

BIBLELAND

S T U D I O S

Presents

WORLD HISTORY PART 1 Before Genesis 1 - Comes Revelation 12!

The events of Genesis 1 happened about 6000 years ago. How can we know what happened so long ago?? And something happened before that?? Many people don't realize how much we can know about the PreFlood world much less that we can know what happened *before* the world began! But the Bible, the fossil record, and nature give us MANY pieces of the puzzle! So we could begin with Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..." but we're going to start with the LAST book of the Bible to find out what happened even before that!!

So grab a Bible and turn to **Revelation 12:7!** There are many good versions of the Bible but some thing like the NKJV that takes out that Thee's and Thou's will help! Let's read just the first part of the verse.



Rev. 12:7 "And WAR broke out in HEAVEN"

What a loaded phrase! War..... in HEAVEN! What is that all about?? We'll learn as we go that if there was any force involved, it definitely wasn't solely a physical war but rather words, intrigue & a power struggle, and it's where we're going to begin if we want to understand world history. The entire Bible reveals that there is still a war going on and God... **and us** have enemies!

Tip #1: Reading the Bible is not necessarily about how MUCH you read. Read just a phrase and savor it! Stop and think about the significance and implications in it. And ALWAYS pray before you study. Only God can teach you truth and He is MORE than happy to do so! Just ask Him!

Question: Did you ever hear of this war in heaven? Do you think this might be affecting your family, job or life?



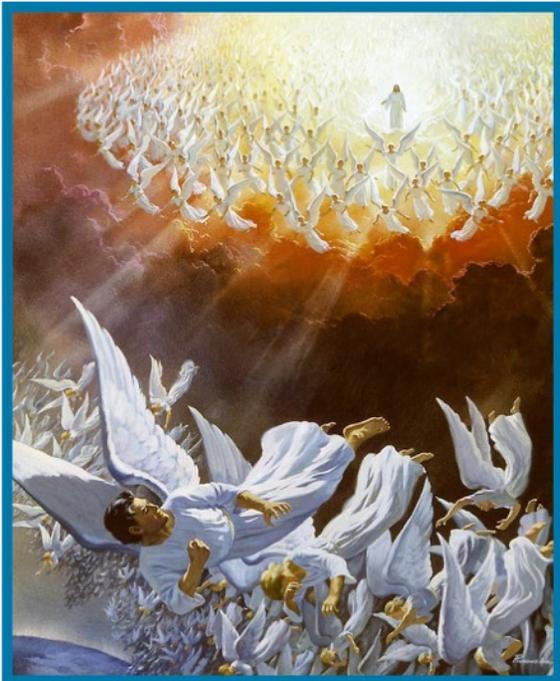
Who is God's Enemy?!

Let's finish **Revelation 12:7**. *"And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought."*

Wait...what?? Michael who?! Fought against a dragon??

Tip #2 The cool thing about the Bible (as we'll see in a minute) is that the Bible will explain itself! Sometimes in same chapter or passage, other times in a different book of the Bible... IF you don't read with preconceived ideas!

By the way, the Bible shows who Michael is. We don't have time to pursue that right now, but we'll see who this dragon is in it minute.



Kicked Out!

Let's continue to **Revelation 12:8**. "But they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer."

Kicked out... In the short summary Revelation 12 is giving of these huge events, we see that Satan and his angels did not win and were forced to leave but what kind of trauma to the heavenly family did that mean? Have you ever had a friendship broken? How many relationships through long ages of happiness and spending time together were torn apart when this happened? How many good or bad angels were sure they'd made the right choice? Was there any confusion on who was actually speaking the truth? And what did God feel about all of this?

This also raises the question: with all of the horrible things that sin would ultimately do to this planet, why didn't God just kill them in the first place? Get rid of them and you wouldn't have the scene in the garden of Eden where Satan tempts Eve to disobey God. Wouldn't that be the perfect route to take??

We'll have built to that answer by the end of study #52 in this series but write down your initial thoughts here! Why did God let them live? What might have happened if God had destroyed them?



And The Dragon Is Who??

We don't have to guess who the dragon is!

Revelation 12:9. *"So the dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*

So God's enemy - the dragon & serpent are explained to be the the Devil or Satan. Sometimes a symbol is explained within nearby verses like this. Other times you may have to hunt...but it WILL explain itself if you ask for God to make it clear and use those fun marginal references!

Tip #3 Get a Bible with a center column of marginal references. When you see a letter a, b, or c in the verse next to a word, you can find in the center column where else in the Bible that topic is brought up. I PROMISE you, it

is not some boring thing for scholars! You will absolutely find it *fascinating* and helpful when you're not sure what a passage means!

