

A Great Mystery is about to be Revealed ©

By Pastor Asa Dockery

I want to write to you regarding a subject which I have entitled, A Great Mystery is about to be Revealed. When the Lord showed me this it set me back and I wanted to get it to you while it is still fresh in my spirit.

Let's begin in 1 Timothy chapter 2, and verse 13. Paul is the speaker.

1 Tim 2:13-14 (NKJV): 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

She fell into transgression, in other words, into sin. Please notice Satan knew which person to go after when setting the bait for sin. He went after the one who was ignorant. He didn't go to Adam, he went to Eve. How do you know she was ignorant? I know because he deceived her. You can't deceive someone who knows the truth. Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. Hosea 4:6, says My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge. They are destroyed for not knowing the truth. Satan knew who to go to. First Peter chapter five says the enemy, Satan, is going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Satan is looking for spiritual ignorance in people and then he works his way into their lives.

Now he went to Eve and he threw out some bait for her, to pull her into sin. Now as Satan played upon her ignorance of the truth and deceived her, he was also doing something else. Paul speaks about the deceitfulness of sin and so I looked up deceit and found it to mean to cheat. He cheated Eve; he robbed her, did he not? He was promising her that she would be like God; all the while he was robbing her of her daughter-ship or sonship.

Deceit also means to delude. Delude means to mislead the mind or judgment; to play a trick on your mind; to cause you to have poor judgment. Sin will promise you pleasure, but it will ultimately rob you of your freedom and your life.

Now God is much wiser than Satan, and God is going to reveal to you something about him that is going to absolutely, if you will grasp this in your spirit, open up something formerly hidden to you. This is how wonderful your God is. He is so much wiser than Satan, and man, wants to give Him credit for.

God created two trees and put them in the garden with man. One of them was the Tree of Life, and the other one was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which represents sin, was a tree which was described by its name as being both knowledge of good and evil. Sin was represented by a tree in the garden and its name was good and evil. How could something good also be evil? This is the deceptive part of sin. The good side of the tree begins with the pleasures of sin which gratify our sensuality, our lustful desires for things that are wrong in God's eyes. Just one time sleeping together can't be that wrong. Just one glance at pornography can't be all that bad. Just one hit, just one drink of alcohol won't

send me to hell surely. See it is the good side but it is still sin, right? Oh, it looks good on the outside! Dressed up, looking sharp and smelling good! But that is the pleasure of sin. You hardly ever see the people that are promoting the pornography industry showing you educational films on what happens when you get STD, (a sexually transmitted disease), or what happens when your spouse walks out on you and your children. They don't tell you about the statistics regarding pornography and prostitution and the devastation they cause or bring upon a community or a family. No, they only want to play with the pleasure of sin. The fall-out of sin, well, that is the government's and the church's problem, let them deal with that.

What Satan doesn't want people to know is that the one act of sin places you in bondage to sin. I only hit one time on it! I only took one drink! That one act of sin put you into bondage to sin; after that it is a slippery slope that can lead you into self-deception and self-destruction. Well, I got by with it that time. I'll do it one more time then I won't do it ever again, I'll throw it away.

We can very easily get ourselves enslaved to sin. Let me say this again. We can very easily get ourselves enslaved to sin but only God can get us out of sin. Because once you are in, you are in. There is no getting you out. You can bury the stuff; you can run that man or that woman off; you can get yourself far away from that sin, but just as surely as the sun will rise tomorrow, you will go back and dig it up. I don't care how bad it stinks, you will get it out because you have to have that fix. You can't get away from it no matter how strong you think you are. Only God can get you out of the mess you have placed yourself in.

Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV): 1 And you *He made alive,*

Who made us alive? God did. It wasn't us. God did this. We couldn't get ourselves out of sin. We couldn't pay for our sin because we were sinners.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV): 1 And you *He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*

We were dead; we were sentenced to death by our trespasses and sins, but God in His love and His mercy has quickened us to life through our Savior Jesus Christ.

