

AN EXAMPLE OF SEDUCTION

Tonight we're going to look at an example of how easy it is for a Christian—and a Bible teacher at that—to be deceived by religious spirits. This isn't something I had planned to do. Last week, someone contacted me and asked me if I had heard a certain message by a certain Bible teacher we both know, who now says the King James translators were *in error* when they translated the passage about Satan being the “god” of this world. I hadn't heard it, but it sounded interesting because just the other week I asked how people who say Satan has no dominion in the earth, explain the fact that Paul said he is the “god” of this world. Why would the apostle Paul call him “the god of this world” if he had no dominion in the earth; and how did he become the god of this world, if it had nothing to do with the fall of Adam? Did the Lord make him the “god” of this world or what?

I'm not surprised this Bible teacher has come up with a reason to reject the real meaning of the phrase “the god of this world” because that phrase directly contradicts his whole view of Satan. In a previous message, he denied that Satan is the “prince” of this world, in the sense of him being the ruling power over it. He did this by trying to misrepresent the Greek word “*archon*”; (ar'-khone); Strong's # 758—which is translated as chief (ruler), magistrate, prince, and ruler in the King James Bible.

Three times in the book of John, the Lord called Satan the “*archon* of this *kosmos*”—or “the prince of this world”. When Jesus called him the *archon* of this *kosmos*, He was calling him the ruler of this present world system and the kingdoms of the world. But in an effort to downgrade Satan's position and power, this Bible teacher said the “*archon* of this *kosmos*” simply means “a leader who is *influencing* the world through unsaved people”. According to him, mankind was given dominion over the earth and he is still exercising that dominion, albeit in an unrighteous manner because he is being influenced by the prince of this world.

Of course, anyone who knows what the Bible says about the position of the unsaved should have seen right through this guy's attempt to twist the truth. There's a big difference between the unsaved being “influenced” by the prince of this world, and the unsaved being “ruled” by the prince of this world—and the Scripture says the unsaved are ruled by Satan. They are not merely influenced by him, and they are not influenced or ruled by the flesh. They are ruled by, and live under the power of, the kingdom of Satan.

*With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses {and escape} from the snare of the devil, **having been held captive by him to do his will.***

II. Timothy 2:25-26

Notice that according to the Scripture, the unsaved are held captive to do Satan's will. The King James says the devil: “...*takes them captive at his will*”—but the idea is that same. When somebody takes you captive, when somebody makes you their prisoner, they do it in order to force you to do THEIR will. The unsaved are described as being entrapped in “the snare of the devil” who has “taken them captive” to do HIS will. When we aren't doing the will of God, we are doing the will of Satan. People assume they have *three* choices: do God's will, do Satan's will, or do their own will. But the idea that doing our own will is somehow *different* than doing Satan's will is an illusion. It's part of the original lie. When we do our own will, we are doing Satan's will by default, either directly or indirectly. I'll deal with that original lie at the end of this message.

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Ephesians 2:2

Paul also said the unsaved walk “according to the prince of the power of the air”—which is the “spirit” that works in them. He didn’t say it’s the flesh that “*worketh in*” the unsaved. He said it’s Satan who *works in* the unsaved. The flesh and the desires of the mind are just the tools or the means by which Satan enslaves the unsaved and has them doing *his* will. He uses their flesh; he uses the desires of their minds; but he is the one who is working in them, he is the one who is ruling over them, and he is the one they are obeying.

*To open their eyes, and to turn them **from darkness** to light, and from **the power of Satan** unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*

Acts 26:18

This truth should be established in our minds already, but unfortunately, for many people it’s not. Every unsaved person on this planet is living under the darkness of Satan’s kingdom. Every unsaved person on this planet is living under the power of Satan’s kingdom. They live *in* his darkness; they live *under* his power; they are taken captive by him at his will, in order to *do* his will; his spirit works in them; and they are *ruled* by him.

*And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every **kingdom** divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then **his kingdom** stand?*

Matthew 12:25-26

*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from **the power of darkness**, and hath **translated us** into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

Colossians 1:12-13

According to the Scripture, Satan has a kingdom and he is the ruler (not the influencer) of that kingdom. His kingdom *controls* all the kingdoms of this world. There isn’t a kingdom on this earth that serves God. Every one of them serves Satan and does his bidding because he controls them. Moreover, every unsaved person who resides in those kingdoms belongs to Satan. They live under his power and rule and they do his will in the earth. Satan’s kingdom is being *manifested* all around us, 24/7, through the kingdoms of this earth.

If you have been born again, then you have been translated (spiritually) out of Satan’s kingdom, into the kingdom of Christ. But the kingdom of Christ is not *of* this *kosmos*. Jesus said this very clearly (*John 18:36*). So the idea that Satan has no dominion over the earth, but that he’s just an “influencer” of mankind, who still maintains the original dominion God gave him, is pure fantasy. Man forfeited his dominion when Adam submitted himself to the Serpent. Satan has dominion over mankind, and *through* mankind, over the earth.

I'm going to give you some direct quotes from the first part of this Bible teachers message because I don't want to be accused of mis-representing what he said. I'll begin at the point where he says he cannot find any evidence in the Bible that Satan gained any dominion in the earth from Adam's fall.