Back to our dragon.... It's important to know who this dragon is because God will use this symbol elsewhere - specifically the book of Daniel. There are many exotic and fanciful interpretations of Daniel and Revelation, but when you understand that God explains Himself and is consistent, then you can understand for yourself what He means when He reuses a symbol like that.



So There Is Actually A Devil???

Does the average person believe in a devil? Polls are split about 50/50 on that but the lack of clarity on who he is or what he does makes people think he's some red being with a pitchfork antagonizing his subjects in hell, but that's not what the Bible says!

Let's read **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** because in this passage warning us about false apostles, we also find out what Satan and his angels are capable of doing!

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."*



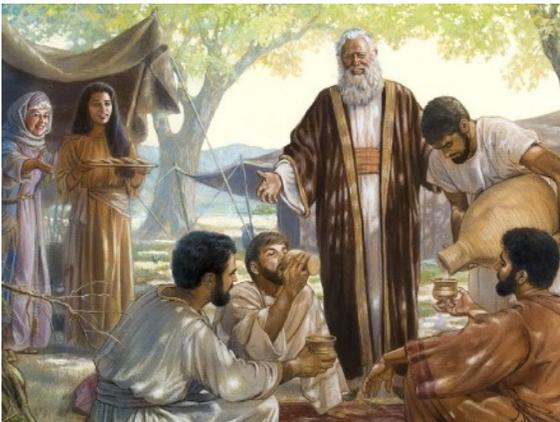
Angels of Light!!!

That passage from 2 Corinthians 11 has huge implications!!! Satan transforms himself into an angel of light?! And his angels pretend to be servants of righteousness?!

It's important to not skim over this. We know from other passages in the Bible that angels can take human form, but WHY would they transform themselves into seemingly good beings?

Take a few minutes and ponder that. Did they have an agenda they were trying to accomplish in each century? If they are against God, what ideas are they trying to spread? Are their ideas being preached in our pulpits? Are their ideas being taught in our schools? Do they only want to affect our ideas about God? If they are among us pretending to be good people or putting *seemingly* good ideas in our minds, what paths are they trying to get us to take? What tactics might they be using with us? It's one thing to think that there are evil angels "out there" somewhere, but what might they be doing in your life? And why?? What might they be doing on a national or international level?

Again, the Bible will explain itself. We will see in futures lessons how God digs into these topics and reveals a cosmic chess game all the way through the Bible that thankfully Satan is going to lose, but let's get back to our study! If we're answering the question of what Satan and his angels have been doing since they were kicked out of heaven, one thing they are doing is *deceiving* people!



Why DO Bad Things Happen?

Exploring history from a biblical standpoint almost immediately raises the question of - Why *do* bad things happen if a loving, all powerful God created the world? Thankfully that question is CLEARLY explained in the Bible, but unfortunately not often enough talked about so God gets blamed.

Job 1:1-5 sets up the scene to a very important event in world history - a horrific attack by Satan on human beings through every means possible.

Job 1:1-5 *"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. Also, his possessions were 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people in the east. And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on their appointed day and he would send and sanctify them and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said 'it may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.'* Thus did Job regularly."

Now let's see what happens. Jump to **Job 1:13-22**.



Satan's Attack on Job!

"Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house; 14 and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, 15 when the Sabeans raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" 16 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" 17 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" 18 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and

struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!" 20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." 22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong."

WWOOWW!!!! Talk about being wiped out! In one day, Job is financially and emotionally devastated and God gets the blame for it! Notice the servant figured it was fire from God and even Job thought this has to be from God. And if that's all we had of the story, you would think - wow.... dude... that's beyond really horrible luck! Did you do something to get God mad at you?? That is the first thing most people do when something bad happens - blame God.... BUT we have verses 6-12!



Satan's Attack on Job!

Job 1:6-12 *"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" 9 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" 12 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord."*



The Curtain Pulled Back...

What an eye-opening and precious passage!!! God obviously felt it was very important *EARLY on in earth's history to pull back the curtain and show us what we don't normally get to see - what's happening in the spiritual realm.