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Before we were made alive in Christ we walked in accordance to the prince of the power of the air, Satan, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience; he does his work in and through those who are rebellious to God and to His commandments.

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh,

The good side of sin; it taunted us; it played on our lustful ways, we were carnal, controlled by our senses.

Ephesians 2:3-7 (NKJV): **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, **7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

That in the ages to come – it is going to take a while for God to get things revealed but He is going to reveal them, right? In the last days, we are in the last days are we not? We are in the day of revelation. In the ages to come, that He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward whom? He might show it toward us in Christ Jesus. It is always in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV): **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*

It is the gift of God; we could not do it of ourselves. Grace saved us before you and I even knew we needed to be saved. Long before sin entered God's creation, God had already prepared a Lamb to take away the sin of mankind.

Long before sin entered God's creation, God had already prepared a Lamb to take away the sin. Really, where did you find that? Revelation, we didn't just stumble into salvation, God orchestrated our steps into eternal life because of His great mercy and great love toward us. Isn't that a loving God? Well, I got saved. I found Jesus. You found Jesus? No, He found you. He wasn't lost, you were.

John tells us in Revelation 13:8, that there is a book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The Lamb was slain from when? He was slain from the foundation of the world, long before man showed up on the earth. Long before sin had disrupted God's plan, God had already devised a plan to ransom and to redeem us from sin. He says He made us alive while we were still dead in our trespasses and sin. God had already made provision for us, did He not? Think about that for a moment.

God knew before He created man that man would fall into sin. Let me ask you this question. How can a merciful and loving God create man knowing that we would commit sin and many would spend eternity in torment as a result of that sin? Is that not a fair question?

God is a God of love, isn't He? Yes, there is no sin in Him. He cannot tempt with evil, nor can He be tempted with evil. Then how can a loving God create man knowing that man would sin?

You know there is something innate in a fallen person that wants to blame God for most of their sin. Adam did it. God it is You and that woman You gave me; I was fine until You and she showed up. Adam didn't mention Satan. Did you notice that? He didn't mention the serpent. Why? Because he didn't want God knowing he had been talking with the serpent. So let me now ask you this question. Did God set mankind up for a fall?

No. What did God do? **God made a way of provision to rectify the freewill that He gave us that we could freely choose Him or self and sin.**

That is so powerful, let me say that again. God did not set us up for a fall, saying I am going to create them; they are going to mess up; and a bunch of them are going to go to hell. (And there is more that are going to go to hell than heaven, according to Matthew chapter seven. Jesus said many will go down the way that is wide and leads to destruction but few will find the way that is narrow and leads to eternal life.)

So God knew this in advance. Then was He setting us up for a fall? No! He made provision for those who would say wait a minute, this sin stuff is not all that it is cracked up to be. I need help. I need life. I need to get out of this way of life which is bringing me death. And God said because I gave you free will you can choose whether you want life or whether you want death. For those who choose life, I have made a way of escape for you. It is through My mercy and through My grace. It is not of your works, it is My gift to you and from My love for you. Isn't that powerful? Yes! Let's give Him praise! Thank You, Lord! He made a way of escape!

Watch this! God in His infinite love made a way of escape for us long before Satan set the trap for Eve or us. Let's look at Isaiah 14:12. This is the account of Lucifer as he was getting ready to make his departure out of heaven. He thought he was going to a throne but he found himself up on a thorn. He was cast out on a curse. God has given Isaiah revelation of what happened back then.

Isaiah 14:12-13 (NKJV): 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart:

You say something in your heart before you do it, right? Here is what Lucifer said. He said five I wills, let's read them.

Isaiah 14:13-17 (NKJV): 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. 16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, 17 Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'

Isaiah, the prophet of God, has revealed the 'I wills' of Satan in his writings, and he tells us about them. Satan is telling both God and himself what he plans to do with God's creation. I will be all this and more. Now let's go to Ezekiel chapter 28, and begin with verse eleven.

