do so in order to bring pieces of

religious beliefs together into some systematic theology that would give assurance of a transcendent God who can give us hope in a world of despair. But such human efforts usually end in making the matter more confusing because of the confusion of the religious world in which we live. The secret to discovering the God who is above this world is to seek Him through His revelation, both in nature (Rm 1:20), and in His word (2 Tm 3:16,17). We find God and His eternal work, not in the theologies of men, but in His revealed word.

In our efforts to discover God's eternal plan, we must keep every "proof text" within the whole context of God's eternal plan to bring the redeemed into eter-

nal glory. By throwing passages here and there we will never arrive at an understanding of the context of God's planned before the creation of the world. Therefore, we seek to investigate the whole text of revelation in reference to the "Seedline Wars."

The Seedline Wars were a struggle between good and evil throughout history. These were encounters between good and evil in order that the gospel be revealed to bring us into eternal dwelling in the presence of God. These are the attacks of Satan against the eternal plan of God. The Seedline Wars were launched by Satan to destroy the seedline of woman through whom God promised that the Seed of woman would crush the head of Satan (Gn 3:15).

Throughout the pages of written revelation, the Holy Spirit has left us with an historical record of how Satan has attempted to destroy the seedline of woman through whom the salvational Seed of the gospel would come into the world. We thus have an exciting history of how God has crushed every attack of Satan to destroy the seedline and the word of the Seed.

Sometimes we must stand back from our favorite passages and contexts in order to see the whole text of God's eternal plan of redemption. The following journey through the inspired Scriptures is such an effort. It is hoped that for a few pages we can present a brief survey

of God's work to bring about an answer to our most important problems of spiritual and physical death. When we survey the struggles between the forces of good and evil that generated the Seedline Wars, our understanding and appreciation of God's determined love for us reaches new heights. The end of the Wars eventually led to victory over sin on a hill outside Jerusalem and an empty tomb near the same city. By understanding the struggles of the Son of God to go to the cross, we can fully appreciate what God had to go through in order to bring us into eternal dwelling. When we understand the lengths to which He had to go to save us, we understand how far we were away from Him. These are things that move men. And thus, our understanding of the struggles of the Seedline Wars between God and Satan changes our lives because we better appreciate the work of God's grace in order to bring the effect of the gospel into our lives.

The included chart of information is a brief introduction to the major conflicts between God and Satan in order to bring the Seed of woman into the world. With every effort of Satan to destroy the seedline, there was a response by God to deliver. At times the attack was against mankind, and at other times against the nation of Israel. At times there were even individual attacks against a sole individual who would carry on the seedline promise.

he explained to the Ephesians the salvation of the cross that was planned before the creation of the world. One statement in his letter is significant concerning what God had planned, and subsequently, brought into reality through Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 3:8-11 he wrote,

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all people see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Those of faith in the Old Testament were only in expectation of what God had in mind (1 Pt 1:10-12). They did not fully understand that the Seed of woman would render a crushing blow to Satan's control over man through sin.

We must not forget that the Bible is not first about us. It is about God working throughout history in order to bring the Savior into the world. And for this reason, it is exciting to see throughout the Old Testament how God preserved the seedline of woman until the Seed was revealed. This is a story of a viscous struggle between the forces of good and evil. It is an exciting story of the pre-

vailing victories of God over all attempts of Satan to bring to destruction the seed of woman. The birth of Jesus in a barn in Bethlehem was a victorious conquest of God over all that Satan could do to destroy the seedline.

A. The gospel plan before the man:

Before the creation of the world, God had a plan to save man, and thus, make a way by which we could be prepared for eternal dwelling. The implementation of this plan before the creation was necessary because God knew that Adam would sin in the garden of Eden. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:4, "... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." John added that Jesus was the Lamb who was "*slain from* [before] *the foundation of the world*" (Rv 13:8).

The emphasis of both Paul and John was that the crucified Lamb, and the church that He purchased, were in the omniscient mind of God before the creation of this world. Before the creation of man, it was determined that Jesus would die on the cross in order to bring into covenant relationship those who would voluntarily submit to His lordship. Before the first word of creation was spoken, therefore, the gospel plan of redemption was determined and made ready for the time free-moral men would fall through sin. The creation of free-moral beings necessitated a plan of redemption that would make free-moral individuals righteous before God.

God gave Adam the ability to choose, and thus, placed him in an environment where he had the freedom to make choices. In order that we have the ability to love, we must also have the ability to make choices to love. The ability to love is based on the freedom to respond to God's love in a manner that says, "I love You too." We therefore love because He first loved us (1 Jn 4:19; see Jn 3;16; Rm 5:8).

One who would not have the ability and freedom to make choices in an environment that allowed choices to be made would not be a true free-moral individual. Since he would not be truly free he could not express a genuine love for his Creator.

There could be no value in programmed love. Neither could there be any true development of the spiritual character of those who would be placed in an environment where they could not make choices. God did not create us to be robots. Neither did He hedge us in to guard us from ourselves in making choices of right and wrong. Therefore, because He created us with the ability to choose, He knew we would make wrong choices. We would sin. Therefore, the fact that man was given the ability to choose necessitated the gospel to which men would respond by obedient faith.

The problem with free-moral agency is the ability to make bad choices, and thus, sin. And all have so acted. "*There is none righteous, no, not one*" (Rm 3:10). "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Rm 3:23). God knew that we would sin. For this reason,

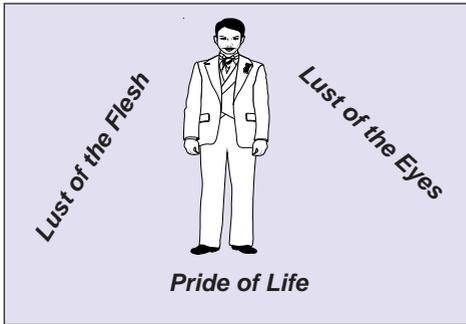
therefore, God predetermined a plan before He created man that would take care of our sin problem. Before the creation of man, God foreknew the fall of man, and thus, He foreplanned how He would reconcile man again to Himself (See Rm 8:28; 1 Pt 1:2).

God's plan for man's salvation was inherently necessary in the nature of a God who is love (1 Jn 4:8). A loving God would not create a free-moral individual He knew would not be able to keep law perfectly in order to save himself from destruction. If God had created man without a gospel plan of salvation, then certainly He would not be a loving God. How could He be loving if He foreknew that we would sin, but regardless of our inability to live perfectly before Him, He created us anyway? Would a loving God create those who had no option but destruction? If He created man without the gospel plan of salvation in mind, while knowing that man would sin, then He would be fiendish in condemning to destruction those who sinned.

The plan to save man was necessary in order to guard against accusations that God is either unloving, fiendish or unjust. However, the fact that there is a plan lays the responsibility to escape condemnation on the shoulders of every individual. Each person has a choice to live, therefore, by responding in a positive manner to the gospel.

B. The fall of man initiated the plan:

Because we were created free-moral individuals, we ourselves activated the



gospel by our own choice. For this reason, God stands just, and all men sinners, because all of us, as Adam, have chosen sin (Rm 5:12). Our choice to sin and separate ourselves from God initiated the plan of God to bring us back into His fellowship for eternity.

1. **God warned against evil choices:**

The seedline story begins for us with Moses' inspired record of creation in the book of Genesis. "*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*" (Gn 1:26). The environment for choice-making was created and man was placed in the garden of Eden in order to make choices. So God warned concerning the tree that stood as an opportunity for choice-making for Adam and Eve.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die'" (Gn 2:16,17).

God created the environment in

which man could choose. He gave man the freedom to make the choice of either good or evil. In order that choices could be made between good and evil, God issued law to man. "*You shall not eat of the tree.*" Everything was thus prepared for a free-moral individual to thrive in the presence of God.

2. *Man chose evil:* James stated,

Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (Js 1:13-15).

And so Eve, then Adam, succumbed to the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life (1 Jn 2:15,16). God cannot be blamed for their yielding to the enticement of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve were personally responsible for what they did in yielding to sin because they were true free-moral individuals.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [lust of flesh], that it was pleasant to the eyes [lust of eyes], and a tree desirable to make one wise [pride of life], she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate" (Gn 3:6).

Adam was therefore responsible for his own sin because he was given the free-

dom to make moral decisions. The decision he made, however, cost him and humanity dearly.

What Adam and Eve realized after they ate of the fruit was too late to correct. They set in motion the human tragedy of sin. That first sin in the garden of Eden gave the first strike to the nails that would hold God's Son to a sacrificial cross millennia after Adam and Eve died. If they had personally known the full results of their actions, surely they, as any human being, could not have emotionally absorbed the consequences of their actions.