"I did not see any evidence that Satan had gained any dominion in the earth from Adam's sin. But I want to investigate this a little closer tonight because I has some questions from some folks this week, and perhaps some of you have had questions as well as to this because this was a little bit different teaching than what you've heard before. I know **many of us are used to this teaching that somehow God had delegated all His authority and all His sovereign power to Adam, and Adam turned it over to the devil and now God is locked out of the earth, and He can't do anything, ya know. And so He had to come up with this plan to send Jesus to get dominion back from man and all this kind of stuff.** Well, what I want to do tonight, I want to start off with a scripture that has been used to bolster this idea that Satan has dominion, or power, in the earth, in the world. I want you to turn to Second Corinthians chapter four, and we're going to look at this. But let me preface this by saying that last Friday, before I came on the air here, and began this teaching—it was late Friday afternoon and I was going over my notes, I was looking at some things and kind of organizing thins in my mind, how I was going to make this presentation; and I came across this scripture. I looked at this scripture again; and **as I was looking at it I had a sudden epiphany,** and I'm talking about II. Corinthians 4:4. Let me read it."

He then reads II. Corinthians 4:3-4, as it is in the King James version.

*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,** lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Let me stop here and say that his main issue is with this idea that God: "...delegated all His authority and sovereign power to Adam, and Adam turned it over to the devil and now God is locked out of the earth, and He can't do anything [in the earth]. And so He had to come up with this plan to send Jesus to get dominion back from man". Anyone who teaches that kind of rubbish is certainly whacked. I think I made it clear the other week that I don't believe any of this stuff. I stated in no uncertain terms that the earth is the Lord's because He created it. The earth has *never* belonged to anyone but God. It has never belonged to Adam and it doesn't belong to Satan.

God never delegated "all" His authority or "all" His sovereignty to Adam. He did give Adam dominion over the earth in Genesis 1:26 & 28. That dominion included dominion over all the animal creation and all the resources of the earth. It would also include dominion over *the society* that mankind would of necessity build as it populated the earth. Adam was given the authority to *subdue* the earth, *use* the earth, and to *make a society* on the earth. The earth *is* the Lord's—but not everything that happens on the earth is the Lord's will because He has given mankind the awesome power of choice. We can choose to obey Hm or we can choose to walk in rebellion against Him while living on HIS earth.

I also said the other week that the situation on this planet isn't one where God turned the *title deed* of the earth over to Adam, then Adam submitted to Satan and turned that deed over to him, and now God is "locked out"

of the earth because Satan owns the earth. The situation is more like God built a house (the earth), and then created a family (named “*mankind*”) in order dwell in that house and use it as their own. The fact that God is allowing mankind to use the earth *as their own* does not mean He gave the house to them. Nor does it mean that He no longer has any authority to intervene in the lives of the people who live in that house. God is still the *owner* of the house. He still retains the title. But after giving the family *the authority* to live in the house and use it as their own, that family allowed an *alien* to move in with them and take control of the house, and of the family as well. This alien made them *slaves* in the house where they lived and he established a business (kingdom) which he operates from that house, and he makes the family carry out the affairs of *his* business.

This is all possible because the Creator gave the family free wills. They had a choice to freely submit to the owner of the house, or freely submit to the alien intruder and become slaves to him and his business (kingdom). Since God still owns the house, He could forcefully put a stop to this whole situation anytime He wanted to. But because He is *honoring* the free will he has given the family, He lets the situation continue. Even though He is sovereign over the house, the family, and even the alien, He doesn’t fix the whole situation. He allows the situation between the alien and the family to play out for a purpose.

But again, this *doesn’t* mean He no longer owns the house, or that He no longer has the authority to intervene in the affairs of that house, or that He couldn’t put an abrupt end to what’s going in the house if He wanted to. As a matter of fact, when you read *the book* the Creator of this house has written, you see that He has set a certain day and a certain hour when He does plan to shut that whole situation down. He has pre-determined a day when His Son will come to that house and *forcefully* take charge of it and all it’s inhabitants. The Son will also put the alien who exercised dominion over that house in prison for a thousand years.

The fact is, God is using the situation that’s going on in that house to bring forth a Royal Priesthood. Thus, He has provided a way for each one of the members of that family to escape *the bondage* the rest of that family lives in. They can’t actually leave the house (physically), but if they will choose to serve the owner instead of the alien, the owner will set them free from the *dominion* the alien exercises over the house and the rest of the family. They will be able to live in that same house, right alongside the rest of the family that’s still in bondage, but they will no longer be under that same bondage. They will be under the dominion of the kingdom of the Son.

Satan does not have dominion over the earth in the sense that he now *owns* it and can therefore legally stop God from intervening in the affairs of the earth. That’s the lie Mr. Bible teacher is exposing. But like so many of today’s “Discernment Ministries”, he’s trying to replace one lie with another lie! He’s trying to replace the lie that Satan *owns* the earth, with the lie that Satan has no dominion over the earth at all.

“Now some translations say the god of this age; the King James says the god of this world. But as I was looking at this scripture—and like I say, this is one of those that bolsters this idea that Satan has, is the god of this world—as I was looking at this scripture **I had an sudden epiphany**. You know what an epiphany is? **It’s a sudden moment of clarity**. What it was actually, was **a revelation from the Holy Spirit**; and that revelation was, this scripture does not mean what we’ve all assumed it to mean.