Now we need to understand something before we begin reading. The king of Tyre is actually a man that Ezekiel is prophesying to about the city of Tyre. And Jesus, in the gospels, speaks about Tyre and Sidon. So while this is talking about a literal man, who is called the king of Tyre, he is at the same time a type and shadow

typology of Satan. You may say where do you get that? Read the scriptures and the scriptures will interpret themselves. Also when we study the word the Holy Spirit will interpret, reveal to us that which is hidden. Now let's go to Ezekiel chapter 28, and begin with verse eleven.

Ezekiel 28:11-12 (NKJV): 11 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection,

Now we know the king of Tyre was born in sin, but as I said, he is talking about Satan when he was an archangel and in heaven. Let's read on.

Ezekiel 28:12-13 (NKJV): 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;

You were in Eden, the garden of God, was the king of Tyre in the garden with Adam and Eve? No.

Ezekiel 28:13-16 (NKJV): 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God;

You were the anointed cherub who covers; I, God, established and created you; you were perfect in your ways from the day you were created until iniquity was found in you. Jesus said in John 8:44, **44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.** You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones, you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you out of the mountain of God. Jesus said in Luke 10:18-19, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. He was cast down out of the mountain of God.

Ezek 28:16-17 (NKJV): And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up

We just read that in Isaiah, he said in his heart I will be like the Most High God. So Ezekiel gets the other side of the story and this is God's take on it.

Ezek 28:17-18 (NKJV): 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. 18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you,

Hell came out of Satan.

Ezek 28:18-19 (NKJV): And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever."

Now the New King James Version doesn't give you that many 'I wills' of God, but if you look in the King James Version there are six 'I wills'. God declares one more than Satan. This is God's 'I wills' answering Lucifer's 'I wills' from Isaiah chapter 14. Let every truth be established in the eyes of two or three witnesses.

In Ezekiel's account we see God answering the 'I wills' of Satan with His own 'I wills'. He has, as I said, more 'I wills' than Satan did, because God is far wiser than Satan. Don't check out on me, we are going somewhere with this. But God says in His final retort to Satan's lofty schemes that he, Satan, shall be no more. When it was all said and done, God said, you shall be no more – forever – period. That is what God said about Satan. We know through this that God has the final say-so and He will win this war! He said you will be no more forever. Now as for Christ, He shall reign forever! We know through the death of Judas that God gives Satan just enough rope to hang himself.

In First Corinthians Paul is speaking to the church at Corinth and he said when I speak I am not speaking man's wisdom, but I am speaking the wisdom of God. So this is the wisdom that is of God. What you are reading today is a mystery revealed by the Holy Spirit to the church.

1 Corinthians 2:6-7 (NKJV): ⁶ However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

He said we speak the wisdom of God in what? We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery. It was the hidden wisdom which God had ordained when? It was ordained before the ages. And it is for whose glory? It is for our glory.

1 Corinthians 2:8 (NKJV): ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Now he reveals it to us, but Satan and his imps were blind to it. They were clueless. They could only see the little bit that God allowed them to see, and that was just enough to hang them with. So it says had they known that Jesus was the Christ they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Satan was certain that he had once and for all rid himself of Jesus on the cross. He was having a heyday but the devil got a startling revelation on resurrection morning! Satan discovered that God had turned the trap which he had set for Jesus and for mankind onto himself, onto Satan, and his kingdoms were about to be destroyed. Can you imagine the shock and the horror of Satan when he said, yeah, He is dead; I don't have to hear His nonsense anymore; and then 'poof', there He is again? Jesus shows up in hell and He is illuminated with light and it is killing Satan because he is in darkness.

He tells Jesus, can you turn Your light down, I need to talk with you. How did You get down here? Jesus says guess what? Satan: I can't guess, tell me the truth. Jesus: I am your worst nightmare because you thought I was a regular Adam. I Am the Last Adam! There will be no more after Me. I am Alpha and Omega! I am the Beginning and the End!

You know, if Satan has any blood, the blood ran right out of his face to his feet at Jesus' words. He said I messed up again, didn't I?

