

PART ONE
THE SAINTS WILL RULE THE NATIONS

*Ask of me, and **I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance**, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

Psalms 2:8-9

*And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, **to him will I give power over the nations**: And **he shall rule them with a rod of iron**; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

Revelation 2:26-27

*And she brought forth a man child, **who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron**: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

Revelation 12:5

Question #1 - Is the term “nations” a reference to the Church, or a part of the Church?

Question #2 - Then who are the nations and where did they come from?

PART TWO
DECEPTION & INNER WITNESS

I would like to say a little something with regards to the situation down in Lakeland, Florida. Even though what's happening down there is very dangerous, and there's no doubt many will be deceived by it, I think those with any amount of true spiritual discernment, after watching that whole affair, would know it's not of God. It is a shame that today's Christians are so immature and know so little of the true dealings of God, that they have to be warned to stay away from somebody like Todd Bently, who obviously moves in another spirit.

What I'd like to say is that the deception we are facing is *already* much more subtle and dangerous than what's happening in Florida—as if that wasn't bad enough. Let me give you a little warning: *Satan's deceptions increase in subtlety as we grow spiritually*. He doesn't throw the same deceptions at us when we are a spiritual teenager as he did when we were a spiritual child. And as we grow into spiritual adulthood, his tactics change and they grow even more subtle; they get even closer to the truth than they were when we were a spiritual teenager. So don't assume that just because we are growing spiritually, we are safe from the deceptions of the enemy. Don't assume that the more your understanding is enlightened regarding God's plan, the more safe you are from the enemies tricks. The more we grow spiritually, the more dangerous Satan's wiles become.

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Matthew 4:3

Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Matthew 4:5-6

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Matthew 4:8-9

Let me ask you a question. How do you think the Devil came to Jesus when he tempted Him in the wilderness? Do you imagine Satan coming to Jesus dressed in a red suite with a pitchfork in his hand? Do you imagine him coming as a black angel with a gargoyle-like face, and smoke and sulfur emanating from his body? Is that how he comes to you?

You see, the only thing that would make these temptations *real*, was if they were something that *could possibly* be coming from God. They had to be something Jesus was familiar with; they had to be something he was used to experiencing, or something He could recognize as *potentially* coming from the Father.

Again, how does Satan come to you? How does he talk to you? One way is through thoughts. I think that in the first temptation, the enemy came to Jesus *as a thought* (or possibly even as a small voice), planting doubts in His mind as to whether or not He really was the Son of God. Remember, Jesus had *no human example* to follow. There had *never been* a man born of a virgin before. There had *never been* a man who came from Eternity before. Jesus was the ultimate pioneer. His origins, His birth, His walk, His relationship to God, His call to give His life for a ransom for the sin of mankind, none of that had ever been done, or even thought of before.

All He had to rely on was *the faith* He had in the things He felt He was hearing from His Father. Some of those things came, no doubt from the Torah. Some of them came through divine supernatural revelation. The words: "*If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread*", was a temptation for Jesus to use His supernatural power out of God's will, not only for His own gratification, but to boost His confidence in who He really was. Jesus could have killed two birds with one stone, but he would have been moving in unbelief if he would have.

How do you think the next two temptations came? Do you think Satan came to Jesus like some kind of Jeanni out of a bottle, and physically transported Him to the Temple, and then to a high mountain? Do you think it would have been a real temptation for Jesus? I think it would have been more of a joke than a temptation. Again, the only thing that would make these temptations *real*, was if they were something that

could possibly be coming from God. I think it's much more likely that Jesus *had a vision*, the source of which was Satan. As a matter of fact, I think these temptations were so close to the real thing, in order to overcome them, Jesus had to draw on *everything* He had learned up to that point with regards to His own personal (inner) witness, His knowledge of the Scripture, and finally, His knowledge of the Father's character. Moreover, I believe that in the days to come, these are *the only things* that will keep us from being deceived.

We must know the Scripture well enough so we can "rightly divide" them. We must also have a history with God, and have come to know Him in a personal way to the point that we can recognize when we come across something that is contrary to His character. Finally, we must learn how to recognize the *inner witness* of the spirit. For there will be times when a thing will *sound* so right, and *look* so right, and *feel* so right, and it will even *be true* Scripturally; but the source is Satan, not God. As the days progress, we are going to be faced with this kind of thing more and more.