Before we are too hard on Adam and Eve, we must remember that every time we sin we also take a small bite out of the forbidden fruit. We drive the nails deeper into the hands of the sacrificial Seed who would rectify the whole problem. If Adam had not eaten, then surely we would eventually have taken the bite. We thus had a part in the sin because we all sin (Rm 3:9,10,23). Therefore, before we blame Adam and Eve for eating the forbidden fruit, we should look to ourselves because all of us would have eaten if given the temptation.

3. God curses because of evil choices: The sin of Adam and Eve resulted in two curses that were brought into the world. First, they both spiritually died because they were separated from God as a result of their sin (Is 59:1,2). Second, they both had to physically die because they were separated from the tree of life (Gn 3:22-24).

a. The curse of spiritual death:

Through the free-moral sin of Adam and Eve, sin entered into the world. They were the first to sin, and thus, the ones who first introduced sin. Paul wrote, *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ..."* (Rm 5:12).

Adam and Eve personally sinned, and thus they had to personally suffer the consequences of their own sin. Therefore, they were spiritually separated from God (Rm 3:23). Spiritual death, however, has spread to all men **because all have sinned** as Adam and Eve. Paul did not say that we spiritually die because of Adam's sin. We spiritually died because of our own personal sin against God (Rm 5:12). As free-moral individuals, we must suffer the guilt of our own sin. The curse of our sins is separation from God (Is 59:2).

b. The curse of physical death: All humanity has suffered the consequence of Adam's sin in the area of physical death. Everyone after Adam must physically die because Adam was separated from the tree of life. Moses recorded,

Then the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'—therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken" (Gn 3:22,23).

Adam was separated from the tree of life. As the representative of all human-

ity, all men, including ourselves, were also separated with him. It is thus appointed unto all men to physically die (Hb 9:27). And so, the curse of physical death entered into the world through Adam. Paul wrote, “For as in Adam all die [physically] ...” (1 Co 15:22).

The spiritual and physical implications of the sin of Adam changed the environment of the world and our relationship with God. Adam fell because of his sin against God. All humanity has fallen because all have sinned against God (Rm 3:9,10,23). As a result of the sin of Adam, God set in motion His eternal plan to reconcile man to Himself, and thus, bring into His fellowship again all those who submit to Him through obedience of the gospel. The confrontation between good and evil began in the garden of Eden. The first shots of the Seedline Wars that began in Eden would thus echo throughout history until a proclamation would be heard around the world outside Jerusalem, “He is risen!” This would be the great news of the mystery of God for the salvation and hope of all men in all history.

C. Promise of reconciliation:

Adam immediately realized the tragedy of his actions. Moses recorded, “*And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings*” (Gn 3:7). As a result of his sin, Adam realized more than his own nakedness. He realized that there was good and evil in the world, and that he had made a choice of evil. His futile attempt to clothe himself would not cover his sin. Only God could cover what man, by yielding to temptation, had uncovered.

The compassion of God was manifested in His action to make clothes for Adam and Eve from animal skins (Gn 3:21). However, the life of some innocent animal had to be sacrificed to make the clothes. Thus began the gospel of sacrifice for man’s sins that would eventually be revealed centuries later (Ti 2:11).

Adam recognized his sinfulness. He realized that he needed to be clothed. However, fig leaves would never take the place of a sacrifice of life for life. The

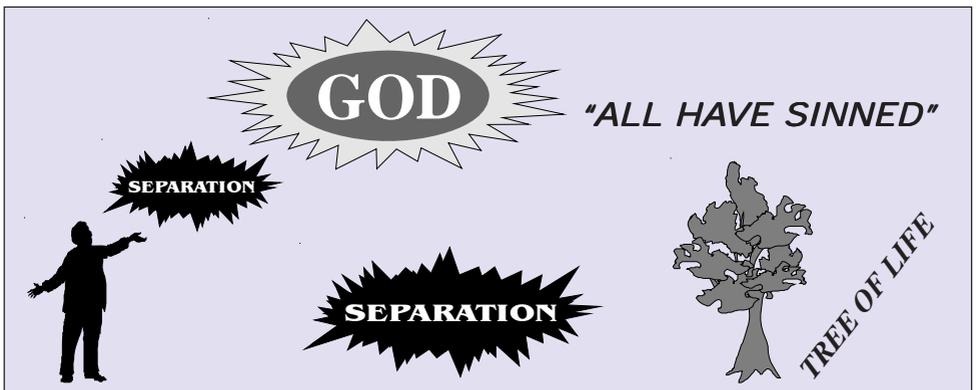
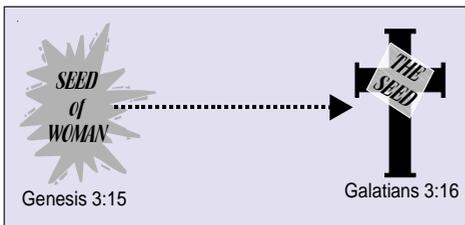


fig leaves may have given Adam some momentary covering of his own shame, but the leaves would never cover what was introduced into the world. Sin was introduced into the world. With sin there also came the necessity of a cleansing of sin by the sacrifice of animals. Eventually, there came sanctification for sin that could come only through the incarnational sacrifice of the only begotten Son of God. Adam's sin revealed that spiritual nakedness could be covered only by spiritual clothing. We thus seek to be clothed with the One who came in order that we be reconciled again unto God (Gl 3:26,27; compare Rv 3:18).

As a result of the sin of Adam and Eve, woman was cursed with increased pain in childbirth. Man had to toil in order to bring forth the fruit of the field (Gn 3:16-18). In the midst of these physical curses that resulted from their sin, God made a profound promise that a solution for the spiritual curse of sin be set into motion on behalf of mankind. In Genesis 3:15 Moses recorded the following promise of God:

GENESIS 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.



Through the seed of the mother of humanity whom Satan had deceived, there would come One who would bruise the head of Satan (1 Tm 2:13,14). Satan's work of deception in the garden of Eden initiated the eternal plan of God that would eventually lead to the destruction of Satan himself. The head (control) of Satan would be crushed, but the heel of the One who would deliver the crushing blow would be bruised. Through the metaphorical language of this most important prophecy, God gave the first revelations of His gospel plan of redemption that was in His mind before the creation of the world. Therefore, at the time the statement of Genesis 3:15 was made, the Seedline Wars began.

We must not presume that Satan knew what was in store for himself. He knew that he would be rendered a crushing blow. The full gospel mystery of God would be kept secret in the mind of God until its revelation centuries later through the cross (See 1 Pt 1:10-12). However, Satan knew enough about the Genesis 3:15 promise and prophecy to unleash his energies against the Seed of woman, for it would be from the Seed of woman that he would eventually meet his demise.

If Satan had known the complete plan of God, then certainly he would not have played into the hand of God to have Jesus crucified on the cross. Because of his ignorance of the plan, therefore, God used his evil works against him throughout history in order to rectify the problem of man's sin.

D. The mystery in motion.

In Ephesians 3:3-5 Paul spoke of God's gospel plan of salvation as a mystery that had been revealed in the first century:

*By revelation He made known to me the mystery **which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men**, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets (Ep 3:4,5).*

God's plan to save man was a mystery before the event of the cross. The word "mystery" was used to refer to the gospel plan of redemption that was in the mind of God before the creation (Rv 13:8). It was not fully revealed to mankind until its revelation in Jesus on the cross. At the time Paul wrote to the Ephesians, it was no longer a mystery, for Jesus brought to light the gospel. The mystery "**has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel**" (2 Tm 1:10).

Genesis 3:15 was the first revelation to man that God had something in mind that would later be revealed through the Seed of woman. It was a mystery that not even the prophets of the Old Testament understood when they penned words of what was to come. Peter wrote the following concerning the prophets and their writing concerning what God was working to bring the Seed into the world:

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed, that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into (1 Pt 1:10-12).

The mystery of the gospel that had "been hidden in God who created all things" has now been "made known by the church ... according to the eternal purpose which He [God] accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ep 3:9-11).

When God made the promise of Genesis 3:15 to Adam and Eve, Satan was also informed that something was coming in the future. Satan did not know the implications of God's mystery, though he and all demons knew they were headed for the destruction of a fiery hell (Mt 25:41; 2 Pt 2:4). Satan could deduct from the nature of the crushing blow of the Seed's heel that he would endure a devastating blow. However, the details of the mystery of the Seed that would crush his head was not revealed to him, neither to angels, nor the prophets of God. It was the mystery that would be made known only at the appointed time when God would fulfill His gospel plan that had been established before the founda-

tion of the world.