Romans 8:24 (NKJV): 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope;

God had a plan from the foundation of the world, remember? It has taken - according to scholars we are in the six-thousandth year of biblical history – six-thousand years and God has still not fully revealed His salvation plan to man and to Satan, but we are in the last days of it. This is why there is so much revelation coming out now.

Romans 8:24-25 (NKJV): 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

So God had a plan and He is revealing that plan to His church, is He not? We have to wait for the unveiling or the revealing or the manifestation of that plan. So we are waiting for it praying, God, even so now send Him back. But we wait for it with perseverance.

Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV): 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

The Spirit Himself makes intercession for us - the children of God. Now He who searches the hearts, He is talking about us, God searches our hearts, and He knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for us according to the will of God.

So even when we don't know how to pray the Intercessor inside of us, the Holy Spirit, prays according to God's will. This is the reason a bunch of people don't get killed out on the highway. People are texting, they are drinking, some are strung out and out of their minds, and they all still drive. It is the Holy Spirit which is keeping us protected and keeping things in working order. Take the Holy Spirit out and airplanes are going to fall out of the sky. Why? Because God holds all things up by the power of His word, right?

Romans 8:28 (NKJV): 28 And we know that all things work together for good

Some things; a few things; almost all things? We know that all things work together for good. Now all means what? It means just that - all; the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV): 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,

There is the first condition. You must love God.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV): 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Second, you have to answer the call and you have to serve His purpose if you want this promise. We know all things work together for good, so He is in the process. He said there earlier, this salvation is by hope. We are hoping for it but in the interim, between the seed and the harvest, there is time. The gestation period occurs. Therefore we must wait until the promise shows up. You have need of patience after you have done the will of God that you might receive the promise of God. So in the interim there is a waiting period.

I like what Pastor Jentezen Franklin says, God closes one door but He opens up another door, but it is hell in the hallway. And you think I have heard this promise of Jesus' return, but God, it sure is rough down here now. Come Lord Jesus! And you get weary in well doing. You get caught up in the circumstances and the trials of life and you become distracted. Now God has to come back to you and get you focused back on revelation knowledge. I am still with you. I have not left you. I have not forsaken you. This is only a test, get over it, and let's move on. He gets us back into doing what He said at the beginning because the purpose has to be done before He comes back. We gain back our eternal perspective.

The key to salvation - seeing God's plan which has been hidden from the foundation of the world revealed - the key to salvation is waiting on God to show up on the scene. Did He not promise Abraham, after four-hundred years have passed, I will deliver My people out of the land of bondage? He did, didn't He? So the key was for them to hang on for four-hundred years, and then God comes and says oh yes, I made a covenant with Abraham that I am going to deliver them, and it is time to bring them out. The key is waiting upon God to show up on the scene and then He will reveal His strong power. God has a plan; and His plan will take the very thing that Satan meant to destroy you; he will turn it against the devil and He will deliver you at the same time.

This thing is killing me God. No, that thing is killing your flesh. The thing you think is killing you is actually working salvation in you, and when that salvation is done in you, I will come and deliver you out. The thing Satan meant for evil and harm was done because he played on your ignorance; he tried to destroy you and your faith by that which you didn't understand about Me. Learn of Me, know My ways.

I don't understand why God is allowing me to go through this. I am good person. God wouldn't let this happen to me. God did I sin against you? See, we start turning inwardly. What did I do wrong? What did my wife do, I know it is because of something she did. Adam taught me that. Wife-ology 101. It is always the woman's fault. Eve caused this. She took the apple and ate of it first. Blame it on someone else. Eve blamed it on the serpent. Who can we blame it on?

We have to wait on God to reveal His plan. But while we are waiting we don't understand all the things God has going on. God why did you take them out now? That hurt. Why did You allow me to go through bankruptcy now? Why did You allow my house to be foreclosed on now? What is going on God?