There are several really important things in that passage:

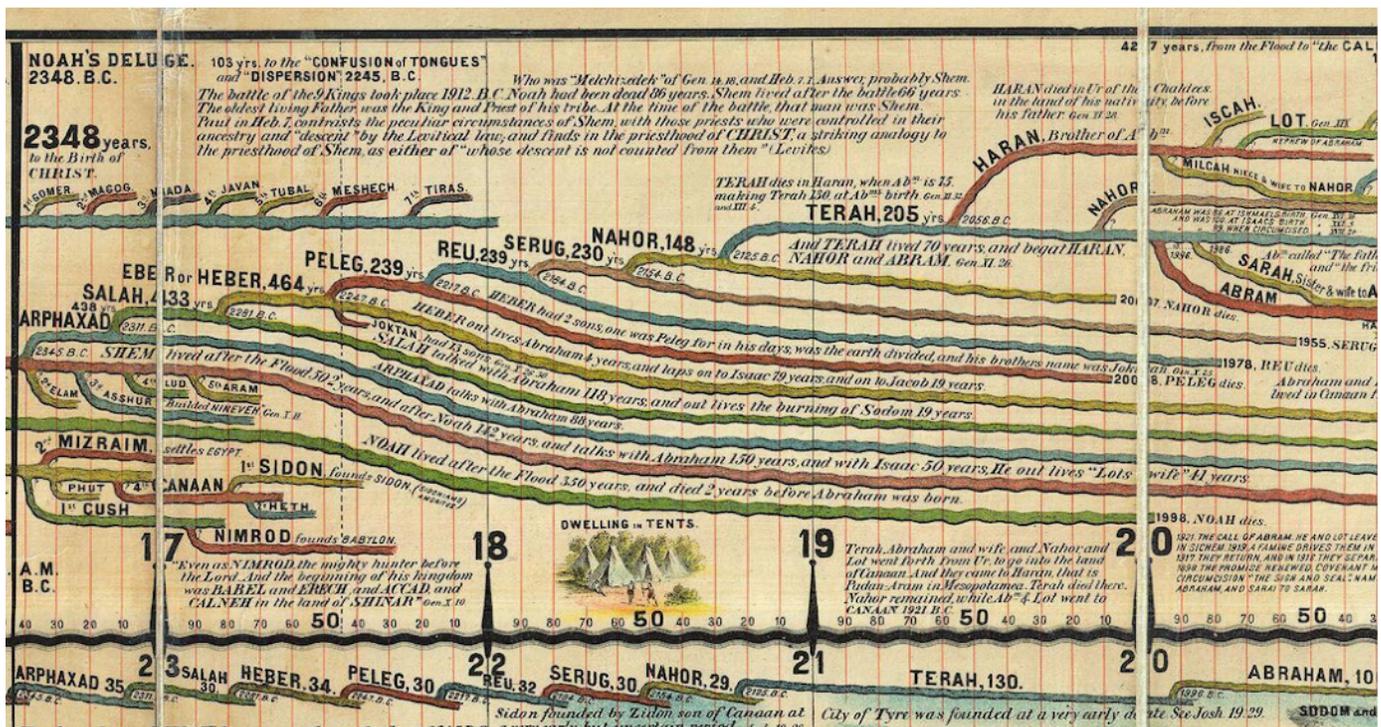
1. Notice Satan isn't sitting around eating bon bons. He not only was going throughout the whole earth, but when God brought up a specific person, Satan was very well aware of who He was talking about.
2. God was also intimately aware of who this one man was and whether Job was faithful. One of the most beautiful things to study in the Bible is how intimately involved and aware He is with every person! He KNOWS our names! :)
3. God was protecting and blessing Job whether or not Job knew that, but just because God's blessings took the form of financial increase in this situation does NOT mean that's His sole form of blessing! There have been and still are many of

God's people who are martyred for their faith or living in utter poverty but their beautiful grace under difficult circumstances has witnessed more powerfully to the world than those blessed financially like Job!

4. You're not worthy of worship. What a low blow. Satan basically says - the only reason Job worships You is because You give him everything he could want. Satan has tried to get humans to not worship and obey God since the garden of Eden. We have to be on our guard because even busy schedules can be a tactic he uses!

*Note regarding it being early in history - Although the book of Job is positioned in the middle of the Bible just before Psalms, it really takes place shortly after the Flood. Job not only had adult children when this happened but lived to see 4 more generations. He was one of the ones that lived for a couple of centuries before they started dumbing down in height and age. The section of the Adam's Time Chart show included on the next page shows some of the people that lived just after the Flood as chronicled in Genesis 10 & 11.

Tip #4 Having a resource like Adams time chart can really bring the Bible to life! It will show you who lived when and what was going on in the world at that time. You can find these online including on our LostWorldMuseum.com website.



Back to our study.... For us to really know God's character, He knew we'd have to understand that the war that started in heaven is continuing on earth and that when bad things happen, there are TWO involved! The only problem is that most people STILL don't seem to know this! Satan obviously has been quite successful in deceiving people to think that God is a mean God just waiting to punish you and that if something bad happened to you, God must have done it!