Now, I want to say something first before we go any further about **revelation knowledge** because I think much of the church, much of the visible church, knows very little about revelation knowledge or understands very little of it. Ya know, the Bible says that the things of God are spiritual and the natural man does not receive the things of God because they are spiritually

discerned. The natural man has no capacity for discerning spiritual things. He can understand things intellectually, but not at the spirit to spirit level. Most of what passes for teaching in the church is strictly on the intellectual, letter level. Ya know, Jesus said the words that I speak are spirit and they are life. Ya know, the letter killeth but the Spirit gives life. I say that most of the church is not familiar with this concept. But that's not to say that they never experienced revelation knowledge; and I'm sure some of you guys have experienced this as well. Let me describe it to you like this. Have you ever ben reading along in your Bible, or meditating and thinking on a verse, and all of a sudden something just clicks. And you **have this understanding of that passage of Scripture that you never had before**. Has that ever happened to you. Well, if it has, that is the Holy Spirit revealing to you the **spiritual truth of that scripture**. Okay? That's what that is. If you've experienced anything like that, then that's revelation knowledge. “

Mr. Bible teacher says that when he was reading where Paul said Satan is the god of this world, he had a sudden epiphany, or a sudden moment of clarity, or a revelation from the Holy Spirit, regarding the “spiritual truth” of this passage. Then he gives a dissertation on the difference between gaining natural knowledge from the study of the Bible, and receiving “revelation knowledge” directly from the Holy Spirit. In this case, he has clearly experienced the *latter*. His revelation of the correct understanding of this verse did not come from a deliberate study of the issue. Rather, it came in a flash, supernaturally, directly from the spirit realm. He received spiritual enlightenment from the spirit realm regarding the true meaning of what Paul said. Then he sought to *confirm* the validity of this new revelation from the Scripture.

Well, I have a question. If Mr. Bible teachers's revelation did *not* come from God, but from a seducing spirit, do you think that spirit would be so stupid as to give him a revelation which could *not* be validated by the Bible? I mean, knowing what kind of person this Bible teacher is—knowing that he seeks to base everything he believes on “chapter and verse”—do you think a seducing spirit would really be *that* dumb to give him spiritual enlightenment which could *not* be backed up by the Bible? Apparently Mr. Bible teacher thinks Satan and his demons are pretty stupid.

“So, like I say; **I had this revelation** last week and when I say revelation, I'm not talking about some kind of spooking woo-woo voice in my head. I just had **a sudden understanding in my spirit that this did not mean what everyone, the accepted meaning of the scripture has been**. Now, I had that late Friday afternoon and I purposely did not bring this up in last Friday's audio. The reason I didn't was because I didn't have time at that point to go and study this out and make sure, **and test it**, and make sure that what I thought I was receiving from the Holy Spirit was actually from the Holy Spirit; because if it is, then **you'll be able to test it against the Word of God**. You know that our basic rule of thumb here is to allow scripture to interpret scripture. So if my new understanding of this scripture was correct, **I should be able to prove it with the preponderance of Scripture**. So I didn't have time to do that Friday, so I didn't bring it up. See, this is the other problem: some people think revelation knowledge is any random thought that flits through their head. They think it's God talking to them. And they don't bother to **test it out by scripture**, and so you get a bunch of nutty teaching and crazy doctrine and ridiculous false prophesies out there, because they don't take the time to study it out and test it by the Word of God.”

While what Mr. Bible teacher says here is true, it's not the whole truth—and the part he *leaves out* makes all the difference between walking in truth and walking in religious delusion. His statements show just how immature he is in his understanding of how these spirits operate or what they are capable of doing. He says that people who accept thoughts that come into their heads as revelation knowledge, *without* first testing those thoughts against

the Scripture, are foolish. But a wise man, like Mr. Bible teacher, will always test those thoughts against the Scripture. It never occurs to him that unclean spirits just might be *smart enough* to give people false revelations which can be supported by certain verses of Scripture. The fact is, Mr. Bible teacher has been deceived regarding the power and the capability of Satan for many years. He doesn't really believe demons are capable of giving Christians revelations which can be validated by Scripture.

Yet the fact is, there are many ministers in this hour—both inside and outside the Religious System—who are receiving “revelation knowledge” about certain passages of Scripture, which can be substantiated *by* the Scripture, yet that revelation knowledge is coming directly from Satan. It's not only immature, but extremely dangerous, to walk around assuming that as long as you can find some support for what you believe in the Scripture, you *must* be listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit. I don't know of a major error out there that hasn't been based on some passage or passages of Scripture.

“Okay. Having said that, that's the preface to all of this. As I was looking at this scripture, it says: “*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...*” and we've always said, we've always assumed, that this was referring to Satan as the god of this world, or some translation say the god of this age. One reason we assume that is because **the word ‘god’ here is done with a little ‘g’**. **The translators assumed this referred to Satan, so they translated it with a little ‘g’**. Now, I'll get back to the Greek words here in just a moment. But the thing that occurred to me, the great epiphany that I had was, I said wait a minute. It's not Satan that blinds men to the truth. It's God who blinds men to the truth. And I suddenly had in my spirit, numerous scriptures that confirmed that. So I want to show you. We're going to test this understanding, that this scripture does not refer to Satan. I'm talking about as it was given by the Holy Spirit to the apostle Paul, that he was not talking about Satan as the god of this world. He was saying God because it's God who blinds men to the truth, **not the devil**. Let me give you an example.”

Mr. Bible teacher says the King James translators translated “god” with a little “g” in that verse because they *assumed* Paul was talking about Satan, but they were wrong. How does he know they were wrong? Because God told him they were wrong. He never says *why* the translators assumed Paul meant Satan in that passage. He never gives a reason why we should believe these men were *ignorant* of the proof texts he uses to support his revelation. I mean, why didn't the translators receive the same understanding he did, based on those same proof texts? Were the translators propagating “Dominion Theology” or something? Is that why they translated “*theos*” with a little “g”? Did they have a theological agenda to advance? Were they intentionally trying to exalt the power and place of Satan? Is that why they translated “*theos*” with a little “g”. Or is it possible there was *a reason* the translators translated “*theos*” with a little “g” in that passage? And is it possible Mr. Bible teacher is so prejudiced regarding this subject, he can't objectively consider those reasons?