See there are a lot of things we don't understand about God because the enemy loves it when we are ignorant of God's ways. The god of this world has blinded men to understanding and knowledge of God. When we don't know God's ways the enemy comes in like a roaring lion. Well, you know God has done this against you. You know it was God who caused them to die, don't you? Why don't you just curse God and die. That is what Job's wife told him to do. When we don't know God's ways it makes us prey to Satan's devices. Then we give up on God because we are ignorant of God's ways and the enemy uses that to pull us into his seductive ways so he can destroy us.

So now we are living in bondage saying we are Christians. We have become tired of God's ways and we don't even know His ways. Tired of what we are ignorant of, yet all the while God has a plan for good. Do you believe that? Well, God, You have one messy kitchen. How can You make order out of that? He is in the middle of a process. He is working it together for your good.

God says I am finding out some things about Satan, things which you are not even conscience of. I am studying him. He thinks he has you whipped. He thinks he has the nations whipped but I am using this time to learn My enemy. God is flushing or smoking His enemy out into the open. We are going through torment but really it is God. There was a battle which started in Isaiah chapter 14; a battle not between God and man, but a battle between God and Satan. Satan just pulled man into the middle of it. The battle isn't over us but it is between God and Satan.

So God says I see where you are tricking them up and I will take care of that with My Holy Spirit and My Word. I will reveal to them the truth. I will heal the broken-hearted and bind up the wounds, but in the interim I will expose your patterns and methods of warfare. In the end the very thing that you used against them I will use against you to destroy you. I wouldn't advise you to take on God. It will not end pretty.

Let's look at Joshua chapter seven and verse two. I recently touched on this at our church and I want to refer to it now. The setting is: the children of Israel have just crossed the Jordan River to go into the land of promise after God had given them a mighty victory over the city and people of Jericho. God had caused the walls to come down and they had taken the city as He had promised and this is after that great victory. Now they are going after the men of Ai and they are going to take Ai out. They are confident that they will be able to take them without a problem. So now let's look at verse 2.

Joshua 7:2-4 (NKJV): 2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy out the country." So the men went up and spied out Ai. 3 And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for *the people of Ai are few.*" 4 So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai.

Now that is interesting. Let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai, for the people of Ai are few. They thought we can whip these with just two or three-thousand men and yet here they are running from the men of Ai.

Joshua 7:5 (NKJV): 5 And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

Notice the men of Ai struck down about thirty six men and struck them down on the descent. Down always has something to do with immorality, spiritual rebellion. They struck them down on the descent.

Joshua and the men were certain of victory over the men of Ai, they were certain it was in the bag, right? But what they did not know was there was sin in the camp of Israel. But when the battle goes array, Joshua begins pouring his heart out to God beginning in verse seven.

Joshua 7:7-9 (NKJV): 7 And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all--to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! 8 O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? 9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?"

Joshua is having himself a negative fit. He is at the point of blaming God. Why did You set us up for this defeat? It would have been better for us to have stayed on the other side of Jordan; for us to have left Jericho alone, and not even seen Ai; but You did this. He is getting mad at God. He isn't seeing something that God already knows. He is ignorant of something and he is about to turn his heart on God. This is just what I have been writing. Satan plays on our ignorance. God said trust Me. Job said though it looks like You are killing me I will yet trust You God. I don't know how You are going to get glory out of this but I am going to wait on You.

Joshua 7:10-13 (NKJV): 10 So the LORD said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? 11 Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. 12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you. 13 Get up, sanctify the people,

America needs to hear what God has said here. God said, it could not stand before their enemies but turned their backs before their enemies because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless . . . unless you destroy the accursed from among you. Humble yourself, pray, turn from your wicked ways and repent then I will hear you. Sanctify yourselves before God.

Because Israel had sinned against God their enemies who were weaker than they – remember they said Ai is weaker than us – could defeat them. That sounds a lot like America doesn't it? We have become wise in our own eyes; we have sinned against God and our sin is weakening us. People who were far weaker were allowed through sin to have power and victory over the Israelites. God shows us in this typology, this story, what happens when people sin and try to hide their sin from Him and from other believers. Your sin will find you out like it did Achan.