In fact, 2000 years later Jesus is still having to correct even His own people on this misconception! In **John 9** the disciples ask - "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus had to explain - "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."

Job's story is priceless to us because we get to see what we normally never get to see. Most of us won't get to have that curtain pulled back. Most of us won't know until heaven why we went through various difficult experiences, but if Job's story is the only "curtain" that we ever get to see behind, would that be enough for you to consider trusting God? It is for me! All I need to know is that there are 2 opposing forces - One died for me and the other is trying to kill me. I'll believe the first One!!

Question: Do you think that when Job gets to heaven and finds out how many people through the centuries that were comforted, educated and blessed because of his suffering, that he will be fine with it? Are you a little bit more ok with letting God be God when you consider that behind every difficult circumstance is a faithful God and a ruthless foe? :)



More Types of Attacks

Satan isn't done pushing this idea that no one could possibly *really* want to worship God. His hatred for God is so deep that he presses his point further.

Job 2: 1-10 *"Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. 2 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."*

3 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

4 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5 But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" 6 And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

10 But he said to her, 'You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?' In all this Job did not sin with his lips."



Again, praise God we have this story! So far we see that murder, theft, and natural disasters - even to the point of wind and fire from heaven are in Satan's power to do. And now we see that he can give us physical diseases!

Are all natural disaster and health problems from Satan? Probably not. Perhaps storms are sometimes natural weather patterns and with health we often bring things on ourselves from horrible diets, high stress and no exercise and then blame it on God, but *many* verses comfort us with the fact that no matter what we go through - whether its from satan, from God teaching us a lesson, or even from our own stupidity or rebellion... God's GOT THIS and will help us!

Notice in verse 3 that God takes ownership of what He could have stopped but Satan was the one that actually did it. God gets it. He understands the accusations you hear many times such as - God could have prevented my child from dying in a car crash! He agrees and acknowledges that, but as we sweep through history and the Bible, we will see other mind-blowing examples of even though He could have stopped something, there were extremely important reasons why it was happening!



What Else Do Satan & The Evil Angels Do?

Let's look at **Job 4: 12-19** "Now a word was secretly brought to me and my ear received a whisper of it. 13 In disquieting thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, 14 Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake. 15 Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair on my body stood up. 16 It stood still, but I could not discern its appearance. A form was before my eyes; There was silence; then I heard a voice saying: 17 'Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker? 18 If He puts no trust in His servants, if He charges His angels with error, 19 How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before a moth?"

This is probably Satan and not one of the other evil angels since so much is at stake. If you had to guess - what emotion do you think you hear in Satan's voice in verse 17? And what is Satan trying to accomplish by doing this anyway?!

You can almost hear Satan's voice dripping with resentment. God didn't trust us! Who are you to think you can be acceptable to God?! He's trying to weaken Job's faith - his hold on God. Job is struggling on every level and vulnerable. Have you ever thought about *when* Satan's lies are most successful? What do you think he'd whisper in *your* ear? What would work best on you?

When we're hurting, tired, weak etc. - *THAT'S* when we need to be on guard!!!! Because make no mistake - he means to destroy you or your faith!



How Big Are The Enemy's Forces?

Satan can't attack all of us but unfortunately he has help. Let's flesh this out a little.

Let's read **Mark 5:2-9** "And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the

shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. 5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

6 When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. 7 And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." 8 For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" 9 Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."



This guy is a mess - physically, spiritually and emotionally! There's a lot to the story but at the moment let's focus in on the answer when Jesus asks - what is your name? An unclean spirit answers Legion - for we are many! A Roman legion at this time would've been 4000-6000 soldiers! If Satan can spare that many to plague one man, he has plenty of them!

Notice he was in great emotional trauma and cutting himself. This is something that people deal with today. Sometimes someone has emotional trauma so great that the pain of cutting themselves is the only thing that relieves them temporarily from the emotional pain. Does this mean that everyone who cuts is possessed by a demon? That is some thing I think it would be unwise to assume. The beautiful and important point that we *can* come away with is that whether it's a chemical imbalance or being harassed by demons, again, God HAS the power to deal with this! He is just as powerful and willing to answer our prayers today as He was when he walked this

earth, but many times we limit His power through unbelief like the people of Nazareth did in Matthew 13:58.