The proof texts he gives are from Romans 1 (*vrs. 21, 24, 26 & 28*), Romans 11 (*vrs. 7-8*), II. Thessalonians 2, (*vrs. 10-12*), and Matthew 13 (*vrs. 10-15*). Romans 11 and Matthew 13 are actually talking about the same people—the Jews. In Romans chapter eleven, Paul said God blinded the majority of the Jews. No argument there. The text in Matthew chapter 13 is talking about those *same* people. Jesus said He taught in parables so those who were *already* blind would not see and those who were *already* deaf would not hear. The Lord didn't walk around “blinding” the minds of men. Leaving someone in the condition they were already in when you found them is *not* the same as you putting them in that condition yourself!

That leaves us with Romans 1 and Second Thessalonians 2. Romans 1 doesn't really say God blinded the minds of men. It simply says that He "gave them over" to the wickedness they were craving. Once again, there is a difference between someone blinding you so you *can't* choose the good, and someone letting you have evil things that you have freely chosen while you can still see, which will result in blindness.

*Because that, **when they knew God**, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and **their foolish heart was darkened**...Wherefore God also **gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves**...For this cause **God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature**...And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.***

Romans 1:2; 24; 26; 28

Please notice the progression in this passage. God didn't just come on the scene and decide to blind the minds of these people to the truth. It says these people "knew" God—not that they knew ABOUT God, but that they KNEW God. While being in some kind of a relationship with God, they choose to stop glorifying Him. They choose to stop being thankful for the things He did for them. The result of their choices was that they "*became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened*". They were in the light, and from a position of being in the light, they intentionally and freely chose to start walking in darkness. So God simply "gave them" what they wanted. This is *not* the same as Him blinding their minds.

So far, only *one* of Mr. Bible teacher's "proof texts" actually supports his new revelation. God did indeed blind Israel. I don't think one verse qualifies as a being a "preponderance" of Scripture, but maybe I'm missing something. The last proof text is the from a the passage about God sending a strong delusion on people.

*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

II Thessalonians 2:10-12

This is interesting because it doesn't actually say God "blinds" the minds of these people. It says God sends them a "strong delusion". Technically speaking, since being overtaken by a delusion *involves* having your mind blinded, Mr. Bible teacher can use this passage as support for his new revelation. In this case, it is God who sends the strong delusion, so it is God who is *blinding* the minds of those He is sending that delusion on. But only *two* of Mr. Bible teacher's proof texts can really be used to support his new revelation.

Let me be clear here. I'm not trying to deny that God does blind people to the truth at certain times. The fact that God does blind people is *not* the issue. The issue is this: is God the *only one* who blinds people to the truth. You see, *that's* the assertion Mr. Bible teacher is making. He's saying the devil has *no power* to blind the minds of

people to the truth; only God has that power. This is the point upon which his entire “moment of clarity” or “epiphany” rests. If God *alone* has the power to blind the minds of men, and if God is the *only one* who in fact blinds the minds of men, then Mr. Bible teacher’s revelation is true and the King James translators were in error. However, if the Scripture teaches otherwise; if it teaches that God is *not* the only one who blinds the minds of men; then it’s Mr. Bible teacher who is in error.

*But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because **that darkness hath blinded his eyes**.*

I John 2:11

*And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then **because thou art lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. **Because thou sayest**, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, **and blind**, and naked: **I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich**; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and **anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see**.*

Revelation 3:14-18

*But I fear, lest by any means, as **the serpent** beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so **your minds** should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if **he that cometh** preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear **with him**.*

II. Corinthians 11:3-4

It looks like God isn’t the only cause of people’s blindness. We can be blinded by *ourselves* as a result of hating other Christians or being lukewarm. Paul said hating your brother will make you blind to the truth and cause you to walk in darkness. John said thinking you have need of nothing because you are rich (ie: being lukewarm) will make you blind to the truth. And please notice that in this instance, it’s not God who is blinding these people because it’s God who is calling them to repentance: “*I counsel thee...[to] anoint thine eyes*”, said the Lord, “*that thou mayest see*”. We can also be blinded by *other people*. Paul was afraid “*he that cometh*” to the Corinthian assembly would come manifesting the anointing of another spirit, and preach another Jesus and another gospel. The “*he that cometh*” is a reference to false apostles (ie: *people*). Paul believed it was possible to be blinded by false ministers, and he was afraid one of them would blind the church at Corinth.

*For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means **the tempter have tempted** you, and **our labour be in vain**.*

I. Thessalonians 3:5

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

I. Timothy 4:1

*And **the great dragon** was cast out, **that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

Revelation 12:9

*And cast [Satan] him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that **he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:** and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

Revelation 20:3

Things aren't looking too good for Mr. Bible teacher, are they? In First Thessalonians chapter three, Paul said he couldn't take not knowing how the church was bearing up any longer. So he sent Timothy to see if "the tempter"—that's the devil—had succeeded in tempting them and causing them to abandon the faith. That's what he meant when he talked about his "labor" being "in vain". I think it's pretty safe to assume that abandoning the faith would *involve* having your mind blinded. But maybe Mr. Bible teacher would argue this point.

In First Timothy, we have no less that God Himself (ie: the Holy Spirit) predicting that in the last days, some of His people will "depart from the faith" as a result of listening to (giving heed to) *seducing spirits*. I don't think anyone—not even Mr. Bible teacher—would seriously deny the fact that being deceived by "seducing spirits" would involve having your mind blinded to the truth. It's pretty obvious that it's *not* God who is blinding the minds of people (or seducing them) at this point. They are being blinded by *demons*.