After the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, the stage was set for the struggle between good and evil in reference to God bringing into the world the promise of the Seed that would crush the head of Satan. The sin of Adam set into motion God's gospel plan of redemption through the Seed. Satan realized that God

had a plan, and therefore, he also set into motion his attack against the Seed of woman in order to destroy the seedline. He launched his attack against humanity in order to save himself from the certain destruction that God would bring upon him. Therefore, the battle lines were drawn and the Seedline Wars commenced.

Chapter 2

SEEDLINE WAR BETWEEN SATAN & HUMANITY

Satan is in the world and is as a ravaging lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pt 5:8). He is the great tempter and deceiver of humanity who works against all the work of God (Rv 20:2). It is his relentless work to lead astray those who have set themselves to serve God. Paul wrote,

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ep 6:12).

The Christian is in a constant struggle against the deception of the one who is the prince of this world and ruler of the kingdom of darkness (Hb 10:18; Jn 16:11). He is fighting in a spiritual war that has raged since Satan led his original rebellion against God in heavenly places. The battle between good and evil continues, though the mystery of God has now been revealed in order to give Christians the victory before the final destruc-

tion of the enemy when Jesus comes again.

Christians have won the battle through the One who conquered Satan when He ascending on high and led captivity captive. *"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us"* (Rm 8:37; see Ep 4:8; Ph 4:13). This victory that we have in Christ did not come cheap. A savage battle for the souls of men before the cross and resurrection of Jesus carried on for centuries behind the scenes of the physical world. The final battle and victory cost God His Son on a cruel cross outside the walls of Jerusalem. What led up to this cross is a story of spiritual warfare that raged from the very time Adam ate of the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden to the time the head of Satan was crushed by the heel of the incarnate Son of God on the cross.

The battle was fierce between Satan and God because Satan knew that destruction would eventually come his way. He sought to take all humanity with himself into destruction. Satan's savagery

in battle was so intense at one point in human history that he almost destroyed the entire human race because of his own fury against God.

In his efforts to lead all into his own destruction, Satan set into action in the garden of Eden every effort to destroy the seedline of woman. The history of this warfare has been recorded for us throughout the pages of the Old Testament. In these inspired chronicles we discover that this warfare behind the scenes spilled over into the physical world, and thus, led to the ruin of countless millions throughout the history of the world. God commissioned the recording of the Seedline Wars in order to shock into reality any who would grow complacent concerning the rage of Satan against all that is God (See Rm 15:4; 1 Co 10:11).

As we study through Satan's efforts to destroy the seedline of woman, we must understand the faithfulness and commitment of God to humanity. God was faithful and committed to the preservation of the Seed who would give salvational hope to humanity. At the same time, the Seed would save humanity through the foreordained plan of God to be an offering for our sins. Therefore, from the beginning, every effort of Satan was to work against the efforts of God to bring the Seed of woman into the world. Regardless of Satan's work, however, God faithfully delivered man from certain doom for the purpose of preserving the seedline for the salvation of those who would believe and obey the gospel.

We must focus on the efforts of Satan in his war against the seedline of

woman that would eventually bring the Seed into the world. In this war of the supernatural powers, the Old Testament records the accounts of how God preserved the seedline of woman in order to preserve the Seed. His work of preservation was for the purpose of bringing into the world the promised Seed of Genesis 3:15 whose work it would be in the end to destroy our last enemy, physical death (1 Co 15:25,26). Therefore, every student of the Holy Chronicles of God must study with intensity God's efforts to deliver us out of the clutches of Satan in order to deliver us unto the kingdom of the Seed (Cl 1:23).

A. Satan sought to destroy the seed of Eve.

The Seedline Wars began immediately in the garden of Eden when God promised that the Seed of woman would crush the head of Satan. God gave a warning to Adam in relation to His instructions not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He warned that in "*the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*" (Gn 2:17).

Adam ignored the warning. He ate. He thus spiritually died the very day he ate of the tree. His sin separated him from God (Is 59:1,2). He thus brought upon himself eternal condemnation (Rm 6:23). He introduced sin into the world by being the representative of humanity to first sin against God (Rm 5:12).

The process of physical death commenced in the world when Adam was driven from the tree of life.

*Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. **And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever**"—therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life (Gn 3:22-24).*

Though all things appeared to be gloom and doom, in the midst of this human tragedy, God initiated war against Satan's initial attack by unveiling a brief hint of the Seed that would eventually crush the power of Satan (Gn 3:15). In Adam's darkest hour in his realization that he had introduced sin into the world, God revealed a gospel Light at the end of the tunnel of human history. The Light would come who would eventually bring life again unto humanity (See Jn 8:12).

Satan's first attempt to destroy the seedline of woman that would bring into the world the Seed came when Cain moved with jealousy against his brother Abel (Gn 4:1-8). If Satan could destroy Abel, the genealogy of righteous heirs from the mother of humanity (Eve) would have been curtailed. However, God countered Satan's work. "*And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth*" (Gn 4:25). Eve said of this birth, "*For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed*" (Gn 4:25). And so, the seedline continued.

Did Eve believe that Seth was the fulfillment of the Genesis 3:15 prophecy? We do not know. But what she said concerning the birth of Seth does indicate that she knew there was more significance to his birth than simply the birth of another son. Humanity was in the balance, and the seedline was to be preserved.

God could have stopped here with the growth of the human race. Only Adam, Eve, Cain and Abel would have been lost because of sin. However, it was God's original plan in creation to bring many into eternal dwelling in heaven. Therefore, Adam and Eve were to multiply and populate the world (Gn 1:22). Those of the world's population who walked by faith would submit to God. They would be justified by the blood of the Lamb who was yet to come in relation to the lives of Adam and Eve. God would not allow Satan to rule the day by forcing His hand to dissolve His gospel plan to save many for eternal dwelling through the cross. God created, but He would not allow Satan to terminate those who would live by faith. Satan has no power over the faithful above that which God allows him to have. He limits Satan in order to bring about His purpose for the creation of the world.

B. Satan sought to destroy all humanity.

After the episode with Cain, Satan again launched his attack against the seedline by going after all humanity. He was the great deceiver who brought all

humanity to the brink of total destruction. Moses explained,

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth ... (Gn 6:5-7).

God was moved to destroy humanity because humanity had lost its purpose for existence. All humanity was set in a self-perpetuating mode of moral degradation that could not be reversed by the free-moral choices of men, for all men chose rebellion. It was not that man had given over to Satan his right to free-moral choice. It was that man determined to make only those choices that would bring his soul to ruin. Sin was the order of the day. Sin was the culture of man, and thus, all who were of the culture of the world chose rebellion over good.

Satan had succeeded to introduce into the human race a moral direction that led to self-destruction. If the story of humanity stopped here, then we would not be here today. It seemed that Satan had finally won by leading all humanity in rebellion against the work of God. Satan was thus willing to sacrifice all humanity for the purpose of destroying the seedline of woman in order to save himself from the torment of a fiery hell.

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Gn 6:8). Upon the faith-

fulness of one man, humanity was thus preserved and the seedline of the Seed continued. Since the days of Abel, this was the closest Satan ever came to the total destruction of the seedline. It was down to one man in all the world. However, from that one man God turned things around by the salvation of eight souls in an ark that floated on cleansing waters that washed away a world's population that knew only sin (1 Pt 3:20). God thwarted the scheme of Satan through one righteous man.

To Noah, God promised, ***"But I will establish My covenant with you ..."*** (Gn 6:18). In faithful obedience to the commandment of God to build the ark, Noah was delivered from the destruction that God would bring upon humanity. ***"Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation'"*** (Gn 7:1). And thus, God preserved the seedline of the Seed through righteous Noah.

After the flood, Noah continued the animal sacrifices that God had instituted should be given as an offering for sin. ***"Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar"*** (Gn 8:20). But animal sacrifices would never be sufficient for sin. They would never take away sins (Hb 10:4). God never intended that animal sacrifices be the crushing blow that would deliver men from the bondage of sin. No animal could ever accomplish what God would work through the promised Seed of woman.

It would eventually be the Seed of woman who would offer a sufficient sacrifice for sin once and for all time. The Seed sacrifice would be a sacrifice that would be sufficient for all men for all eternity. Therefore, because of the insufficiency of animal sacrifices, we could assume that Satan realized that the coming Seed would do something that would directly affect him. He thus continued the onslaught of his war against the seedline.

