

Wrestling Spiritual Wickedness

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5)

“To strive with arms extended, as two men, who seize each other by the collar and arms, each endeavoring to throw the other by tripping up his heels and twitching him off his center. Wrestling uses grappling type techniques such as clinch fighting, throws and takedowns, joint locks, pins and other grappling holds. A wrestling bout is a physical competition, between two competitors or sparring partners, who attempt to gain and maintain a superior position.” (The Dictionary and Wikipedia)

The Greek word for wrestle is *pale pal'-ay* which means simply *to wrestle*. The Hebrew is *abaq aw-bak* meaning *to grapple*. The objective is to wrestle the opponent to the ground and pin him down so that he is incapacitated. It is a humiliating and sometimes painful position.

I preface this article with the above description to draw your attention to the real wrestling match that is going on in the spiritual realm. I would like you to notice three of things.

1. We do this spiritual wrestling NOT with flesh and blood, although I will show later that the wicked one satan does use people for his objectives, but with “spiritual powers.”
2. The weapons of our warfare are not fleshly or of the material world, but are spiritual and mighty in God.
3. The main objective of the enemy is “to gain and maintain a superior position” attempting to render us ineffective by the cause of sin, compromise, distraction, etc.

God in all goodness, mercy, grace, holiness, righteousness and perfection created the earth Genesis 1:1, 2. He invades and conquers darkness. God creates "light" as His second task. Light is good and He creates a division between light and darkness; showing that the two do not mix or go together yea and that goodness and wickedness cannot dwell together either Genesis 1:3, 4. God created man for Himself holy, separate, distinct from any other creature and God breathed in him the breath of life and man became a living soul Genesis 1:26; 2:7.

The battle begins in the garden. God instructs Adam NOT to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil Genesis 2:16, 17. This was God's word to Adam only for Eve had not yet been created until Genesis 2:21-25. As far as we know God did not convey these instructions to Eve. God was setting in order the function of the headship of the husband over the wife, leaves that to Adam.

We're told the serpent, Hebrew *nachash naw-khawsh'* from *nachash naw-khash'* meaning *whisperer, spellbinder, or enchanter*, was more "subtil," Hebrew *aruwm aw-room'* meaning *crafty or cunning*, then any other beast of the field. It deceives Eve using cunningness of words to beguile her mind into disobedience.

As Christians we have to be alert to what we hear, take in, see, read, listen to, have in our home, and believe. Remember what Jesus said:

"The thief (satan) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44)

First mention of evil - **Genesis 2:9, 17.**

Satan and his lies - **Genesis 3:1-7.**

The curse came - **Genesis 3:14-19, 24.**

Evil will cause you to blame others - **Genesis 3:10,12** blame shifting
4:3,4,6,7,8,9,11 early on satan tries to kill the seed line Abel, but eve
has Seth **21:9**.

Deceived and beguiled - **Genesis 3:13; 29:25**.

Men being evil - **Genesis 6:1-7,11,12,13; 9:20-27; 11:4; 13:13;
18:20,23; 19:4-7; 27:41,42** by beguileness satan tried to pervert
the seed line of Abraham. **38:7; 39:7**. Exodus **1:16,22; 9:27; 23:2;
34:12**; Leviticus **10:1; 18:3; 19:29**; Numbers **16:26; 25:1,18**;
Deuteronomy **7:1-4; 9:4,5; 18:9**; Judges **2:10,11; 3:12; 9:23; 1
Samuel 8:3; 15:23; 16:14,15,23; 18:10; 19:9; 25:25**; 2 Samuel
13:3; 11:6; 13:33,34; 14:9,24; 15:12; 1 Kings **21:25**; 2 Kings
17:17; 23:37; 1 Chronicles **2:3; 10:13**; 2 Chronicles **22:3,4**; Psalms
26:5; 31:18; 37:28; 53:1; 74:10; Proverbs **1:10-19; 3:33; 4:19;
6:24-29; 7:4-23,27; 11:18,21; 12:3-5; 15:9,26; 16:4**; Isaiah **1:4;
5:20; 13:11; 14:12-20; 30:1**; Jeremiah **2:19; 3:2,13; 7:24; 33:1,14**;
Daniel **12:10**; Zechariah **1:4**.