Another thing we are going to have to get free from is the idea or the mindset that it is wrong to suspect a brother or sister of deceiving us—either intentionally or unintentionally—without a ton of irrefutable evidence and proof. When Jesus told us to "watch", he meant watch everyone, including our loved ones, our friends, ourselves, and especially those who minister to us. It's *impossible* to really "watch" or "be on your guard" against deception if you are afraid to *suspect* other people. Having a Spirit-led suspicion of what others are saying to you or teaching you is not Satanic or fleshly. It's not the opposite of "love". It's what we must all do if we want to stay out of deception in the coming days. This is especially true when it comes to preachers and teachers.

It's very easy to be fooled by someone who (on the surface) has all the right doctrine, and has all the right words, but is not *actually walking* in the truth they are preaching. One example of this is the situation with Chip Brogden. How many of you have read my "Open Letter" to Chip? Well, I would like to tell you how that came about and what we can learn from it. I ran across a discussion forum where one of the subject threads was Chip's latest book: "*The Irresistible Kingdom*". The one who started this particular thread said there was a sister who was claiming Chip was preaching Universalism in his new book, and that she had written an article about it on her blog. The sister, who was actually writing about the doctrine of Universalism and how unscriptural it is, did mention Chip's new book in passing, as an example of a well-known teacher who has accepted it. The *first response* from the majority of the people in that forum, regarding Cathy's statement about Chip, was a *blind defense* of him, based on his past reputation of putting out so many uplifting, Christ-centered articles.

When Chip got wind of this article, he wrote a reply to the sister and posted it on *her blog* without her permission. He accused her of wrongly judging what he had written, and reprimanded her for *not* contacting him and talking to him first, before mentioning it *publicly* on her blog. In another letter to a brother in the forum where this was being discussed, he said the same thing again, regarding everyone who has had problems with what he was teaching in that book. He wrote:

"If someone believes I am wrong about something then the Scripture provides a clear path for them to follow: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Gal. 6:1). **No one has taken this approach with me.**"

This is a bold-faced lie—people have been writing to Mr. Brogden for weeks concerning the error in his book. Most of the time, he does the same thing to them that he did to me: he doesn't even bother responding. When he does respond, the answer is convoluted and intentionally misleading. Even though he lied through his teeth, everyone in that forum accepted his claim at face value, just because he said it. No one even *considered the possibility* that he could be lying.

The above letter was in answer to a direct question one of the brothers in that forum who had previously defended Chip, but who was growing a little suspicious, and had written to get a clear answer from Chip regarding what he believes. The question he wrote was this: "*Chip do you believe in the Universalists doctrine. That is, everyone will be saved eventually*"?

A simple Yes or No was all that was needed—or at the very most, a short paragraph of explanation. Instead, Mr. Brogden wrote a whole letter of self-justification, and then he questioned the motives and character of everyone who disagreed with him. Sound familiar to anyone? Then he gave a short dissertation on the various beliefs of those who hold to the doctrine of Universalism. Says he:

"I found Universalism to be unscriptural. Some Universalists do not believe in hell. Some do not believe in sin. Some do not believe in the devil. Some give you the impression that everyone will be saved eventually, so evangelism is a waste of time and it doesn't matter what you do or what you believe. **All of this of course I rejected, and do reject.** So when you say someone is a Universalist that is a pretty broad label that can mean a lot of things."

He never did answer the *real* question; which was whether or not he believes *everyone will eventually be saved*. The brother who wrote him was not asking him if he accepts *all* the various views regarding Universalism. He just wanted to know if he believes everyone will eventually will be saved—and you can be sure Mr. Brogden understood *exactly* what he was being asked. He also knew he couldn't give an honest answer because if he did, everyone's suspicions regarding his error would have been confirmed. All he would have had to say was: "*No, I do not believe that eventually all men will be saved*"—and that would have ended the matter for those people in the forum. They didn't want to believe he was teaching error, so they would have accepted his word as the gospel truth, regardless of what he had obviously written in his book.

The brother who received this letter from Chip seemed to have enough spiritual discernment to start question whether or not Chip was really being honest with him. He shared the letter with the rest of the people in the forum, and then he said:

From this we can conclude;

He believes in Hell, but **what we don't know** is what he believes as far as the purpose of Hell. I can no longer assume he believes what I believe.

He believes in sin but **what we dont know** is what he believes is the judgement God metes out to the unrepentant. Again,I can no longer assume he believes what I believe.