C. Satan sought to lead humanity into idolatry.

Before the flood of Noah's day, Satan was successful in leading all humanity into total wickedness. Of the pre-flood masses of humanity, Moses recorded the thoughts of God concerning their morally digressed condition: "*Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*" (Gn 6:5).

After the flood, Satan turned on the religious nature of man. He warped the God-created inclinations of man in order to deceive men into believing and behaving that which was contrary to God. It was a time for Satan to deceive humanity to create gods after their own religious imaginations. It was a time when Satan would lead men to create religious practices that would encourage defiled men to seek after the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and pride of life. Satan thus filled the world with every imaginable religion and god that would condone the

sinful behavior of depraved minds. He therefore sought to destroy the seedline by leading men to believe in false gods.

Satan misdirected the religious inclinations of religious people to follow after their own religious inventions. Paul explained vividly this era of the history of humanity,

Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things (Rm 1:21-23).

By leading man into religious self-righteousness, Satan forced God's hand. Satan thought he had won the battle by misdirecting the religious nature of men to be fulfilled in the creation of religions and gods after their own imaginations. Paul explained God's action toward such a wicked generation:

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator ... (Rm 1:24,25).

It appeared, therefore, that Satan had once again won the battle to destroy the seedline of the Seed by misguiding the religious nature of all humanity. Satan

allowed men to maintain their religious spirit. He simply redirected their religious focus to their own religious inventions. He had again supposedly won the day by taking the masses into self-deceived religiosity.

God then called out of humanity righteous Abraham and renewed the promise of the seedline through him. *“Now the Lord had said to Abram ... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”* (Gn 12:1-3). The preservation of the seedline, therefore, would change from humanity in general to the specific seedline of Abraham. Paul wrote, *“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘and to your Seed,’ who is Christ”* (Gl 3:16). Therefore, it was through Abraham that *“the Seed should come to whom the promise was made ...”* (Gl 3:19). Because of the faith of Abraham, the seedline was thus preserved.

By turning to the seedline of Abraham, the genealogy of the original promise of Genesis 3:15 was now focused on the descendants of one man. Therefore, Satan turned his attention to Abraham and his descendants. He did so in order to destroy the continued promise of the

crushing blow of the Seed that would come through Abraham.

Once the promise of Genesis 3:15 was made to Adam and Eve, Satan realized that the Seed of woman would bring into existence that which would endanger his own existence. He thus launched every effort to destroy the medium (the seed of woman) through whom the Seed would be brought into the world. He sought to destroy the first seeds of woman. Cain killed Abel. But God gave Seth, and thus, the continuation of the seedline. Satan then went after all humanity. He led the world into a culture of sin in which sinful behavior was the accepted nature of life. God countered by wiping the world clean of a culture that knew only sin. However, He saved righteous Noah in order to preserve the seedline. Satan then turned on the religious nature of man. He deceived religious people into creating gods after their own imaginations and religions after their own evil desires. God then countered Satan's work through the faith of Abraham, through whom He determined to bless all nations in his seed. In the Seedline Wars, the focused was now on the seedline of one man and his descendants.

Chapter 3

SEEDLINE WAR BETWEEN SATAN & ABRAHAM'S SEED

When God chose Abraham from among the families of all the nations, He was directing the seedline through which the Seed would come from the generations of Abraham's seed. Paul empha-

sized this point when he said of Abraham that God did not say that the promise would come through many, *“but as of one, ‘And to your Seed, who is Christ’”* (Gl 3:16). It was through Abra-

ham that all families of the earth would be blessed with the coming of the Son of God (Gn 12:3). Therefore, when God protected the seedline through Abraham, Satan also turned his forces of evil toward Abraham and his heritage in order to destroy the heritage of Abraham.

A. Satan attacked the mother of the Abrahamic seedline.

As in the case of his attack against Eve, Satan attacked the very source through whom the seed of Abraham would be perpetuated throughout history. That source was Sarah, the mother of the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, we might assume that Satan closed up the womb of Sarah for she could not have children. She was barren.

At the time God made the promise to Abraham, He had promised that He would give a land to the descendants of Abraham. But when God made the promise, there was no hope of any descendants coming from Abraham because Sarah was barren. She could produce no descendants to whom a land could be given (Gn 16:1). However, regardless of the fact that she could not bear children, Satan would not win this battle.

God said to Abraham concerning Sarah, *“And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her”* (Gn 17:16). Realizing that both he and Sarah were old in years, Abraham fell on his face and laughed in reference to this promise. He said to God, *“Shall a child*

be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” (Gn 17:17).

Nevertheless, God was patient with Abraham. He said to Abraham, *“Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him”* (Gn 17:19; 18:9-15). Abraham doubted, but God’s work always answers our doubts. The seedline would continue because God had the gospel in mind when He made the promise to Abraham and his descendants. Abraham was looking for a man child through whom he would have a heritage. God was looking toward the incarnate Man Child who would be born of the womanhood of Israel (See Rv 12).

God opened the womb of Sarah in order that Abraham have faith in God that He would work the birth to His glory. Moses recorded in Genesis 21:2,3,

For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac.

And so the seedline continued. Though Abraham did not understand the eternal purpose of God that would be revealed almost two thousand years later, God continued to work. His work was greater than the imagination of Abraham because His work was to save the human race from sin and death (See 1 Pt 1:10-12).

An interesting event happened in the life of Abraham that illustrated the purpose of the Seed who would eventually come through Abraham. In Genesis 22:2 God said to Abraham,

Take now your son, your only son Isaac whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.

This was a time in the life of Abraham when his faith would be tested. This test would give all Israel a foretaste of what would happen almost two millennia after Abraham. The only begotten son of Abraham was to be offered as a sacrifice.

Without a break in the record of the event between the command of God and the obedience of Abraham, Moses wrote, *“So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey ... and went to the place of which God had told him”* (Gn 22:3). Abraham believed in God. He did not understand all of what God was doing by asking him to offer his son. However, he did believe in the resurrection. In this case God was revealing Abraham's faith, for He wanted an example of faith for all nations for all history. Centuries later, the Hebrew writer wrote of the faith of Abraham on this occasion.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In

Isaac your seed shall be called,’ accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense (Hb 11:17-19).

At the moment Abraham was about to drive a knife into the heart of Isaac in order to offer his son as a sacrifice to the Lord, the Angel of the Lord called unto him and said,

By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, in blessing I will bless you In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice (Gn 22:15-18).

By faith, Abraham was willing to offer his only son. God stopped the offering because Abraham had acted because of his obedient faith. However, there would come a time in the seedline of Abraham when an only begotten Son would be offered. The Son would be part of Abraham's physical heritage. He would also be of God's heritage from heaven. The sacrifice of this Son would not be held back. The Seed sacrifice would be offered for the redemption of mankind.

B. Satan sought to starve out the seedline through Isaac.

The seedline continued through Isaac who grew and prospered in the land of Palestine. However, in the days of Isaac

there was a great famine in the land of Palestine that threatened the lives of all the inhabitants of the land. Because of the famine, Isaac took all his family and went into the land of Abimelech, the king of the Philistines (Gn 26:1). However, the famine eventually became worse and extended even into the land of the Philistines. Isaac then made plans to go to Egypt (Gn 26:2). But God said,

*Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. ... **in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed** (Gn 26:3,4).*

Isaac and his family stayed in the land of Abimelech. The seedline thus continued with the help of God who delivered Isaac and his seed from the great famine of Palestine, and thus, thwarted the scheme of Satan to starve out the seedline of Abraham through Isaac. Satan would not win this battle. Through the work of God in the affairs of man, the seedline would be preserved.

C. Satan sought to destroy the seedline through Esau's hate.

Jacob was the son of Isaac through whom God continued the seedline promise. Through the work of Rebekah (Gn 27), Isaac was deceived into giving to his son Jacob the blessing of heritage that

was due the firstborn. When Esau, Jacob's brother, realized that the blessing that was due to him as the firstborn was given to his brother, his hate for Jacob moved him to murder his brother. Moses recorded,

*So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, 'The days of mourning for my father are at hand; **then I will kill my brother Jacob** (Gn 27:41).*

Satan was in planning through Esau to destroy the heir through whom the seedline of the Seed would come. He would move Esau to kill Jacob.

But such would not be the case. The murder plot was relayed by Rebekah who said to Jacob, "*Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran*" (Gn 27:43). And so Jacob fled for his life. He fled for the preservation of the seedline.