Worship of false gods - **Genesis 35:2; Exodus 20:3-5,23; 22:20;
23:13,24,32,33; 32:1-4,6-8; 18-25,31,35; 34:13-17**; Leviticus **17:7;
18:21,24,26,27-30; 19:4,28; 20:2-5; 26:1,30**; Numbers **21:29;
25:2,3; 33:4,52**; Deuteronomy **4:16-19,23,25,28; 5:7-9; 6:14;
7:4,5,16,25,26; 8:19; 9:12,16,21; 11:16; 12:2,3,31;
13:2,3,5-10,13,17; 14:1,21; 16:21,22; 17:2-7; 20:18; 23:9;
27:15-26; 28:64; 29:17,18; 30:17; 31:16-20; 27:15-26; 28:64;
29:17,18; 30:17; 31:16-20; 32:37,38**; Joshua **23:7,16;
24:2,14-16,20,23**; Judges **2:2,3,12,13,17,19; 3:6,7,8; 5:8; 6:10;
8:33; 9:27; 10:6,10,13,14,16; 11:24; 17:3-5; 18:17,18,20,30,31;
19:22,23**; Ruth **1:15**; 1 Samuel **1:16; 2:12; 4:8; 5:2-7; 6:5,11; 7:3,4;
8:8; 25:25; 26:19; 30:22; 31:9,10**; 2 Samuel **5:21; 7:23; 16:7;
20:1; 23:16**; 1 Kings **11:2,5,7,8,10,33; 12:28,31; 13:33,34;
14:9,15,23; 15:12-14; 16:13,31-33; 19:14,18; 20:10; 21:26;
22:43,53**; 2 Kings **1:2,36,16; 3:2; 11:18; 12:3; 13:6; 14:4; 15:4,35;
16:3,4; 10-15; 17:7-14,16,17,29-33,35-38,41** 18:4; **19:12,18;
21:3-7,21; 22:17; 23:24**; 1 Chronicles **4:33; 5:25; 10:9,10; 14:12**; 2
Chronicles **7:19,22; 13:7-9; 14:3,5; 15:16,17; 20:33; 21:11,13;
24:18; 25:14,15; 28:2-4,24,25**; Ezra **9:1,11,13,14**; Nehemiah **9:18**;
Psalms **16:4; 44:20; 81:9; 82:1,6; 86:8; 106:19-23,28,35-39;
115:4; 135:15-18; 138:1**; Isaiah **10:10,11; 19:3; 21:9; 30:22**;

44:10,15,17; 45:16,20; 65:3,4,7; Jeremiah 1:16; 2:8, 11,20,28; 5:19; 7:9-12,18,30,31; 10:2-9,11,14; 11:10,12,13,17; 12:16; 13:10,27; 16:11,12,20; 17:2; 18:15; 19:4,5; 22:9; 23:13,27; 25:6; 32:29,34,35; 35:15; 44:3,5,15,17-23,25; 48:35; 50:38; Ezekiel 5:11; 6:3-6,9,11,13; 8:3,5,10,14,16; 11:12; 14:3,5,6,7; 16:17,18-30,22,31; 18:15; 20:7,30,31,32,39,43; 21:21; 22:3,4; 23:7,37,38,39,49 Ch 28; 30:13,25; 36:18-24; 37:23; 44:10; Daniel 2:11; 3:1-28; 5:4,23; Hosea 2:8; 3:1; 4:12,13,17; 8:4; 9:10; 10:2; 13:1,2,4; 14:8; Amos 8:14; Jonah 1:5; Ch3; Micah 1:7; 2:1-3; 4:5; 5:13; Nahum 1:14; Habakkuk 2:18,19; Zephaniah 1:4,5; 10:2; Acts 7:39-43; 14:11-13; 15:20,29; 17:16,22,23,29; 19:23-28,34,35,37; Romans 2:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 8:1,4,5,7,10; 10:7,14,19,20; 12:2; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Galatians 4:8; 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 John 5:21.