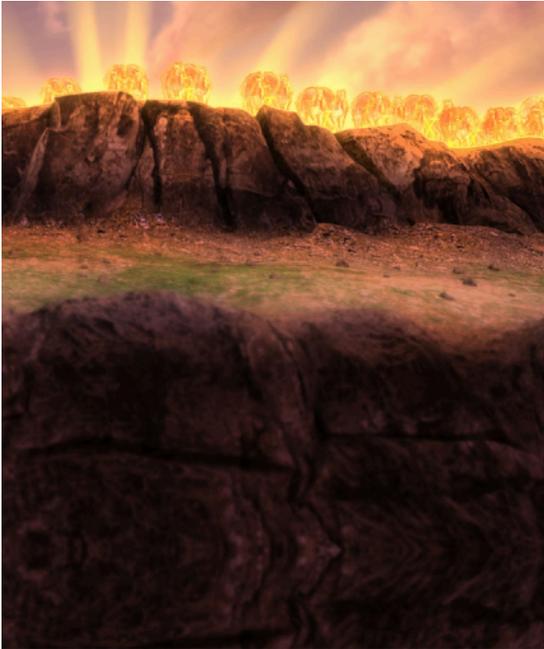
Tip #5: Jesus doesn't ask what the spirit's name because He doesn't know. He already knows, but He asks so that we can know what's really going on! All through Scripture you will see times when God asks what seems like an odd question that seems to indicate He doesn't know something when in reality He will ask so that we can see what's happening! A good example is when God is showing both Adam and Eve (and us!) what changed in human nature after they sinned. He asked - Where are you? Again, He didn't ask because He didn't know but because they were acting completely different than before. They now hid from God instead of delighting in His presence!

Let's see where we're at so far. We now know that evil angels are:

- They're "preaching" 2 Corinthians 11:14
- Deceiving 2 Corinthians 11:4
- Killing or Hurting Job 1:14-19
- Causing Natural Disasters Job 1:19
- Depression/Not Measuring up Job 4:15-19
- Emotional Trauma/Cutting Mark 5:5

There's many more things they are doing but this gives us an overview. However, we're not going to end there!!

Let's end in 2 Kings 6. We've seen Satan's power but let's make sure we end with seeing God's power which is always greater!



Chariots of Fire

In **2 Kings 6:8-13** we see that one of Israel's enemies keeps trying to attack them but every time the enemy king decides where he wants to attack from, God's prophet Elijah warns Israel's king not to go to such and such area. After getting frustrated because a number of his plans were thwarted and finding out that Elijah is his problem, he sent his troops to Dothan where Elijah is in order to kill him. Elijah's servant sees them surrounding the city one morning and freaks out!

2 Kings 6:14-17 *"Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha*

prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

The take aways from this are stunning!!

Just because you don't see any way out of your problem, it doesn't mean it's not there!

Just because you can only see your enemies and can not see God, it doesn't mean He doesn't have overwhelmingly abundant help ready to save you!

You may not "feel" God is there, but He already has help in motion if you want it.



How Do We Handle Life's Battles in the 21st Century?

Believe it or not we find the answer in some thing written almost 4000 years ago - in an amazing passage in Deuteronomy 20:1-4!

This takes place when God has brought Israel out of Egypt and is preparing them to go to the promised land. God is telling them how to go in to battle against enemies both then and even for us now.

Deuteronomy 20:1 *"When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. 2 So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. 3 And he shall say*

to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint,

do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; 4 for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.”

This is absolutely amazing! First he tells them not to be afraid. Then He reminds them that - I've got this! He's saying when you go into battle - KEEP IN MIND that I've already waltzed you out of the most powerful nation in the world at the time (Egypt), parted the Red Sea so that you could go through on dry land, and then drowned the entire Egyptian army when they attempted to follow! But then it gets even better.... When they were on the verge of battle, God said that the *priest* should say to the people - don't in any way shape or form be afraid of them in the least *because* the Lord not only goes with you but goes specifically to FIGHT YOUR BATTLES!

God didn't have Moses tell them even though he had been their mighty leader all this time to bring them out of Egypt. God didn't say for Joshua to do it even though Joshua was commander of the army! God wanted the *priest* to say this to God's people on the verge of battle because the priest represents Jesus! We are to understand from this passage that when we go into *our* day, GOD goes before us and with us to FIGHT OUR BATTLES!

This is where so many people fail! They think they're going into their daily battles alone and so they don't receive the help God would like them to have. Only a few of Israel's kings or people ever really experienced the unbelievable power and help God wanted to give - and many don't today also because they do not remind themselves of this and dwell on it until they trust what God is saying implicitly.

How can you keep this in the front of your mind continually? Can you print and frame it on your wall? What about a desktop photo of the verses for you laptop or phone? Maybe a voice memo so you can listen repeatedly... Or maybe write out the passage multiple times to engrain it in your head? What helps you remember? Are you going into your day alone or with the Commander of the Lord's army by your side?