On his way to Haran, Jacob dreamed one night of a ladder that was set up on earth and reached into the heavens. In the dream, among other things, the Lord said, "*I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac ... **in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed***" (Gn 28:13,14). So here God's plan was finally revealed to Jacob. The seedline would continue through him and not his brother Esau. God would work through the heritage of Jacob to bring the Seed of blessing from heaven into the world.

D. Satan enslaved the seedline of Abraham.

In Genesis 37 the brothers of Joseph allowed Satan to work in their hearts. In doing so, they sold their brother Joseph to Midianite traders, and thus, the traders “took Joseph to Egypt” (Gn 37:28).

The work of the brothers was the desire of Satan to take the descendants of the seed of Abraham into a land of captivity and into a culture of idolatry. Satan possibly schemed to change the culture of Israel into an idolatrous culture as he had the nations of the world at this particular time in history. In the land and culture of Egypt, it was surely Satan’s desire that Israel be corrupted with the spirit of idolatry by the polytheistic Egyptians. But such would not happen.

God has always turned Satan’s work against himself. This is a lesson Satan never learns. And so it was with the selling of Joseph into Egyptian slavery. In the selling of Joseph, it was God’s work to save the posterity of Abraham through Jacob in a land where Israel would be protected from the digression of the Canaanite culture in Palestine.

It came to pass many years after Joseph had been sold into Egyptian slavery, that a great famine developed throughout the ancient world at the time Jacob and his sons were still in Palestine. Because of the fertile Nile River, Egypt was the only place grain could be purchased. Therefore, Jacob looked toward Egypt for food to preserve his family. What he did not know was that God was working Satan’s evil of the selling of Joseph and

the famine of the land to move the descendants of Abraham out of the culture of the Canaanites in Palestine into the land of Goshen in Egypt. It would be in Egypt that Jacob’s descendants would dwell over four hundred years until the wickedness of the Canaanites had become full.

At the time of the famine in Palestine, Joseph had already risen to prominence in Egypt and was placed in command of all Pharaoh’s house and land (Gn 41:40). The brothers of Joseph were sent to Egypt by Jacob to buy grain for all their households. What they did not know was that they would have to approach their forgotten brother for grain whom they had sold into slavery.

At the conclusion of the drama between the brothers and the man they greatly feared, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers. When Joseph did reveal himself to his brothers, he revealed how God worked through his selling into Egypt by the hands of his brothers. He said to his brothers “***And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance***” (Gn 45:7).

God preserved the seedline through the descendants of Jacob. God foiled the plan of Satan to destroy the seedline. What Satan had worked through the evil motives of the brothers who sold Joseph, God used to preserve the seedline. While Satan worked to starve out the seedline, God was working to move the descendants of Abraham through Jacob to another land.

Through the twelve sons of Jacob a

great nation grew in Egypt in fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham (Gn 12:1-3). As God promised, Abraham's descendants became as the stars of heaven. The nation was four hundred years in bondage, and thus, four hundred years of growth stronger at the time God sent Moses to deliver them from Egyptian captivity.

In His revelation concerning the mystery of the gospel that would be revealed centuries later, God became more specific concerning the genealogy of the seedline. The Seed would come specifically through the tribe of Judah. Before he died, Jacob called his sons together and said, "*Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days*" (Gn 49:1). Among the many things that Jacob stated, he prophesied in reference to the tribe of Judah, "***The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a law-giver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedi-***

ence of the people" (Gn 49:10). It would be from the tribe of Judah that the Law-giver (Shiloh) would come. Therefore, throughout the remainder of the history of Israel, Israel looked to Judah as the tribe from which the Seed would come.

God had chosen a family out of all the families of the world through whom to bring the Seed into the world. Satan worked against Abraham, but God always delivered. The seedline continued through Isaac, against whom Satan also worked to destroy the heritage of Abraham. But God delivered. Through Jacob, not Esau, the seedline was continued. Satan then turned his attention to the heritage of Jacob and sought to destroy the seedline through Jacob. But God delivered Jacob's heritage by leading his family out of the land of Canaan into the land of Goshen in Egypt where the sons of Jacob would be preserved for four hundred years.

Chapter 4

SEEDLINE WAR BETWEEN SATAN & NATIONAL ISRAEL

While Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were in the land of Canaan, the wickedness of the inhabitants of the land had not digressed to the point of no return to repentance. At one time when Abraham was standing in the land, God said to him in reference to His promise that He would give him the land, "***But in the fourth generation they [Abraham's descendants] shall return here [Canaan], for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete***" (Gn 15:16).

The day would come when the land of Canaan would be polluted with the wicked behavior and religion of a people that God would judge to be unfit to continue as a wicked civilization. Therefore, Israel was protected from the wicked digression of the Canaanite civilization by their immigration to the land of Goshen in Egypt. God had led His people to Egypt through the selling of Joseph to Midianite traders. What appeared evil on the surface was God working the evil

influences of Satan against himself (Gn 45:7). The Seed was thus preserved by Satan's efforts to destroy the seedline.

When the wickedness of the Canaan inhabitants had become full, it was time for God to fulfill His promise to Abraham concerning the land (Gn 12:1-3). Therefore, God sent Moses from the wilderness of Sinai to call Israel out of Egyptian captivity in order to lead the people into the promised land (Ex 6). However, Satan had been at work in Egypt. His efforts to destroy the nation of Israel, and thus the seedline, had not been idle. He had led Israel into being affected by the culture in which they lived in Egypt. As a result, the people came forth from Egypt with idolatrous thinking that would affect them in their early growth as a free nation.

A. Satan led the united Israel into religious apostasy and national division.

The Egyptians were polytheistic idolaters. They were a culture of many gods they had imagined in their own minds in order to accommodate their many different religious desires. Israel's presence in Egypt did not leave them unaffected by the idolatrous culture of the Egyptians. This idolatrous culture to some extent influenced Israel. Israel resided in the land of Egypt, though protected somewhat from the influence of the Egyptians by being in the land of Goshen for four hundred years. Though they believed in the one true God, the religious culture of the land did not leave them untouched.

After four hundred years, it was time to bring the seedline nation out of Egypt. It was time to bring them into the land that was promised to them by God centuries before through Abraham (Gn 12:1-3). Therefore, God called and sent Moses unto Pharaoh to bring forth His people from captivity.

It was the power of God that moved Pharaoh to release the Israelites from captivity. After their release, the Israelites journeyed to Mount Sinai. However, while Moses was on Mount Sinai to receive the law of God, the people rebelled, and thus, intimidated Aaron into building an idolatrous golden calf (Ex 32). They yearned to go back to Egypt. They had been delivered out of the culture, but the culture of Egypt was not yet delivered out of them. It seemed that Satan had once again destroyed the posterity of the seedline by diverting the Israelites' attention to the false religions of the Egyptian culture from which they had been delivered.

As a result of Israel's idolatrous actions at Mount Sinai, God's wrath was turned against the entire nation. God turned against them because He could not use an idolatrous people to bring into the world the Seed who would represent the one true God. God thus said to Moses, "*Now therefore let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. **And I will make of you a great nation***" (Ex 32:10).

God was willing to start the seedline again through Moses as He did with Noah when Satan had influenced the whole world to turn away from God. But Moses

pled for the case of Israel.

Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people (Ex 32:13,14).

Therefore, because of the righteousness of one man, the seedline was preserved through the heritage of the nation of Israel.

It was not that God would break His promise to Abraham and the fathers if Israel were taken out of the way in order for Him to start another nation through Moses. Moses was of the heritage of Abraham. It would simply take several more centuries to raise up another nation after Moses. However, God relented from doing such because of Moses who mediated on behalf of Israel. Moses acted as a mediator between Israel and God as the Seed would centuries later mediate on behalf of all those who would believe in Him.

Nevertheless, there was a price to pay in order to purify Israel of idolatrous inclinations that were manifested at Mount Sinai. The purification process would be based on their lack of reverence toward and trust in the one true God.

God thus tested Israel's faith by giving them the opportunity to go in immediately and take the land of promise. However, when the spies of Israel returned from spying out the land, all but two spies (Joshua and Caleb) had the faith to take the land. The ten faithless spies terrified the nation by saying, "... we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight" (Nm 13:33). Satan subsequently won this battle of the faiths. Moses recorded concerning Israel's reaction to the spies' report, "Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night" (Nm 14:1). They complained to God, "Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" (Nm 14:3). Their complaint manifested the weakness of their faith in God to successfully take them into the land of promise.

Their weak faith would not survive the conflict into which they would be going to conquer the Canaanites. They were thus tested by God, but they miserably failed the test. This generation of Israelites did not have the faith that was necessary to conquer the land of the Canaanites and continue the heritage of the seedline promise. They had been corrupted with faithlessness, and thus, Israel had to be purged of such influence in the desert of Sinai.