With the sheer number of verses that mention people worshipping false gods one can see that this is a big part of the objectives and motives of satan. If he can get you to worship something other than God Himself then he can bring you down more quickly. Today it is not just other gods or false religions but of "things" as well– for example cars, boats, houses, money, or self.

Magicians, Witches, False Prophets

Genesis 41:8,24; Exodus 7:11,12,22; 8:7,18,19; 19:11; 22:18; Leviticus 19:26,31; 20:6,27; Numbers 22:7; 23:23; Deuteronomy 13:1-3; 18:9-15; 1 Samuel 15:23; 28:3,7-9-14; 1 Kings 18:18-40; 2 Kings 6:14-18; 9:22; 10:18-29; 23:4-20; 2 Chronicles 34:1-8; Job 28:28; Daniel 7:21,25; 8:25; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 2:16; Acts 8:9; 13:6,8,10; Galatians 5:19; Revelations 18:23.

God's people have light

Exodus 10:23; 12:13, 23; Psalms 23:4; 34:7.

Note: the Spirit of the Lord came upon people from time to time it wasn't until Acts 2 that the infilling was permanent.

Satan attempts to get us to sin

2 Samuel Ch11; 24:1, 10; 1 Chronicles 21:1, 2, 7, 8, 17.

The Battle of good and Evil

1 Kings 18:18-40; 2 Kings 6:14-18; 10:18-29; 23:4-20; 2 Chronicles 34:1-8; Job 28:28; Daniel 7:21,25; 8:25; Malachi 3:18.

The Bible has examples of the wicked coming against the righteous

Psalms 34:21; 37:32; Zechariah 3:1, 2; Acts 8:1-3.

Spiritual Battle

Matthew 4:1-11; 13:19,25,28,38-42; 24:4,5,11,23-26; 26:41; Mark 1:12,13; 4:15; 8:33; 13:11-13,21,22; 14:1,38; Luke 4:1-13; 6:7; 9:1; 10:17; 18-20; 11:14-26; 21:8,12,16; 22:31,53; John 5:43; 8:12; 10:10; 17:15; Acts 19:19; 20:29,30; 26:18; Romans 16:20; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; 11:13-15; 12:7-9; Galatians 1:8; Ephesians 2:2,3; 4:27; 5:8,9; 6:10-20; Philippians 3:2; 2:18; 3:5,6; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 5:22; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12; 1 Timothy 3:6,7; 4:1-3; Hebrews 2:14; James 2:19; 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 2:1-8; 3:17; 1 John 2:13,14,18; 4:1-6; 5:18,19; 3 John 1:11; Jude 1:9; Revelations 12:7-9,13-17; Ch13; 19:19,10; 20:1-3,7-10.

People had Demons

Matthew 4:24; 7:22; 8:16,28-34; 9:32,33; 10:1,8,25; 12:22-28, 43-45; 15:22; 17:14-21; Mark 1:23,27,32,34,39; 3:11,15,22-30; 5:1-19; 6:7,13; 7:25-30; 9:17-29,38; 16:9,17; Luke 4:33-36,41; 6:18; 7:21; 8:2,26-33,35,36; 9:1; 10:17; 13:11-16; 22:3,6; John 6:70,71; 8:44; 13:2,27; Acts 5:16; 8:7; 10:38; 16:16-18; 19:12-13-16.

People are influenced by satan

Matthew 16:33; Acts 5:1-10; Romans 1:21-32; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 7:5; 10:20,21; 15:33; 2 Corinthians 2:4; 4:4; 6:15; 1 Timothy 1:20; 5:15; 2 Timothy 2:26; 3:1-9,13; 4:10,14; James 3:15; 1 Peter 4:3; 1 John 3:8,10; 2 John 1:7; Jude 1:6,7; Revelation 2:9,10,13,14,20,24; 3:9; 9:11,20; 16:13,14; 17:1-18.

Always remember satan hates everything about God, the Bible, the Kingdom, and God's people. He will use everything and anything to get you away from God and the Bible. Be on guard! Be awake! Be aware!