He believes it matters what you do or don't believe but **he doesn't explain, what he does believe** matters, in regards to what people need to believe to be saved.

He believes evangelism is not a waste of time, what **he doesnt explain is if he believes all people will be saved eventually** with or without evangelism.

He may not believe everything a UR person believes but **he leaves a lot of questions unanswered**, and in fact poses more questions than answers to the inquiring mind regards his beliefs.

You see, this brother recognized that Chip *intentionally* refused to answer his question. Friends, that's the same as lying. There is no difference in the eyes of God. One of the problems with this whole situation was, obviously, these people didn't have very sharp discernment. But the deeper problem was that no one really *knew* Chip Brogden. They only knew *his reputation*. They only knew *what he had written* in his articles. Everyone just *assumed* that he was actually living the life he was writing about. They just *assumed* that because he was preaching about death to self, and about giving Christ the first place in our lives, and about being humble and broken, he was actually walking in all these things.

You see, based on his teachings, Chip Brogden has a reputation for putting Christ and his truth first in his life. Based on his teachings, he has a reputation for being humble and teachable. Based on his teachings, no one would ever believe he would *intentionally* mislead the brethren. However, those who have dealt with him personally have found that he is *not* walking in the things he is teaching. And this is precisely why the apostle Paul wrote the following words;

*And we beseech you, brethren, to **know them** which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;*

I. Thessalonians 5:12

When this brother questioned Chip's honesty, one of the individuals who defended Chip to the bitter end took him to task for accusing Chip of lying—but the fact is, Chip WAS lying! At this point, another brother who was now convinced that Chip was lying and was teaching UR, wrote:

"I have noticed that in our 'Christian culture' **our sympathies tend to be slanted more toward the false teacher** or the 'wolf' **than for the poor unsuspecting torn sheep**. I've read enough forums to know this is the truth. People will say long prayers for the wolves, yet **they never** show the slightest indignation or sympathy for those who lay bleeding and dying in their wake. **The ones who speak against these wolves are usually villianized**. Things are so backwards out there."

Things really are "backwards" out here! Another brother who was not part of that forum, but who had read my Open Letter to Chip, sent me an email with the following statement:

"I cannot convey how saddened and shocked and disheartened my wife and I were when I read this letter just a few moments ago. We both recognized the same attitude in Chip that he had when I confronted him about his errors several years ago via email. **He became accusatory, derogatory, and refused to look at ANYTHING he wrote as possibly being wrong.** He was not humble or teachable and **almost became abusive in his replies to me...**I attempted to restore a brother who was heading a wrong way and **he refused to even consider the possibility that he could have been wrong.**"

It's not that Chip Brogden has not been warned. It's not that people have failed to, as they say, "reach out to him" and try to help him. The problem is, Chip Brogden is proud and unteachable. The problem is, he's not walking in the things he is teaching the rest of the body of Christ. Very, very few people had enough discernment to know something was wrong with him until 4 weeks after he came out with that book.

One of the people in that forum sent Chip my audio critique of his book. So he mentioned me in his letter of denial. Speaking of me, he said:

"He focuses his remarks on the parts he doesn't understand and disagrees with. Why? Because **he wants to magnify the devil and exaggerate the devil's power while minimizing and limiting the Cross of Christ.** He has more belief in the devil's power to deceive than in the Holy Spirit's power to reveal the truth."

this is the reason Chip Brogden ended up deceived. A religious, seducing spirit has been telling him for years that Satan is no real threat to us, if we will just focus on Jesus; if we will just die to self. Friends, this is a lie, and it stands in direct opposition to many verses of Scripture in the new Testament. I warn people about Satan's power because God's people are ignorant of just how dangerous it is—and they are ignorant because they have been listening to the kind of half-truths and error guys like this have been putting out for years, the source of which is a religious demon!

We better start learning how to recognize and follow the *inner witness* of the Spirit in these days or we will end up just like Chip Brogden—deceived and unteachable.

It was very interesting, but at the end of this whole thing, one of the brothers who was a moderator, spoke up and shared with the rest of the people that he had never gotten a good witness to Chip and his ministry; but he could never understand why/ As far as he knew, everything Chip was saying was right on, and Scriptural. But there was always this nagging thing deep down in his spirit that was not comfortable with Chip. Now, years later, he understands what it was. And he said he was glad he followed that inner witness and not the crowd, who in the end, were really *following a reputation*, not the word of God.