In Revelation, John said Satan *deceives* the nations and indeed the entire world. Since being deceived has been *equated* with having your mind blinded to the truth by Mr. Bible teacher, that principle would apply here as well. It's not God, or even man, who blinds (deceives) the nations—it's Satan who blinds them. It's not God who blinds (deceives) the entire world—it's Satan who blinds the entire world.

After supposedly "proving" to his audience that God is the *only one* who blinds the minds of men to the truth, Mr. Bible teacher tries to misuse the Greek text again, by saying that since the Greek term "*aion*" means a single age or *eternity*, when Paul called Satan the "god of this world (*aion*)", he was really saying the God of Eternity—and that could never be a reference to Satan. The God of Eternity is Jehovah. You see, the English word "world" is translated from several different Greek terms—"kosmos" and "*aion*". Kosmos means this present world system, which is under the control of Satan. Aion means a single age (like the Church age), or multiple ages, and can even mean eternity. So Mr. Bible teacher threw out the possibility that the term "*aion*" in this passage really meant eternity. This is absurd because the term "*aion*" is defined by the word that immediately proceeds it, which is the word "this"—"*In whom the god of this aion (age)...*"

Next, Mr. Bible teacher tries to prove that Satan was lying when he offered Jesus all the kingdoms of this world. You may remember the other week I referred you to this passage in order to show that *somebody* gave the kingdoms of this world to Satan because he said they were "*delivered to*" him. Either God delivered the kingdoms to him or Adam delivered the kingdoms to him.

*And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: **for that is delivered unto me**; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.*

Luke 4:5-7

The fact is, a lot hangs on whether or not Satan was telling the truth at this point because if he was, then Mr. Bible teachers' whole doctrine is a giant religious delusion. His point is that Satan's offer to give Jesus the kingdoms of the world was just a bluff. He didn't really have the authority to give the kingdoms of this world to Jesus because they are not his to give. Then he gives three reasons why had to be lying to Jesus.

First, he says Satan couldn't have been telling the truth because he is a liar and the father of lies. He doesn't come right out and say it, but he strongly suggests that Satan's not even *capable* of speaking the truth. But the question isn't whether Satan is or isn't a liar. I think we can all agree that he is. The question is: was he lying at *that* point? Proving that he is a liar does not prove that he can't possibly speak the truth. If he *can* speak the truth (for the purpose of deception), then it's possible he was speaking the truth at that point.

The second reason Mr. Bible teacher gives as to why Satan had to be lying has to do with God's sovereignty. His view of the sovereignty of God is so perverted it isn't even funny. But that's a whole other issue, and I've dealt with that on several different occasions in this room. He quotes one of his favorite passages, which he constantly *mis-uses*, which is the one that says God sets up kings and God removes kings.

*This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that **the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.***

Daniel 4:17

The fact is, God is *not* locked out of the earth and the events of the earth. He has given mankind and Satan a lot of room to do as they wish. He is sovereign, but not in the way Mr. Bible teacher assumes He is. God is not directing every step and every choice of every person—saved and unsaved—on this planet. Neither is He directly the activity of Satan and all his demons. He has given us all freedom of choice and the freedom to live in rebellion against Him. But in the midst of all this, He is still in control of the over-all picture and program.

*They have set up kings, **but not by me**: they have made princes, and I knew it **not**: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.*

Hosea 8:4

If we are to understand the words of Daniel the way Mr. Bible teacher tries to spin them all the time, then we have a situation where one prophet of God is directly *contradicting* another prophet of God! Speaking of the rulers that Judah set up over that kingdom, the Lord said through Hosea that he "knew it not" and that those princes were *not* set up by Him.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bible teacher constantly misses (intentionally?) the very important *context* in which the statement about God setting up kings was made. The King of Babylon had been exposed to the power of the true God of Heaven, or the God of Israel, through his first dream of the image of different kingdoms. None of the magicians or soothsayers of Babylon could tell him what the dream was and what it meant—only Daniel could. At that point, Nebuchednezzar recognized the God of Daniel as the *true* God.

Yet, not long after that, he made a golden statue of himself and demanded that all the world worship *him*, through that idol. Again, the true God was made real to this king when he tried to burn Daniel and his three Hebrew companions for refusing to bow down to him and worship *him* as God. You see, King Nebuchednezzar had a “god complex”. He fancied himself as a god and he wanted to be worshiped as God. The true God kept using Daniel to reveal the truth to this king, but the demonstrations he saw were not strong enough to deliver him from that horrible spirit of wanting to be worshiped as God.

God was about to humble this king in a mighty way. But He gave him one last chance to repent of his pride and arrogance before bringing a severe judgment on him. He gave the king a dream in which He showed him exactly what was about to happen to him. The king was troubled, and he called Daniel to interpret it, which he did. He told the king exactly what the dream was and what it all meant. Then he begged the king to repent and forestall the calamity. But the king refused. The Scripture says:

*At the end of twelve months [after he had been warned] he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; **The kingdom is departed from thee.** And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, **until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.** The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.*

Daniel 4:29-33

The fact is, both Daniel and a voice from heaven said the same thing about the Most High ruling in the kingdom of men and giving it to whoever He wills. But they weren't making a *theological* statement! They were dealing with a man who was constantly trying to set himself up as God, even though he had been exposed time and time again to the true Hebrew God. They were dealing with a man who thought *he* had built Babylon by his own might and power, and for the honor of his own majesty. They were trying to get this guy to realize that he was not the ruler of the world. God is sovereign over His creation—which means that He retains the right to set up who he likes and bring down who He likes.

