

Wednesday night with Jim - Bringing down the Prince

SESSION 2

Character - Obstruct

Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. (Daniel 10:12-13)

The Prince will obstruct the work of the Lord, just as Jericho tried to obstruct the people of God. He will raise up mighty strongholds and taunt God’s people.

Here are some of his obstacles.

Binding - “In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up.” (Mark 4:27)

The Prince is strong, and he builds his own Babylon, where he can settle in comfort and challenge the Lord. He believes he cannot be broken. He is, he believes, strong.

Despair - “Some lived in darkness and in the shadow of death.” (Ps 107:10)

The Prince has many smaller strongholds reaching down into the darkness. We might start with these – Fetish, witches, spiritists, Voodoo, natural religions, superstition and fear. But we might add corruption in the Nation and in the high places of power. All this gives the Prince strength. Then he can bind, deceive damage, and control.

Destruction of the heritage

“The people of Samaria must bear their guilt, because they have rebelled against their God. They will fall by the sword; their little ones will be dashed to the ground, their pregnant women ripped open.” (Hosea 13:16)

The Prince would gladly “rip open” our heritage, stealing the young and corrupting them as he has corrupted the current generation.

*** Innocent blood**

Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. (Genesis 4:10-11)

Innocent blood cries out for justice and revenge. The Prince draws strength from this uncovered and unredeemed blood. Most in Ghana seem unaware of this – just what the Prince wants.

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Character - Pull down

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." (2 Samuel 10:2-5)

David's sin pulled him down from the integrity which should be in the heart of a leader. David recovered - but at a great cost. The Prince is not a force which builds up but one which pulls down. He will pull down leaders - political and spiritual. He will pull them down by corruption, by pride, or by deceit. But as he pulls down integrity, so falsehood and deceit advance. Leaders who are false will get promoted.

He will take decades to undermine in this way. Once he has pulled down, the way is open for him to increase.

*** Spiritual powers**

"A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me. Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that whoever you bless is blessed, and whoever you curse is cursed." (Numbers 22:5-6)

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. (1 Samuel 17:41-43)

The Prince will never hesitate to use spiritual powers against us. Balaam used curses and so did Goliath. We are fighting against the dark powers in the heavenly places and they will invoke spiritual powers against us:-

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)

Sometimes that means that we face curses, blood offered to demons to break us, sacrifices to Satan to break us and all the occult trickery of Fetish and Voodoo. This is war, and the enemy will set the demons against us.

In the end, he is evil, and if all else fails he will manifest himself to us in other evil forces. It can be vile:-

When the king of Moab saw that the battle had gone against him, he took with him seven hundred swordsmen to break through to the king of Edom, but they failed. Then he took his firstborn son, who was to succeed him as king, and offered him as a sacrifice on the city wall. (2 Kings 3:26-7)

Character - CHAINS

This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. (Mark 5:3-5)

It is so important that we get to the heart of the Prince, and with the story of Legion a number of characteristics all come together. There is no good there, even if he tries to deceive with a good face. His nature is violent:-

Goliath - As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. (1 Samuel 17:48)

Golden Statue - "Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." (Daniel 3:6)

The beast - The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. (Revelation 13:16)

The Prince will chain and break. This is his nature as we see in Revelation:-

They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). (Revelation 9:11)