At Mount Sinai God again sought to destroy the entire nation of Israel because they had more faith in Egypt than in Him. God said to Moses, "I will strike them

ABRAHAM → ISAAC → JACOB → JUDAH → DAVID → THE SEED

with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they” (Nm 14:12). But Moses again interceded for the nation by asking God to “*pardon the iniquity of this people*” (Nm 14:19). And so, God pardoned Israel for her unfaithfulness. The Israelites again survived the wrath of God for their sin because of the mediatorship of Moses. The seedline would continue through them. However, all those twenty years of age and older would die in the wilderness because of their faithlessness. God said to Israel through Moses and Aaron,

How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who murmur against Me? I have heard the murmurings which the children of Israel murmur against Me. Say to them, “As I live,” says the Lord, “just as you have spoken in my hearing, so I will do to you: The carcasses of you who have murmured against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above (Nm 14:26-29).

God had to cleanse the nation of the older generation that had been affected by the idolatrous culture of Egypt. It was this older generation that had led the nation in rebellion that prevented them from entering the land of promise. God would thus raise up in the desert of Sinai a new generation of Israel that was unaffected by the idolatrous cultures of the world. This new generation would learn to trust completely in God. They would be made

to trust in God even for their daily food in the deserts of the Sinai. And thus, the seedline nation would be spiritually rejuvenated to continue a few more centuries until the coming of the Seed.

After forty years of wandering in the wilderness of Sinai, Israel, through the leadership of Joshua, entered and conquered the land of promise. It was still Satan’s goal to lead the entire nation into apostasy against God. He would seek to destroy the seedline nation of Israel by the influence of idolatrous religions of the land of Canaan and Israel’s own religious complacency.

Israel sinned against God in the conquest of Canaan by not eradicating from the land, according to the command of God, the Canaanites whose wickedness had become full (Jg 1:27-2:3). As a result, those Canaanites who were left in the land brought into Israel their corrupted religious beliefs of idolatrous behavior. Nevertheless, God would preserve the seedline nation throughout the history of Israel by raising up faithful men who would continually lead the way back to the one true God.

David was born of the seedline tribe of Judah. He was a man after God’s own heart. God thus focused the lineage of the seedline of the Seed through his descendants. At the end of his reign as king of Israel, God promised David,

When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will

establish the throne of his kingdom forever (2 Sm 7:12,13).

God also promised, “*And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever*” (2 Sm 7:16). In the immediate context of these promises, David was looking forward to a king of his immediate lineage who would reign after him upon his throne in Jerusalem. Solomon was that king. However, God had more in mind than the reign of Solomon when He made these promises to David.

The Hebrew writer quoted from the text of 2 Samuel 7 where God had made a promise concerning the seed of David. He wrote, “*For to which of the angels did He ever say: ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You?’ And again: ‘I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?’*” (Hb 1:5). In the context of Hebrews 1, reference is to Christ, and thus, God had the Seed (Christ) in mind when He promised David in 2 Samuel 7 that He would set up his seed after him. God promised David that through his seedline, the Seed would come who would sit on his throne.

On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, Peter applied the 2 Samuel 7 prophecy to Jesus who at that time had ascended to the right hand of God in fulfillment of the promise to David. Peter proclaimed,

*Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that ... being a prophet, and knowing that **God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh,***

He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke of the resurrection of the Christ ... (At 2:29-31).

This is precisely what Gabriel had told Mary before the birth of Jesus.

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end (Lk 1:31-33).

David was of the tribe of Judah in Israel. After his death, Solomon reigned over all Israel. However, after Solomon died, Israel was divided into the northern kingdom and southern kingdom. The tribe of Judah was the greater of the two tribes that remained faithful in the southern kingdom of Israel. Satan knew that the seedline was through the tribe of Judah (Gn 49:10), and specifically, through the lineage of David (2 Sm 7). Therefore, in his efforts to destroy the nation of Israel, his focus was always on the southern kingdom in which was the tribe of Judah and the Davidic seed. He first launched his attack against the seedline nation as a while by dividing the nation. After the northern kingdom went into Assyrian captivity, he then went after the southern kingdom. And finally, he focused on David’s seedline in order to destroy it.

In order to destroy the nation of Israel, and specifically the seedline of David, Satan went after the heritage of Davidic kings who would reign after David. He started with Solomon by turning Solomon away from God through the influence of his many foreign wives.

*But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. **For surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.**” Solomon clung to these in love (1 Kg 11:1,2).*

Because of Solomon’s sin, God said that He would tear the kingdom away from him and give it to his servant (1 Kg 11:11). However, God would leave one tribe under the rule of Solomon’s son. “... *I will not tear away the whole kingdom, but **I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen**” (1 Kg 11:13). The one tribe that was left for Solomon’s descendant kings was the tribe of Judah, the tribe through which the seedline promise of David would continue (Gn 49:10).*

B. Satan led the divided Israel into captivity.

When Israel first entered into the land of Canaan, she disobeyed God in one par-

ticular area that would eventually lead to her destruction. She did not, according to the command of God, drive out all the Canaanites of the land (Jg 1:27 - 2:6). As a result, these wicked societies infected the Israelites with idolatrous worship of pagan gods throughout Israel’s possession of the land until the Babylonian captivity of 586 B.C. Of their history, it is recorded,

*Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and **served the Baals; and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger** (Jg 2:11,12).*

Their sin in reference to the Canaanites, therefore, was Satan’s opportunity to destroy the seedline nation. It was his opportunity to lead the chosen people of God into rebellion against the work of God through them.

We must keep in mind that God continually worked with Israel throughout her history in order to delay her total apostasy. In the early years of her national history, “*the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them*” (Jg 2:16). Prophets later followed the judges. Nevertheless, the nation of Israel eventually digressed to the point of no return. God then sent the armies of the Assyrians and Babylonians to take the nation of Israel into captivity. Those were sad days for a

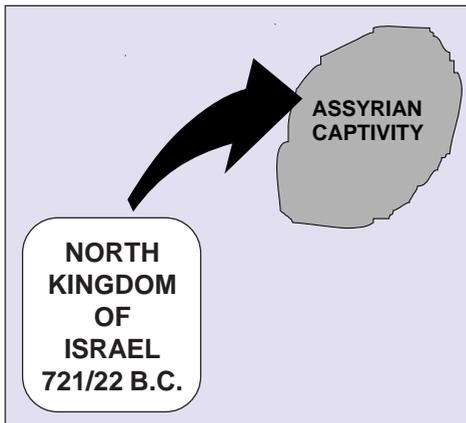
nation who had found favor in the eyes of God through His promise to Abraham.

1. Apostasy of the northern kingdom: Satan won over the northern kingdom of Israel by leading it into apostasy from God.

So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they ... practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger (2 Kg 17:16,17).

As a result of their apostasy to create gods after their own imagination, the northern kingdom of Israel was taken into Assyrian captivity in 721/22 B.C. *“Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone” (2 Kg 17:18).*

Satan had seemingly won a partial

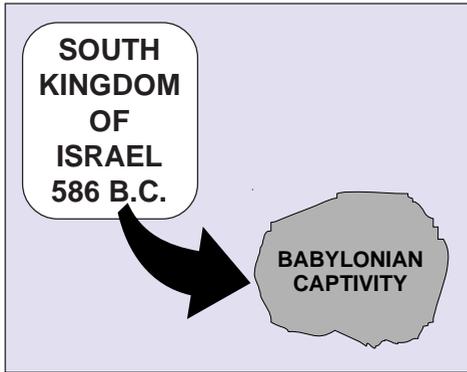


battle to destroy the seedline nation through the captivity of the northern kingdom of Israel. However, the Seed, as promised, was to come through the tribe of Judah, and Judah was in the southern kingdom (See Gn 49:10). Therefore, Satan turned his attention to the southern kingdom in order to intensify his efforts to lead them into idolatrous religiosity.

2. Apostasy of the southern kingdom: When Satan turned his deceptive energies toward Jerusalem, it was his purpose to destroy the seedline work of God through Judah. As a result of his efforts, there was a national apostasy to idolatry. But once again, God raised up Josiah to stimulate a restoration to preserve the nation.

Moreover Josiah put away those who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the Lord (2 Kg 23:24).

After Josiah's death, the southern kingdom of Israel again returned to idolatrous religion. As a result, the Israelites of the southern kingdom were taken into Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. (2 Kg 24:1-12). Jerusalem was destroyed. The temple was destroyed. Israel's existence in Palestine as a nation was destroyed, and seemingly, Satan had won. The seedline tribe of Judah was sent into cap-



tivity. It was sent again into an idolatrous culture where Satan surely thought that the people would be led astray by the idolatrous religion of the Babylonians.