What that statement does *not* mean is precisely what Mr. Bible teacher is trying to say it means. He's trying to spin it so it means that God sets up *all* kings and removes *all* kings. If that's what Daniel and the voice from heaven were really saying, then we have a major problem with Hosea, who flatly contradicts that whole view. God

didn't set up the princes of Judah—the rebellious people of that kingdom set them up. It wasn't God's will and he had no part of it. That's what the term, "*I knew it not*" means. Of course God *knew* what had happened! God knows everything that happens! What He was saying was, He had nothing to do with what had happened.

The third reason Mr. Bible teacher gives as for why Satan had to be lying to Jesus is because the issue (according to him) was all about *worship*, not about who controls of the kingdoms of this world. His point is that Jesus didn't *challenge* Satan's claim to all the kingdoms of the world because: (1) He knew God is the one who actually rules the kingdoms of this world and He wasn't about to dignify Satan's lie by answering such an absurd claim; and (2) Jesus was specifically answering Satan's request to worship him.

Mr. Bible teacher mocks those of us who say *the reason* Jesus didn't challenge Satan's claim to the kingdoms of this world is because that claim was true. He says we are arguing our case from a position of silence. Well, I'd rather argue my case from silence than from a position of stupidity—which is exactly where Mr. Bible teacher is arguing his case from. If Satan was lying, would that have been a genuine temptation? Do you think Satan was actually trying to tempt Jesus with a bluff, knowing that Jesus would have known it was a bluff? Do you really think Satan is that stupid? That would be no temptation. The only way such an offer could have been any real kind of a temptation to Jesus is if it were true.

That fact that Mr. Bible teacher claims that whole temptation was all about worship, shows that he has no idea what he's talking about. He's arguing his point from a place of ignorance. What Satan was offering Jesus was a way to receive the kingdoms God had promised Him, *without* the suffering of the Cross. God prophesied through King David, in the Psalms, that He would give Messiah the kingdoms of the earth—but not without a price. The price was the suffering and death of the Cross. Satan was offering Jesus those kingdoms without suffering. *That* was the temptation. A bona-fide offer of the kingdoms God had promised Him, without paying the required price, would have been the *only thing* that made that temptation worth anything.

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast **rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.** And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and **the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.** And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and **all the world wondered after the beast.** And they **worshipped the dragon** which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; **and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.** And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him **to make war with the saints, and to overcome them:** and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And **all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him,** whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear.*

Revelation 13:1-9

Uh oh! What have we here? Is that the Dragon (Satan) giving the kingdoms of this world to “the beast”? But I thought Satan couldn’t give the kingdoms of this world to anyone because they weren’t his to give? John says the Dragon has “power” a “seat” (which means a “*throne*”) and “great authority”—and he gives them all to “the beast”, or the *ten kings* (horns) who will rule the final Global Police State.

So much for Mr. Bible teachers worthless *opinions* about Satan. Satan *can* hand over the kingdoms of this world to whoever he wishes! And by the way, John doesn’t say God sets up *these* 10 kings or this beast government. He specifically says Satan (the Dragon) sets them up. Sorry, but there’s no way around the fact that Satan’s “power, seat, and great authority” encompasses the kingdoms of this world because if they didn’t, the result of him giving all these things to “the beast” would *not* be a final, global empire. In the last days, Satan gives all the kingdoms of this world to a demonic prince from the bottomless pit, so that prince can make one gigantic empire out of all those kingdoms. Now if Satan can give the kingdoms of this world to a demonic prince from the bottomless pit, he could certainly have given them to Jesus!

But wait a minute: there’s more. The 7 heads of “the beast” in Revelation chapter 13 represent 7 world empires, 5 of which had already come and gone by John’s day. When the angel explains “the beast” to John, he says the seven heads represent seven “mountains”. Whenever the Scripture refers to mountains in a symbolic way, it’s always talking about *kingdoms* or empires. This is why the angel went on to say: “...and there are seven kings” Each empire had its own “king”. Speaking of these seven kings, the angel said: “...five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space” (Rev. 17:9).

So each of the heads on “the beast” represent a world empire and its king. Each kingdom (head) is not the actual beast itself, but a particular (partial) expression of the beast. The seven world empires, represented by the seven heads of the beast are: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medeo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Final World Empire. Five of those empires—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medeo-Persia and Greece—had fallen by John’s day. One of those empires “was” in John’s day—which was Rome. The last empire would come *after* John’s time.

What’s interesting about all this is the fact that when John sees Satan in his visions, guess what Satan is symbolized by? A great red Dragon with *seven* heads. Would you like to take a wild guess as to *why* the Dragon is pictured as having seven heads? Well, what do the seven heads of “the beast” represent? They represent the great world empires of history, which have to do with the land and the people of Israel. In other words, these seven heads come *out of* the Dragon. They are *part of* the Dragon.

Remember when John said—“the whole world lieth in wickedness” or in “the wicked one” (1 John 5:19)? Here you have the same truth presented in symbolic language or word-pictures. All the kingdoms of the world lie in the Dragon. They all *come out of* the Dragon. They are all *expressions* of the Dragon’s character and nature. They come from him and they manifest him. Of course, our Bible teacher will argue that when John said the whole world lies in “the wicked one”, this was just another a translation error. Funny isn’t it? Whenever the Scripture contradicts this guy’s opinions, it’s always a “translation error”. You would think his groupies would wise up sooner or later and discern what he is doing, but they never do.

