

STRATEGY OF THE ENEMY

Joshua 9:3-15

Introduction: As long as we live in these bodies down here on this earth as Christians we will have constant battle with Satan. Temptation will be our constant battle and we will win some and lose some therefore we cannot think of any sin as being light or insignificant.

The cause of defeat is found by PRAYER but it takes more than prayer to recover the lost ground. The secret to victory in our daily battles with Satan is FAITH in and OBEDIENCE to the Lord Jesus Christ. The law of God has been given to us to obey, not just to admire.

The secret to winning a war lies in strategy. Joshua and Israel encountered that in our text. An enemy of Israel went to great lengths to deceive their real identity in order to get Israel to form an alliance with them.

Most Christians live a hit/miss life style for very seldom does the Christian apply daily disciplined action or plan a defense or attack against Satan.

I. THE ENEMY PUT ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND JOINED TOGETHER

1. The various tribes of Canaan put aside their differences and made an all out effort to defeat Israel.
2. Every victory won by a Christian is an invitation for a full scale attack by Satan for blessings and battles go side by side in the Christian life.
 - If you haven't been tempted and if there is not a spiritual battle going on inside you, then you need to ask God what is wrong with you.
 - What would happen to the Church if every member would stop bickering and pull together in an attack on Satan?
 - Satan must be delighted in what most Churches are doing today - fighting and bickering amongst themselves.

II. THE ENEMY ATTEMPTED TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE

1. The Gibeonites arrived and pretended to have come from afar and that they knew nothing about Israel's victories and that they, too, believed in Israel's God.
2. Satan knows the Christian well enough to know not to attack in the open.
 - Satan tries to get us to think that little things don't really matter and to not be too serious all the time.
 - Take a break from serving the Lord, relax for a while, let somebody else take over, compromise.
 - Any of this sound familiar to you, Christian?
3. Satan is very religious. He believes the Bible, He believes Jesus is real and he knows that Jesus is going to return someday.
 - Therefore Satan comes in disguise to us.
 - He tells us to "use our common sense in our religion, see what we say we believe in, our money is ours, etc..
 - He is very difficult to detect, but he is there in each of our lives.

III. THE ENEMY INFILTRATED INTO ISRAEL'S RANKS

1. Israel welcomed the Gibeonites into their ranks, believing their story, never consulting God about them.
2. The Church is no different. We have Gibeonites among us also.
 - False, pretenders of the faith and because we didn't seek God's counsel, we believed their stories, we exercised no discipline.
 - As Israel, the Churches exercise little communication with God about things.
 - Absence of prayer is the sign of PRIDE, no need of God.
3. Little things such as investigating a prospective Church member can save a Church a lifetime of distress and turmoil later on.
 - Many individual Christians lives have been ruined because little things were neglected, left undone.

CONCLUSION:

1. What is the answer? Can we ever match Satan and his subtle ways? NO!
2. Common sense is no substitute for prayer and Satan is a master at making things look like they are ordinary and unimportant.
3. If you have been dominated by Satan, there is still hope and help. Battles are won and lost, but the WAR can still be won in your life.
4. Israel did not break their covenant with the Gibeonites when they discovered they had been betrayed. Israel honored their word. However if you have made any agreement in open, blatant disregard for God's Word, break it off!
5. Marriages made between a Christian and non Christian are outside the will of God and should not have been made in the first place, but that is not grounds for divorce. (*1 Corinthians 7:12, 16*)
6. God has taken many an agreement that was going wrong and turned it into a means of blessing such the unsaved marriage partner being saved.
7. God can restore lost years in many ways, if only He is allowed to do so.
8. Our sins which Christ died for, can be the very things that drive us to Christ and bring us untold blessings and peace.