When it seems that Satan has gained the upper hand and won the battle, God steps in with promises and preservation in order to continue the seedline. Therefore, in the days of national gloom in Israel, God promised that a remnant of Israel would return from captivity. In the midst of apostasy and digression, God placed a light at the end of a destiny that seemed to be nothing but darkness. Isaiah proclaimed,

The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them will return; the destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord God of hosts will make a determined end in the midst of all the land (Is 10:21-23).

The curse of the captivities would be thwarted by the faithful remnant of Israel that would return to the land in or-

der to continue the seedline promise. God promised, ***“But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase”*** (Jr 23:3).

Specifically, God said He would bring back Judah, for from her would come the Seed. Jeremiah wrote,

Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah; and all the remnant of Judah, who have gone to the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose words will stand ... (Jr 44:28).

The seedline would continue that was promised through Abraham and David.

Even in captivity, Satan worked relentlessly to destroy the seedline nation. When the Medo-Persians eventually overpowered all the regions to which Israelites were scattered through the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, Satan set in place a scheme to destroy the heritage of the Jews. Through wicked Haman, Satan schemed to convince the King of the Medo-Persian Empire to eliminate all the Jews throughout the Empire (Et 3). But through the bravery of Esther, and the courage of Mordecai, that scheme was squelched and the seedline heritage of Israel continued toward its destiny (Et 5).

When God sought to bring Israel out of Egyptian captivity, Satan realized that God was working hardily through Israel. Therefore, Satan’s evil work turned on God’s plan to free Israel in order to keep

the seedline in Egyptian captivity. Through the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, Satan sought to keep the nation of Israel captive in order to nullify the seedline promises that God had made to Abraham. However, the power of Satan was broken by the power of God when God worked through Moses to deliver Israel.

Nevertheless, Satan was not finished with Israel, for he led the nation into apostasy at Mount Sinai. He led them into apostasy throughout the time they possessed the land of promise. He sought another victory by taking the seedline back into captivity through their own apostasy and the conquering army of Babylon. However, it could never be that Satan would ever win. In the midst of doom and destruction, the promise came that a faithful remnant would return to the land of promise. And so it did.

The Old Testament book of Malachi

closed with the promise of one who would come and be the voice of one crying in the wilderness. *"Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me"* (Ml 3:1). The remnant that had returned from captivity was left in anticipation for the Seed to come. They were now to look for the messenger who would come to prepare the way for the Seed.

After Malachi, God closed the door of revelation on Israel for four hundred years. It was during this time that Israel held firm to the promises of the coming Messiah. Throughout four centuries they waited. They waited, looking for any sign that might indicate the fulfillment of all the prophecies that had been made throughout the centuries concerning the Seed of woman who would crush the head of Satan.

Chapter 5

SEEDLINE WAR BETWEEN SATAN AND THE SEED

There was about four hundred years of inspirational silence between the close of Malachi and the beginning of the end of the Old Testament dispensation. The last days of national Israel are recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Until God was finished with national Israel, the Jews waited for the coming of the Deliverer. Eventually in Israel's last days, there was a priest named Zacharias *"of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth."* An angel of God appeared to this priest and said, *"Do not be afraid,*

Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John" (Lk 1:5-13). Six months later the angel Gabriel appeared to a young woman in Nazareth of Galilee named Mary. Gabriel said,

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will

reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end (Lk 1:31-33).

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, Caesar of Rome, John “*went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins*” (Lk 3:1-3). He preached, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*” (Mt 3:2). From this beginning, the introduction to the coming Seed of woman was made, for it was John’s work to “*prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight*” (Mt 3:3; see Lk 3:1-6).

Satan knew that something was coming that would lead to the destruction of his power over man. He knew that the time had come for the arrival of the One who would in some way crush him. He sensed that the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15 was about to come. He thus launched his attack directly against the incarnate Seed who was born of the woman to whom Gabriel had announced the birth of a Savior.

We have recorded in the New Testament a record of the attack of Satan against the Seed throughout His life and ministry. Throughout history, and until the coming of the Seed, Satan launched every possible attack in order to destroy the seedline. When the Seed came, he turned his attacks directly against the Seed.

To a great extent, He won the battle against the nation of Israel. Eventually, he thought he had accomplished the victory over the Seed by leading the seedline

into apostasy. By the time of the arrival of the Seed, he had led the seedline nation into the apostasy of Judaism, a religion that was created after the traditions of religiously misguided men (Mt 15:1-9; Mk 7:1-9). It was through this apostate religion that Satan launched his attack to destroy both the Seed and the mission for which He came into the world.

We must not forget that Satan used religious leaders, and those people whom they had deceived, to wage his attack against Jesus. Peter judged these religious people guilty when he pronounced on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 that they had crucified the Seed (At 2:36). He later placed the burden of Jesus’ maltreatment directly on the shoulders of the religious leaders.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you (At 3:13,14; see At 2:23).

Therefore, when discussing Satan’s direct attack against the Seed, we must understand that Satan used religious people and their leaders in order to accomplish His work.

A. Satan sought to destroy the Seed.

At the very beginning of the life of Jesus, Satan sought to destroy the Seed

of woman by killing all babies in the city of Bethlehem. When Herod the Great heard of another possible king who was born that might compete with him in fame and power for the throne, he sought to destroy this newly born king (See Mt 2:3-12). He conceived in his heart to destroy every baby in the area of Bethlehem who was under the age of two years in order to make sure that the baby Jesus was killed (Mt 2:16-18).

But Satan would not overcome the work of God to preserve the Seed. *“An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, ‘Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word ...’”* (Mt 2:13). And so the Seed was saved.

After their sojourn in Egypt, Jesus was then taken to Nazareth. While growing up in Nazareth, He *“increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men”* (Lk 2:52). And when He was about thirty years of age, He *“came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him”* (Mt 3:13). After His baptism, He *“was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil”* (Mt 4:1). The Seed was thus delivered from Satan until the time of the beginning of His ministry. At that time, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where Satan would work to divert Him from His destiny.

Until this time in history, Satan had been working indirectly through people and events in order to destroy the seedline. He sought to accomplish his goal through the destruction of humanity by the flood of Noah’s day. He sought

to destroy the heritage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He sought to destroy the nation of Israel. He misdirected the seed of David by leading the kings of Israel into wickedness. All those efforts failed. At the time of Jesus’ birth into the world, Satan’s attention was turned directly on Jesus because he knew that Jesus was the Holy One from God (Mk 1:24).

Though Satan did not understand the mystery that was to be revealed through Jesus, he knew that the effect of Jesus’ ministry had to be stopped. And to stop Jesus, he had to have Him killed. Therefore, from the very beginning of Jesus’ ministry, Satan sought to lead Jesus astray. He sought to lead Him from His destiny because he knew that Jesus had come into the world to deliver him a crushing blow. Satan thus worked during the ministry of Jesus to hinder Jesus in every way to stop His intended destiny.

B. Satan sought to divert the Seed from His mission.

In the wilderness, Jesus fasted for forty days and nights (Mt 4:2). He was famished from the long fast. He was thus in a physical state where He could be vulnerable to the temptations of Satan.

When Satan perceived that Jesus was at His most vulnerable state physically, he came to Him in order to divert Him from His mission. It was at this time that Satan came to Jesus in order to tempt Him to misuse His miraculous power to provide food for Himself (Mt 4:2). But the Seed resorted to God’s word in a rebuke

against Satan that man shall live “*by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*” (Mt 4:4).

Satan then tempted the Seed to call on angels to protect Him from harm. But Jesus retorted that “*you shall not tempt the Lord your God*” (Mt 4:7). Jesus knew that He must allow Himself to suffer at the hands of men without calling on legions of angels to protect Him (See Mt 26:53).

Satan then tempted Jesus with the lust of power over the nations of the world. But Jesus responded by saying that reverence and worship must be directed only toward God, not toward oneself (Mt 4:10). It was His purpose on earth to bring glory to the Father (Jn 8:50). Satan also failed in this and every temptation by which he would divert the mission of Jesus.

In every temptation, Satan sought to divert Jesus from His destiny. However, Jesus could not be dissuaded from the destiny for which He was born into the world. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit had gone through great struggles throughout the history of the world from the very beginning in the garden of Eden to bring the seed of woman into the world. Jesus would thus not now give in to anything that Satan might do to divert His mission. Therefore, He would not succumb to Satan’s temptations in the wilderness.

