

God has Plans; Satan has Schemes

October 3, 2013

For every one of the glorious plans which God has laid out for the good, Satan has a scheme for evil—to undermine God’s plan. Scripture tells us that God’s plans will ultimately triumph over Satan’s every evil scheme! And God has outlined a strategy for believers to thwart Satan’s schemes—namely, that we ‘resist’ the devil by arming ourselves for spiritual battle.

“Evil is on a leash.
So look up and take heart!
God rules in world affairs for His own purposes,
and for the good of those who love Him.”

Dr. David Jeremiah

Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:

Psalm 37:7

Ecclesiastes 7:29

Isaiah 46:11cd

Ephesians 6:10-12

1 Peter 5:8-9a (**Key**)

Scripture to Memorize:

James 4:7 “Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

NOTES on Speaking Session:

Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:

1. What are the five defensive weapons described in Ephesians 6:14-18?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____.

2. Explain why weapon number six—*sword of the Spirit*—is our offensive weapon, and describe what it is and how it would be used against the forces of evil?

3. Reviewing **1 Peter 5:8-9a**, fill in the blanks to reinforce how we are to prepare for and carry out spiritual warfare.

“Be _____ - _____ and _____.
 Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion
 looking for someone to devour.
9 _____ him,
 _____ in the faith....”

Recommended Reading:

- The Handwriting on the Wall*, David Jeremiah
The Invisible War, Chip Ingraham
When Godly People Do Ungodly Things, Beth Moore

Determining the Spirit of truth from the spirit of falsehood:

♥Jesus is the only way to the Father; and the Father works for our good!

John 14:6-10 *“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.’*

⁸*“Philip said, ‘Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’*

⁹*“Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father?”’* ¹⁰*Don’t you believe that **I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.**”* Philippians 2:13 *“...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”*

♥**The Holy Spirit is present with us and in us!** John 14:15-18 *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you**. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”* SKIP to verse 27 (Jesus gives parting peace): *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

²⁸*“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. ³⁰**I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, ³¹but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”***

●The prince of this world—Satan—is here in this world; how to tell the Spirit of truth from the spirit of falsehood. 1 John 4:1-6 *“Dear friends, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God**, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

⁴*“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. **This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.**”*

♥Jesus will separate grain (truth) from chaff (falsehood): Matthew

3:12 *“His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor; gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY!

Reported in early 2009

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians, Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized Days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your Honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, Counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 says, *"The fool says in his heart, there is no God."* Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool! Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned.