

WAR ON TRUTH

I thought a lot about the conversation we had yesterday when I was working last night and God redirected me back to where our conversation started – **TRUTH**. That is what is under heavy assault here and now by a society and a culture that wants to fractionalize and counterfeit who God really is, what God really says, and how God would have us to live as followers of Christ.

So back to Genesis - the beginning of truth in the Bible. What does satan say to Eve? He starts his deception by saying “hath God said” (Genesis 3:1). He never says God didn’t say this or that – his goal is to get Eve to question what God said. She knew exactly what God said, although when she quotes it back to satan she says “lest ye die”, where God told Adam “thou shalt surely die”. Sounds interchangeable, but every word matters to God. **When we are quoting God, every word matters!**

Satan then responds this way, “Ye shall not surely die:” (Genesis 3:4). So God told Adam if they ate of that one tree “thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17) and satan tells Eve “ye shall not surely die”. So he calls God a liar. And by the way, what was Eve doing talking to satan in the first place. **We have no place carrying on a conversation with the devil.**

Next he appeals to Eve’s humanity as he directs her thoughts to her flesh, her eyes and her pride, “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:5). Eve’s response to satan’s deception and diversion tactics is next, “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” (Genesis 3:6). Herein lies the beginning of sin, stemming from the same things all sin is conceived by since then, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (I John 2:15-17). What is the root of all sin, the lust of the flesh (“the woman saw that the tree was good for food”), the lust of the eyes (“and that it was pleasant to the eyes”), and the pride of life (“and a tree to be desired to make one wise”).

Here is another place in God’s Word that these fundamental truths of God are given to us. “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.” (Matthew 4:1-11)

7 LESSONS FROM MATTHEW 4

The **first thing** to notice here is that it wasn’t satan who led Jesus to be tempted - it was “the Spirit” of God that led Him to be tempted. You see God put Adam and Eve in the garden, and he also gave

satan access. Satan is not there unless God allows him to be there. God allows satan access to us but gives us the tools to fight and defeat satan. Those tools give us the power of God to fight our battles instead of trying to use our human powers which are worthless against satan.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” (Ephesians 6:10-13).

God says there to be strong **“in the Lord”** and in the power of **“his might”**, and when we do that we are able to “stand” and “withstand” evil. There is nothing we can do in our humanity to overcome satan, but when we empower God to fight for us we cannot lose. “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Romans 8:37). “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31).

Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for **the battle is not yours, but God's**. To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, **stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord** with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you. And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: **and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.**” (2 Chronicles 20:15-18)

Who tells them to go into battle – God does, and He tells them don’t worry, I will take care of everything. **What did they need to do to prepare for the battle? – pray** (v.18 “bowed his head”, “fell before the Lord, worshipping”), **obey** (v.20a “And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa:), **believe** (v.20b “and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.”), **and praise God for His deliverance** “And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever.” (v.21).

The **second thing** to take note of in the temptation of Jesus is that He was weak and hungry; physically and mentally drained. Satan often attacks us when we are in that same type of state, but Jesus said to Paul “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me**. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.**” (2 Corinthians 12:8-10).

The **third thing** to notice is the first thing satan (“the tempter”) says to Jesus, “If”. Satan says “if” in all 3 temptations there. He knows darn well who Jesus is, but he questions His power and authority anyway (remember what he said to Eve “hath God said”). God reminds us many, many times from Genesis to Revelation who He is in no uncertain terms:

Have ye not known? have ye not heard?
hath it not been told you from the beginning?
have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth,
and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers;
that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain,
and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:
That bringeth the princes to nothing;
he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.
Yea, they shall not be planted;
yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth:
and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither,
and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.
To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high,
and behold who hath created these things,
that bringeth out their host by number:
he calleth them all by names
by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power;
not one faileth.
Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel,
My way is hid from the Lord,
and my judgment is passed over from my God?
Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard,
that the everlasting God, the Lord,
the Creator of the ends of the earth,
fainteth not, neither is weary?
there is no searching of his understanding.
Isaiah 40:21-28

The **fourth thing** there in Jesus' temptation is that satan tempts Jesus with the same things he tempted Eve with:
"If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Jesus was hungry (lust of the flesh).
"Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple".
"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;". Twice there satan gives Jesus a magnificent view (lust of the eyes).
"All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." (pride of life). Satan offered to give Jesus what was already his. ("thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. (1 Chronicles 29:11).

The **fifth thing** to recognize there is that satan tempts Jesus by quoting God's very own words, "for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." The problem is he quotes inaccurately and omits part of what God says there: "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, **to keep thee in all thy ways.** They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. (Psalm 91:11-12). Truth is falsified when we add things to it or take things away from it (what the world does as well as many "Christians"). We need to continually strive to become mature followers of Christ by studying the Bible so that we can be "approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed," by "rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, **nor handling the word of**

God deceitfully (what satan did); but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." (2 Corinthians 4:1-2)

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Hebrews 5:12-14)

The **sixth thing** God shows us here is how we are to respond when tempted by the devil. We are to **refute satan with truth** ("**Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth**: Ephesians 6:14), and there is only one place truth is found – the Word of God. God is the author of truth; satan is the father of lies.

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, **ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

*We had better filter everything man says through the Word of God.

"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)

Jesus quotes His own words ("It is written") each time He is tempted by Satan:

"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4).

"And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." (Deuteronomy 8:3)

"It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." (Matthew 4:7)

"Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God," (Deuteronomy 6:16)

"Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matthew 4:10)

"Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name." (Deuteronomy 10:20)

You know why we are deceived and diverted by satan - because we are lazy and undisciplined in the things of God.

The **seventh thing** is the end result of acknowledging the power and authority of God in His Word:

"Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him." (Matthew 4:11).

Satan has no power over the truth of God, so he leaves Jesus because there is nothing else he can do – he is defeated.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith," (1 Peter 5:8-9)

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." (James 4:7)

How are we told to **resist the devil**? "**in the faith**", by drawing "**nigh to God**". How do we draw closer to God in faith?

“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)

“My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.” (Psalm 63:8)

Knowledge of the truth requires conscious, consistent effort with diligent and disciplined study and prayer.

“The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.” (Proverbs 13:4)

“I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.” (Psalm 77:6)

diligent (Webster’s): characterized by steady, earnest and energetic effort: painstaking

E.M. Bounds says this about prayer:

- * Praying – true praying – costs an outlay of serious attention and time, which flesh and blood do not relish.
- Prayer is spiritual work – humbling work. It abases intellect & pride, crucifies vainglory, and signals our spiritual bankruptcy. It is the most earnest of the conquering forces with which God will crown our labors, and the most demanding of all disciplines.
- An overwhelming desire which stirs and breaks all self indulgent chains and arouses and inspires us to reach out for God gives our faith its grasp on God, and our hearts the sweetest and fullest revelation of Him.
- God’s revelation does not need the light of human genius, the polish and strength of human culture, the brilliance of human thought, the force of human brains to adorn or enforce it. But, it does demand the simplicity, docility, humility, and faith of a child’s heart.
- Our great lack is not in head culture, but in heart culture. He who cultivates his heart the most will use his intellect the best. Praying gives sense, brings wisdom, and broadens and strengthens the mind. We can learn more in an hour praying, when praying indeed, than from many hours of rigorous study.

So when satan is confronted with the truth he departs from Jesus and angels come to minister to Jesus.

“And I was strengthened as the hand of the Lord my God was upon me,” (Ezra 27:28)

So back to Genesis, again. All untruth starts with this: “Hath God said”. That’s all satan wants to do is get us to question who God really is and what God really says. Once he plants those seeds of doubt he can just sit back and watch them as they grow and deceive us and divert us from the real truth of God.

You see, the real battle is not politics, healthcare, gun violence, racism, kneeling for the national anthem, or any other issue satan diverts us to fight over. Yes, the battle is fought in those arenas but the real battle is over the identity and character of God. “In the beginning God” (Genesis 1:1). Those four words alone are a problem for most people because they question who God really is, and if you question who God really is then you are certainly going to question what God really says (“hath God said”). It won’t be long before you are deceived by satan to believe that God is a liar and the truth is not in Him, just what God says about satan in John 8:44. And if satan can get you to believe that even one thing God claims to be is untrue he has destroyed your belief and faith in God.

So here is where the battle lies – this is where our focus should be.

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. **The Pharisees** therefore **said** unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; **thy record is not true.** Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go. Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man. And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.” (John 8:12-19).

“I and my Father are one.” (John 10:30)

The Pharisees call Jesus a liar (“thy record is not true”) just as many people do today. If you don’t acknowledge that Jesus is God (the source of all truth) then how can any truth be in you? “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.” (John 14:6-7). If you fail to recognize that Jesus is the ONLY God that is worthy of our attention then you cannot be trusted for any truth. No other god is like Him; no other god is worthy of following; no other God is worthy of mention in the same sentence as Jesus!

Let’s understand that this is not trivial as most people would have you believe because when you start to talk about it they will divert you to something else because they do not believe that God is who He says He is. Lots of people who will not acknowledge the deity of God want to talk about climate change, social injustice or anything else satan has them believing is more important than who God is and what God says.

“For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? **But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.** (“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:8-9)

See, **I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments,** that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. **But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish,** and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. **I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life,** that both thou and thy seed may live: **That thou mayest love the Lord thy God,** and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: **for he is thy life,** and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.” (Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

“the Lord thy God ... is thy life”!

“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, **if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside** out of the way which I command you this day, **to go after other gods,** which ye have not known.” (Deuteronomy 11:26-28)

It says there “life and good, and death and evil” and “a blessing and a curse”. That is serious stuff! Now **how in the world are people going to “love God”, “walk in his ways” and “keep his commandments” when they don’t even believe that He is who He says He is?**

How many times does God warn us about worshipping other gods (ascribing them equal power, authority and influence)? **“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” - “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God,”** Exodus 20:3, 5a)

Barack Obama said this: “These are the lessons of Jesus Christ, **but** they’re **also** the bedrock values of all faiths.” Is there ever a time in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation that God equates other faiths to faith in Himself and Jesus Christ? **“To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?”** (Isaiah 46:5). Is there ever a time where He says all faiths really teach the same thing and are therefore equally beneficial? “Remember the former things of old: **for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,**” (Isaiah 46:9). Is there ever a time where He says that our nation and our lives are made vastly stronger and richer by faith in many forms (a statement the Democratic Party stands on)? No – That is a lie from the master of deception and father of lies – satan.

“The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.”

(Proverbs 14:15)

The battle then, is over God. His Existence, His Preeminence, His Character, His very Essence. That is what is being challenged and misrepresented, just as Jesus was when He walked the face of this earth. The battlefield is the Word of God. Its authenticity, credibility and meaning are being assaulted every minute of every day by someone that is an enemy of the truth. **“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”**

Romans 8:7). Since truth is woven through the fabric of every aspect of our life, the battle over the Word of God is manifested everywhere including our families, jobs, businesses, places of worship, government and anywhere else that truth matters.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (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 10:3-5)

“Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, **even to them which stumble at the word,** being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.” (1 Peter 2:7-8)

The prophets did not preach what people wanted to hear, they preached what God told them to. Paul did not preach what was popular – he preached the truth. The message of Jesus Christ shared by men and women today that believe in and live by the true Word of God will not be popular in a world that has abandoned and rejected the truth, but Paul says this:

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;** but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; **And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.** But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:2-5)

Fable: a fiction, a falsehood, an invention.