The Greek term John uses in that verse is “*poneros*” (pon-ay-ros’); Strong’s 4190; which is translated throughout the New Testament as the English terms: bad, evil, grievous, harm, lewd, malicious, wicked (-ness) and wicked one. In the KJV, several times the Greek term “*porneros*” is translated “that wicked one” or “the wicked one”; in the book of First John.

*I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning.
I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome **the wicked one**. I write
unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.*

I. John 2:13

*Not as Cain, who was of **that wicked one**, and slew his brother. And wherefore
slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.*

I. John 3:12

*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of
God keepeth himself, and [porneros] **that wicked one** toucheth him not. And we
know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in [porneros] **wickedness**.*

I John 5:18-19

In I. John 5:18, the King James translates “*porneros*” as “that wicked one”, while in the very next verse it translates this same word as simply “wickedness”. Some people may try to make a bid deal out of this difference and say that because they translated *porneros* as wickedness instead of Satan (the wicked one), this cancels out the whole idea that the world lies in (the hands of) Satan.

But the context of the passage shows this is exactly the idea John is communicating. A contrast is being made between the children of God—whom “the wicked one” can’t touch (ie: destroy) as long as they “keep themselves” in the grace of God—and the rest of the unsaved world, which walks under the power of wickedness. We keep ourselves in righteousness so we are not destroyed by the wicked one. But the rest of the unsaved world lies in, or lies under the power of, wickedness *because* they are under the power of that wicked one.

*Thus he said, **The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.***

Daniel 7:23-26

In his visions, Daniel sees the same final world empire that John sees. Only in Daniels’s case, the final empire is called the “fourth beast” or the “fourth kingdom”. In this vision, you can see even more clearly the progression from the corporate leadership that will mark this final government, to a dictatorship of one. At first there will be “ten” kings. Then another king will arise and subdue three of those ten kings. He will be different than all the other kings and eventually he will take the primary leadership position. Now, notice what Daniel says about this king. He wears out the saints and the saints will be “given into his hands” until the Lord comes. And what will happen at that point? The Lord will “*take away his dominion*”. Does this sound familiar to anyone? Well, it should because this is basically what the angels say when the seventh trumpet sounds:

*And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The **kingdoms of this world** are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

Revelation 11:15

I hate to break the news to Mr. Bible teacher—but during this age, the kingdoms of this world are *not* the kingdoms of “our Lord” (the Father) or of “his Christ” (Jesus). If they were, the angels would not be saying what they say at the seventh trumpet. The kingdoms of this world are ruled by Satan because they *belong* to Satan. They belong to him because he has established them and he rules them.

This in no way means that God is “locked out” of the earth. God is still sovereign over the earth and all the inhabitants of the earth. God still *owns* the earth because he is the one who made it. But God is not exercising his sovereignty like Mr. Bible teacher assumes He is. Instead, He is letting Satan and mankind choose their own way and their own path. He is letting them do what they like on *His* earth—to a certain point. When either Satan or mankind starts going beyond the boundaries God has set, then He steps in and overrides the situation.

The fact is, mankind has become the *slave* of Satan. Satan has *dominion* over mankind because mankind submitted to his dominion in the Garden. The unsaved are Satan’s *puppets*. They carry out his will and they do his bidding; and he is leading them towards a final crises in his attempt to bring us all to the place where we will willingly, freely and openly worship him as the true God. There are so many passages of Scripture that reveal Satan as the god and the ruler of this world (*kosmos*), and of this present age (*aión*), it’s not even funny. Yet Mr. Bible teacher seems utterly blind to all of them. He actually says “he cannot find any evidence in the Bible that Satan gained any dominion in the earth from Adam’s fall”!

*Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But **the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days**: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, **came to help me**; and I remained there with the kings of Persia....Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to **fight with the prince of Persia**: and when I am gone forth, lo, the **prince of Grecia shall come**.*

Daniel 10:12-13 & 20

In these accounts we have a revelation of how things really operate in the spirit realm. The *human* king of Persia was not really the one who was ruling Persia. The human king was being empowered by, sustained by, and guided by, a demonic prince called “*the prince of...Persia*”. If Satan was not the RULER of the kingdoms of this world, if he wasn’t really the PRINCE of this world and the GOD of this world, then the angel who came to Daniel would *never* have had to fight with the Prince of Persia in order to get to Daniel. If God exercised His sovereignty the way Mr. Bible teacher say He does, this whole scene would *never* have taken place.

The *spiritual* Prince of Persia is the entity who ruled the kingdom of Persia. Persia was one of the heads of the Dragon. In other words, the power to rule and the authority to rule Persia resided *in the Dragon*. It was the Dragon’s power that established that kingdom, and the demonic prince who ruled Persia tried to prevent Daniel

from getting the message God was sending him. The fight between the “Prince of Persia” and the angel who was sent to Daniel was so fierce, Michael the arch-angel—who is also called a “prince”—had to come to the aid of that angel. Not only did the angel have to fight the Prince of Persia to get to Daniel, he said he would have to fight that prince in order to *get back* to wherever he came from. Then he told Daniel that after he had gone, another prince called "*the prince of Grecia*" would come. This prince is the one that empowered Alexander the Great.

Now you can't get much more of a detailed description of how things operate in the spirit realm regarding Satan and the kingdoms of this world than what is described here. Those who reject the truths that are revealed by this account are either intentionally refusing to see the truth, or they are no longer capable of seeing the truth. Satan doesn't just have authority over the leaders of these kingdoms or the unsaved people who dwell in those kingdoms; he also has authority over the TERRITORY those kingdoms encompass. He has authority over the GEOGRAPHY which lies within the boundaries of those kingdoms. The angel that was sent to Daniel was being prevented from coming into *the territory* of Persia by the spiritual ruler of Persia.