God instructed Joshua on how to find the person or persons who were guilty of sin and that caused Israel to lose the battle at Ai. When they went through the process as instructed by God, it came down to Achan and his family. Let's look at verse 19.

Joshua 7:19-23 (NKJV): 19 Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." 20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: 21 "When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it." 22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it. 23 And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.

Achan had buried the spoil because he knew he had sinned. He knew what he had done was wrong. He knew what God had said, not to take of the spoil of Ai. What do you do when you get a blessing through sin and you can't tell anyone? You know if they find out you have sinned, you will be found out. Now, in today's time, you go on the Jerry Springer Show and broadcast and brag about it to the world, but back then you were stoned and burned because it cost the nation the battles against their enemies. See that is the difference between Israel and now. America rewards its sinners. How can we stand against our enemies that are spiritual when we are not living for God? It doesn't work. We are falling prey to our enemies. Plagues are breaking out in the land and we just think it is a phenomenon. No, it is consequences to sin.

Now all the sin of Israel is dealt with when we come to chapter eight, right? They had found the accursed thing; they found out who did it; Achan and his family have been stoned, and they have burned their bodies, the gold, the silver and the garment. Let's look at chapter eight.

Joshua 8:1-2 (NKJV): 1 Now the LORD said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. 2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it."

Now I don't know about you but if I were Joshua, I'd be saying now wait a minute God, let's talk this over. We sent three-thousand men and they whipped up on us. I don't know that I am ready to go tangle with those men

again. But the difference between this time and the last time is, God wasn't with them the last time. This time God is with them. It is not by might, nor by power, but it is by His Spirit. So when we humble ourselves and we pray and we seek God's face and we turn from our wicked ways hell will wish it had never touched America! But the Christians of America had better get things right with God before it is too late! God is not playing around. We either take this nation or we will die in the wilderness. It is our choice!

So we say wait a minute God. Let's talk about this, let's have a board meeting. Don't you remember what happened the last time? They whipped us; they ran us out of town; they ran us from the gate of the city out! It is true, the men of Israel did run away from the battle; but it is also true that God took notice of how the men of Ai responded in the battle while Israel did not have God fighting for them.

Joshua 8:3-4 (NKJV): 3 So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai; and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them away by night. 4 And he commanded them, saying: "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you be ready.

In other words, they were out away from the gates of the city of Ai, they were far enough away that they could not be seen, but they were not so far away that they couldn't engage in battle quickly. What is going on?

Joshua 8:5 (NKJV): 5 Then I and all the people who *are* with me will approach the city;

A very small minority of the thirty thousand will be with me; a small delegation of the thirty thousand that was being sent to besiege Ai, right?

Joshua 8:5 (NKJV): 5 Then I and all the people who *are* with me will approach the city; and it will come about, when they come out against us as at the first, that we shall flee before them.

It shall come about, as it was the first time, that when they come out against us we will flee before them. They will believe it is just a repeat of their defeat of us, and they will pursue us as before in confidence that they can succeed again.

Joshua 8:6 (NKJV): 6 For they will come out after us till we have drawn them from the city, for they will say, '*They are* fleeing before us as at the first.'

Remember the first Adam and the Last Adam? The blessing of the first son went on the second Son, the Last Adam. They didn't get it right the first time but God has figured out something in their sin to show them in the second time. (Reference is to the booklet, [The Blessing of the First Born Son](#) by Pastor Dockery, check for it in the listings.)

Joshua 8:6-8 (NKJV): 6 For they will come out after us till we have drawn them from the city, for they will say, '*They are* fleeing before us as at the first.' Therefore we will flee before them. 7 Then you shall rise from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will deliver it into your

hand. ⁸ And it will be, when you have taken the city, *that* you shall set the city on fire. According to the commandment of the LORD you shall do. See, I have commanded you."