Satan isn’t stupid! In second Peter chapter one Peter refers to these fables as **“cunningly devised”**.

God warns us to “**Be not deceived**” (5 times with those exact words). Why? Because satan is the master of deception.

“Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? The officers answered, Never man spake like this man. Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?” (John 7:45-47)

Wow! Are you starting to get the picture? So here the chief priests and Pharisees ask the officers why they haven't brought Jesus to them, and when the officers acknowledge His authority the Pharisees accuse them of being deceived. Now who here is really deceived, and who is doing the deceiving?

Do you think people are confused about who God is?

“**Many** of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, **said**, Of a truth this is the Prophet. **Others said**, This is the Christ. **But some said**, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of him.” (John 7:40-43)

Why was there division? Because they were debating who God is. Does anybody know?

The message of God is not a popular or a uniting message. It is a message that speaks to a universal and absolute truth about Himself that divides and cuts to the core. **Jesus said this “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:”** (Luke 12:51).

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the **dividing** asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

God is what is being blasphemed, lied about, misrepresented, and minimalized by an enemy that uses deception and diversion to destroy. Most people are oblivious to the spiritual warfare that is being waged because they have no clue who God is, who Jesus is, and what the real truth is that is laid out in the Word of God.

“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)

So what are we to do?

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

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 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, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (Ephesians 6:13-18)

What is the first thing Paul mentions there? **TRUTH!** Why? Because everything else is based on truth.

LESSONS FROM JEREMIAH CHAPTER 7

What are we to do?

“Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, **Hear the word of the Lord**, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts,

the God of Israel, **Amend your ways and your doings**, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. **Trust ye not in lying words,**” (Jeremiah 7:2-4)

“Hear the word of the Lord”

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

“Amend your ways and your doings”

“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.” (Psalm 37: 5-6)

“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do:” (Philippians 4:9)

“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

“Trust ye not in lying words”

“Behold, ye trust in lying words, **that cannot profit.**” (Jeremiah 7:8)

“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” (1 John 4:6)

PAY ATTENTION: Are you afraid of satan? You had better be afraid of God!

“Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, **that they may provoke me to anger.** Do they provoke me to anger? saith the Lord: **do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?** Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, **mine anger and my fury shall be poured out** upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; **and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.**” (Jeremiah 7:17-20)

“that they may provoke me to anger”

“Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.” (Job 38:1-3)

You want to know who God says He is? Read on in Job:

“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment. And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken. Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death? Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all. Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof, That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof? Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great? Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the

treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth? Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth? Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are? Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart? Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven," (Job 38: 4-37)

You think God has something to say about who He is? You bet He does! Oh, and God's not done: much of the next 3 chapters in Job is devoted to the same discourse. And that's only a few chapters of Job – the whole Book is full of God telling us who He is.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1-2)

Why do people think they can mess around with God? Because they're not paying attention to who He says He is!

"do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?"

Didn't I say that people have no idea who God is, who Jesus is, what the Word of God says, and the spiritual warfare that is being waged all around them.

"And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. **O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day;**" (Daniel 9:3-7a)

You see what Daniel calls God, "the great and dreadful God". Why did they have confusion? Because they rebelled against God and departed from His Word.

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace," (1 Corinthians 14:33)

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and **lie not against the truth. This wisdom** descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, **devilish**. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." (James 3:13-17)

"mine anger and my fury shall be poured out ... and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched."

"Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the Lord thy God hath

forbidden thee. For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.” (Deutoronomy 4:23-24)

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“They have moved me to jealousy **with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger** with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.” (Deuteronomy 32:21-22)

“But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. **But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.** Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them: Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers. Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee. But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the Lord their God, nor receiveth correction: **truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.** (Jeremiah 7:23-28)

But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

“Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.” (Isaiah 1:4)

truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.” (2 Peter 2:1-2)

Maybe it's time we all stopped trying to outsmart the truth and let it have its day.

IT'S DAY IS COMING!

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

REVELATION 1:7