When Jesus would not yield to Satan’s temptations, “*he departed from Him until an opportune time*” (Lk 4:13). In other words, Satan was not finished with the Seed. He would return at a time

when Jesus was again vulnerable. That time would soon come when Satan would return in order to work against Jesus through His disciples.

C. Satan destroyed the receptivity of the Seed’s audience.

By the time Jesus came, a vast majority of Israel had been led astray by the religious leaders of Israel who had created a religion after the traditions of the fathers. Jesus said to the religious leaders, “*For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition*” (Mk 7:8,9). Therefore, when Jesus came to the Jews, the vast majority of the religious leaders, and most of the Jews, had been captivated by Satan through the self-deception of false religion. For this reason, John wrote of Jesus’ coming, “*He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him*” (Jn 1:11). They did not receive Him because He did not fit into the mold they thought the Messiah should fit. Jesus was simply not their type of Messiah.

Nevertheless, there remained a committed spiritual remnant in Israel among the Jews. These were the children of Abraham by faith. These were those as Andrew who proclaimed, “*We have found the Messiah*” (Jn 1:41). And it was through these that the Seed invested His life and teachings in order that the world might hear the gospel (Mt 28:19,20; Mk 16:15). Though religious Israel had been led astray into a religion that was cre-

ated after the traditions of men, God worked through the Seed in order to bring redemption to all men. Therefore, Jesus continued in His ministry because He knew the sincerity of those who walked by faith. It would be these who would take the mystery of God to all the world.

D. Satan encouraged desertion among the disciples of the Seed.

One of the greatest attacks of Satan against the work of Jesus was his effort to steal away the disciples of Jesus. By doing such, it was the futile hope of Satan to destroy the impact of the Seed upon the multitudes. Satan would also divert the mission of the Seed to proclaim His message to all the world through the gospel message of the disciples (Mt 28:19,20; Mk 16:15).

1. Desertion of followers: After the initial beginning of the ministry of Jesus, multitudes followed Him (Mt 4:25). However, John recorded concerning what many did in the early part of the ministry: *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more”* (Jn 6:66). Satan had worked well in deceiving people into following after the false religion of Judaism. After many initial disciples returned to Judaism, Jesus turned to His closest disciples and asked, *“Do you also want to go away?”* (Jn 6:67).

Though the invitation to return to Judaism was strong, God prevailed through the hearts of those who had committed themselves to follow Jesus. Peter re-

sponded to the preceding question, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Jn 6:68,69). And so the faithful stayed. They would eventually have a kingdom bestowed on them where they would sit on thrones *“judging the twelve tribes of Israel”* (Lk 22:29,30). The Seed would prevail through the disciples’ faithful witness (At 1:8).

2. Desertion of immediate family: The Seed even suffered the unbelief of His immediate family. John recorded, *“For even His brothers did not believe in Him”* (Jn 7:5). “For even” indicates that there were many who did not believe in Him, but specifically those of His immediate family.

Regardless of the initial unbelief of His family, the plan of God through the Seed would still be accomplished. Jesus’ brothers in the flesh would eventually believe. In fact, James would become a leader of the disciples in Jerusalem (Gl 1:19; 2:9). He is given credit for writing the book of James in the New Testament (Js 1:1). Jude, another brother of Jesus, is given credit for writing the book of Jude (Jd 1). The eventual belief and obedience of Jesus’ brothers illustrates the attitude of many during Jesus’ ministry who originally did not believe. However, after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, they did believe. They believed because of the power of God that worked through the resurrection (Rm 1:4)

3. Desertion of apostles: Satan did his work to take away the immediate dis-

ciples of Jesus at the end of His ministry. Judas first led a betrayal against the Seed by having Jesus delivered into the hands of those who would nail Him to the cross (Mk 14:43-46). Nevertheless, Jesus would continue on His mission, which mission was being accomplished by using Satan's work against himself. Then in the garden where the betrayal took place, Mark records concerning the rest of the disciples, "*Then they all forsook Him and fled*" (Mk 14:50). And thus, the Seed stood alone. Satan had taken every follower.

In the hours after the betrayal and desertions, the Seed faced destiny alone in order to crush the head of Satan. He had to be alone, for what had to be done, no animal or man could do. The determination of Jesus to lay down His life is understood in the fact that He alone knew what had to be done in order to deliver humanity from the curse that came into the world through the sin of Adam. He knew that in Adam all died, and thus, He knew also that in Him all would live. In reflecting on the beginning of the Seedline Wars, Paul wrote,

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive (1 Co 15:20-22).

E. Satan killed the Seed of woman.

If one could hear the rejoicing of

Satan and His demons, surely such was no greater in history than when the Seed of woman said from the cross, "*Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit*" (Lk 23:46). Luke then records, "*And having said this, He breathed His last*" (Lk 24:46). The Seed was dead on the cross. Satan surely thought He had won the final battle of the Seedline Wars that started in the garden of Eden several thousand years before and continued to the last breath of the Seed on the cross. His ignorance of the mystery of God that was kept from him from the foundation of the world surely gave him a brief moment of satisfaction for supposedly becoming victorious in the Seedline Wars that had viciously raged throughout millennia of struggle between him and God. Instead of the Seed of woman crushing his head, he surely convinced himself that he had crushed the head of the Seed. For a moment he thought it was his finest hour.

But three days later at the tomb where they had buried Jesus, an angel announced, "*You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen!*" (Mk 16:6). God had once again manipulated Satan for His own eternal purpose. Through the cross, the Seed "*disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it*" (Cl 2:15). Through the resurrection, the Seed "*abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*" (2 Tm 1:10). Because of the resurrection of Jesus, men



have committed themselves to faith in God through Jesus, who is the Seed who conquered death and brought redemption into the world (See 2 Tm 1:12). The cross and resurrection were actually God's finest hour in the conquest of good over evil. The slain Lamb before the foundation of the world had in the cross been made manifest to all men (Rv 13:8). The mystery of the gospel was revealed and Satan was thoroughly crushed by the heel of Jesus. **The Seed had won the Seedline Wars.**

When one realizes what God went through in order to offer us victory over sin, we should be moved with conviction and obedient thanksgiving. It was through the grace of God that Jesus won the war against Satan on our behalf. If such does not move one unto obedience, then certainly that person's heart is hardened against the greatest that can be done to touch the human heart. When we understand that it was the heart of God that

was nailed to the cross, then we should be cut to the heart (At 2:37).

The life of Paul was an example of one being moved by the grace of God because he saw the merciful grace that was revealed through Jesus. Though he was a zealous person for the Jews' religion before he became a Christian, his life after the Damascus encounter, and immersion into Christ, manifested the motivating power of the grace of God that was revealed at the cross. He wrote, "***But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me***" (1 Co 15:10). And so should the grace of God move everyone into belief and obedience. It should move us into action because of our thanksgiving to God for all that He has done through the conquest of the cross (2 Co 4:15).

Epilogue

THE SEED WARS

Those who have obeyed the gospel have come into Christ (Gl 3:27; 2 Th 1:6-9). Baptism, therefore, brings one into a special relationship with Christ. If we are Christ's, then we have become the spiritual seed of Abraham by faith. Paul wrote, "***And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise***" (Gl 3:29). We are Abraham's seed because of faith, and thus, we accept the continuation of

Satan's onslaught against the Seed of woman.

We are sons of God through faith in Jesus (Gl 3:26). As the seed of Abraham by faith, we are recipients of Satan's attack to destroy the effect of the crucified Seed. When we live the gospel that was revealed through the crucified Son of God, then we take upon ourselves the opposition of Satan. Therefore, we must dress for war, for the Seed Wars continue.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints (Ep 6:13-18).

We must put on the whole armor of God because we do not *“wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”* (Ep 6:12).

In Revelation 12, John’s visionary picture is of Satan standing before the

people of God of the Old Testament (the woman) who were about to give birth to the Seed of woman (See Gl 4:4). *“And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born”* (Rv 12:4). However, as soon as the male Child was born, He was caught up to heaven. Since Satan failed in his efforts to destroy the Seed of woman, he turned his attention to the woman, the church. *“Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child”* (Rv 12:13). And so the persecution continues today.

The Seed Wars savagely carry on between the heirs of the Seed and the forces of evil. The war will continue to the end of time. It will continue until the King comes to put an end even to the last enemy, physical death (1 Co 15:24-28). We must remember, however, that the Seed has already given us the victory. We must only stay in the battle. *“For whoever is born from God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith”* (1 Jn 5:4).