Before Joshua did what God had commanded him to do concerning Achan and his sin, God showed Joshua how to seize Ai. God took what he learned in the first battle to destroy all the inhabitants in the second battle. See, there are things that you did while you were in sin which Satan used to try to destroy you but God preserved you. Now that you are out of sin, God is going to take what Satan meant for evil and He is going to use it in the Last Adam for the good.

God set Satan up. God set the king of Ai up. There are things we have encountered walking away from God that when we come back to God, God is going to use against Satan. He is going to work everything together for good. And when it is said and done Satan will be no more.

Let's talk about the fall of Adam as we conclude this writing. God set Satan up in the fall of the first Adam and brought him out into the open. Do you remember when Moses and Aaron went into the court of Pharaoh? Moses wanted to show Pharaoh and his advisors that it was God which called him there before Pharaoh and not himself. So he instructed Aaron to throw his rod down and when Aaron threw it down, it became a serpent. What happened? Pharaoh's magicians did the exact same thing. They had a bunch of snakes for there were more of them. Now Aaron's snake/rod ate up every one of the other snakes. There was a showdown, a confrontation that drew them out.

See, this puzzled me. I said, God why is it the enemy seems to know when there is fixing to be a great breakthrough? Because it seems he unleashes the hounds of hell against Your people right before the breakthrough. Have you ever noticed that? And I thought, God this has literally scared Christians off from seeking You because they don't understand what is going on.

Have you ever stepped out to do something, and when you did, you paid dearly for it? It is like, God, I learned my mistake. It wasn't a mistake. You are learning spiritual warfare. But God, how is it that Satan who is not omnipotent, who is not omniscient, and who doesn't know everything, who is not everywhere, how is it he seems to know when there is a breakthrough coming because it seems like the warfare escalates right before the breakthrough? How is that possible? It is right there in the message of Moses and the rods.

He said the trial, the fiery battle, always comes because I am pulling them out. I cannot have victory until they are first pulled out, exposed. Satan is being pulled out in this world right now. God is doing it so they will be exposed from where they are hiding. Then God will unleash His mighty army, the army which Joel spoke of, and they are going to go and devour the enemy! God isn't done!

Revelation 11:15-17 (NKJV): ¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,

The kingdoms, the kingdoms, plural, of this world, of this world, the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God. See the worship, the praises, are coming after the warfare is over. See that?

Revelation 11:16-19 (NKJV): 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth." 19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

What is going on? The systems, the kingdoms, the tricks of the devil in this period are being turned upside down. It is going to implode on Satan. Everything that he has built is going to fall in around his own neck and destroy him. God is operating. How is He going to do that?

What I like about our church is we have people who know where they came from; they know where God has brought them out of and they are real. They are not a bunch of phonies. They are very real about what God has done in and for them. I was a sinner but I am saved. God has redeemed me out and I am no longer that old man. I am a new man in Christ Jesus; old things have passed away, behold, all things are new.

So how is God going to spoil the kingdoms of this world? Well, we used to be in the world, and when we were in the world we learned the ways of the world. The problem is we got saved and now we are Satan's worse nightmare. Why? Because we know how the world operates because we were once a part of it. Now God has saved us; brought us out; and as He did with Moses, He sends us right back in.

You were in the drug culture. God saved you and pulled you out; sanctified you; filled you with the Holy Spirit and now He has sent you right back in. This time not to be a part of it, but to bring the spoils out of it!

Now watch, when He pulls the spoil out the kingdoms of darkness they will fall. How do I know that? What happened to Egypt after God pulled His people out? The wealth of the wicked was laid up for the righteous and Egypt fell. The kingdom imploded because the slaves that Satan built his kingdom upon was saved. The wicked do not have an inheritance. But the lost that has redemption's marked upon them, they have an inheritance. When God pulls them out and into the body of Christ they will receive the fullness of that inheritance. God will be able to pull out His inheritance, His wealth, His children, when all things are made ready. Oh, you thought it was money, no, it is His people. When He pulls them out that system is gone and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

Give Him praise due unto His name! He is worthy of all praise!