If that territory wasn't under the DOMINION of Satan and the Prince of Persia, then all the Lord's angel would have had to do was call his bluff. One word, regarding the fact that the territory of Persia was under the dominion and sovereignty of God, would have been enough to make the Prince of Persia back off. But you see, that's not the way it went down because that's not the way it is. The Prince of Persia had dominion over *that territory*. And while this could not “lock God out” of that territory; it was certainly enough grounds for the Prince of Persia to put up a substantial fight to try to keep God out. So much so that if that an angel of *equal* rank (*another spiritual prince; Michael*) wouldn't have come to the aid of the angel who was trying to get to Daniel, that angel would *not* have gotten through. The spiritual “Prince of Persia” was *stronger* than the angel who was sent to Daniel because he was of a higher rank in the angelic creation.

The fact is, the Scripture teaches in many different places and through many different illustrations that Satan is the “god” of this world. Mr. Bible teacher is walking in religious delusion. He is listening to seducing teaching spirits and he has *no idea* how to recognize them. Because of his arrogance and pride, he has refused to heed the warnings people have given him over the years and he has chosen to believe and propagate his own perverted religious opinions. Since God does turn His rebellious and obstinate children over to deception, I think this is precisely what has happened to Mr. Bible teacher. God has turned him over to the very spirits he claims are powerless and stupid—and quite frankly, I think that's a very fitting judgment upon him.

One of the ways you can tell when a seducing spirit is trying to teach you something from the Bible is that it will only give you *one* side of the picture or *half* the truth regarding a subject. Mr. Bible teacher received spiritual revelation from a religious seducing spirit, and then that same religious spirit provided various passages of Scripture that *seemed* to validate his new revelation. What that spirit didn't do was remind him of all passages which directly contradicts his new revelation. If Mr. Bible teacher was really as smart as he *thinks* he is, he would have sought the *whole council* of God's Word—not just those verses that came into his mind. He would have intentionally looked to see if there were any passages that *contradicted* his new revelation. But the fact is, this guy's not really interested in the truth. He's only interested in pushing his own opinions building his own ministry, or his own religious kingdom.

Before we close, I want to explain the error that lies at the heart of this guy's teaching, and the teaching of all those like him who try to minimize the power of Satan. They have bought into the same lie Adam and Eve bought into 6000 years ago because they are propagating a deception I call a *Third Option*. They think we can choose to

be covered by God, or by Satan, or by ourselves. They think “walking in the flesh” or “living after the flesh” is an option that is somehow *different* from walking with demons. In other words, they think that you can walk in the flesh without necessarily becoming involved with demon spirits. In their minds, the flesh is a *third kingdom* or a *third path* which may or may not be affected by demons. This is why they are always emphasizing the flesh and ignoring demons. They think our flesh can exist *outside* the dominion of evil spirits.

But the fact is, this is all part of the original lie. You see, what Satan offered Adam and Eve was a Third Option. He said if you will eat of the forbidden fruit: “...*your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil*” (Gen. 3:5). In other words, they would become independent. They would no longer need to be covered by anyone—including God. They would become their own covering as a result of being able to know the difference between good and evil. Eve could become “her own woman” and Adam could become “his own man”. Satan was offering them a *third path* to walk down.

He didn't say: “You can keep serving God, and keep walking under His covering, and keep manifesting His nature in the earth; or you can eat of this tree and start serving *me*, and walk under *my* covering, and manifest *my* nature in the earth. Instead, he offered them a third option—serve yourself; be your own covering; be your own god; manifest your own life in the earth. He offered them a life that wasn't necessary dependent on either God or himself. He said you can be an entity to yourself, and from that place of *neutrality*, you can choose how you want to proceed. You can submit to the covering of God, you can submit to my covering, or you can keep walking under you own covering. You can choose to keep walking in *your own* light—the light you will receive through the knowledge of good and evil.

But Eve never got to be “her own woman” did she? Adam never did become “his own man” did he? That whole offer was a lie. There is no Third Option. There are only two spiritual kingdoms in existence—the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. Either we are walking in one, or we are walking in the other. There is no third kingdom of “the flesh” that we can walk in, which is *independent* of both those kingdoms. There is no third path of “self” that we can walk on, which is *independent* of both those kingdoms. Either we are manifesting the character and nature of God because we are walking in His kingdom, or we are manifesting the character and nature of Satan because we are walking in his kingdom. Either we are carrying out the will of God in this earth, or we are carrying out the will of Satan in this earth. Either we are walking under the covering of the Holy Spirit, or we are walking under the covering of the Serpent—there is no third option!

When you live and walk under the dominion of Satan, your life becomes entangled with all kinds of demon spirits. Indeed, it's not possible to *live in* the flesh or even *walk in* the flesh and not have spirits. The flesh is a breeding ground for spirits; the flesh is a magnet that draws spirits. Anyone who lives in the flesh or walks in the flesh is *also* involved with demon spirits. The flesh belongs to Satan because the flesh came *from* Satan. The flesh belongs to Satan because it's a *manifestation of* Satan. The flesh is under the dominion and the power of Satan, and the flesh serves and obeys Satan.

Whenever you hear ministers focusing on the flesh and ignoring the reality and danger of unclean spirits; whenever you hear ministers who try to *separate* walking in the flesh from walking under the power of demon spirits; realize that you are listening to people who have been *seduced*. You are listening to people who have bought into the original lie that there we can either serve God, or serve Satan, or self. I tell you by the authority of Jesus Christ: there is no “Third Option”. Christian or Pagan, it makes no difference—either you walk in the Spirit or you walk with unclean spirits.