

### 3. THE CUNNING CRAFTINESS OF GOD

The cross dethroned Satan's uncontested rule in the world.

LUKE 4:5-8 (NKJV)

5 THEN THE DEVIL, TAKING HIM UP ON A HIGH MOUNTAIN, SHOWED HIM ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD IN A MOMENT OF TIME.

6 AND THE DEVIL SAID TO HIM, "ALL THIS AUTHORITY I WILL GIVE YOU, AND THEIR GLORY; FOR THIS HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO ME, AND I GIVE IT TO WHOMEVER I WISH.

7 THEREFORE, IF YOU WILL WORSHIP BEFORE ME, ALL WILL BE YOURS."

8 AND JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, "GET BEHIND ME, SATAN! FOR IT IS WRITTEN, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.' "

This would have been the coup d'etat of the enemy, which simply means a "stroke of state." It's a military brilliance of one kingdom against another. It's the use of craftiness and cunning so brilliantly that it leaves the opponent stripped, in disgrace, and now a servant of the other.

Let me read you the Wuest of verses 1-3.

LUKE 4:1 (WUESTNT)

1 AND JESUS, IN THE CONTROL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, RETURNED FROM THE JORDAN AND WAS CONTINUALLY BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT IN THE UNINHABITED REGION, FOR FORTY DAYS BEING CONSTANTLY PUT TO THE TEST BY THE DEVIL AS HE SOLICITED HIM TO SIN. AND HE ATE NOT EVEN ONE THING DURING THOSE DAYS, AND THEY HAVING BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END, HE BECAME HUNGRY. THEN THE DEVIL SAID TO HIM, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT YOU ARE SON OF GOD BY VIRTUE OF YOUR POSSESSION OF THE DIVINE ESSENCE, SPEAK TO THIS STONE TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WILL BECOME A LOAF OF BREAD.

This is actually the coup d'etat of the Father. He lured the enemy into engaging the Son of Man not realizing that Jesus "in the control of Holy Spirit" was "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness to be put to the test for 40 days. In this unfriendly place, He was constantly put to the test by the devil to be solicited into sin. Holy Spirit supernaturally sustained him for 40 days and then He became hungry. It was at this moment, the enemy moved in for the kill.

But notice what he said, "In view of the fact that you are Son of God..." What?! Lucifer knew Him as Son of God before he fell. John 1:1 tells us that He existed from the beginning and Colossians lets us know that all things were created in Him. Lucifer, as a created being, would have recognized Him. He knew who Jesus was (and is) because of His "possession of the divine essence." What he didn't know is that by crucifying Him, he unleashed the redemption plan of the Father where Jesus is "multiplied" in all who believe. Instead of one, there are now millions of Christ-in-us followers in the earth!

Recognizing His divinity housed in the body of Jesus, he offered him the AUTHORITY and the GLORY of all the kingdoms of the world on one condition: the Son of God had to worship him. Now notice that. The authority and glory he tricked Adam and Eve into giving him would be returned to God if the Son of God would worship him ONCE AGAIN PROVING THAT THE BATTLE OVER NATIONS IS THE HEART OF NATIONS EITHER TO WORSHIP GOD OR THE ENEMY.

Listen to the great commission:

**MATTHEW 28:18–20 NKJV**

**18 AND JESUS CAME AND SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING, "ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. 19 GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, 20 TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE." AMEN.**

Disciple NATIONS. It's always been about the nations for the glory of God is in the nations. Unfortunately, we've been so focused on the one that we've missed the original intent of God—the nations.

Ask me to give you the nations and I will do it, and they shall become your legacy. [Psalm 8:2](#)

This is translated, "Ask wealth of me," in the Masoretic Text. And remember the enemy said, "All this authority and their glory has been delivered to me..." He is referring to the kingdoms of the world a.k.a. nations. So when Jesus said, "ALL authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." Now the true King has arrived and He has authority over the authority that was delivered to the enemy. He then gave that to us.

The word "delivered to" in the Greek refers "to deliver over or up to the power of someone...with evil intent to the power or authority of others." It's the same idea of when Jesus was delivered "unto death." It's also the idea of "persons or things delivered over to do or suffer something...to surrender, to permit." The word "given" referring to Jesus' authority means "to give something to someone with good will." Notice the difference. Delivered to in the kingdom of darkness is being delivered over to someone with evil intent but in Christ it's to give something to someone with good intent.

The enemy was the "glitter and glamour of cities and nations." He was corrupted by the commerce being conducted in the marketplace. He correctly saw that wealth is in the glory and

the glory is the wealth of nations. And since glory (kabod) is the possession of God, the enemy saw his opportunity to be like God in taking over the nations.

Here is the problem Jesus came to solve:

**ROMANS 3:23 (NKJV)**

**23 FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD,**

The enemy gained dominion over the nations and their glory through his craftiness by causing Adam and Eve to sin. They forfeited their glory to the enemy because they believed his lies about Father's character and succumbed to the fear that God was withholding good from them. And all that was under their authority was given over to the enemy. In order to restore the GLORY OF GOD back to man, God had to become Man for only Man could undo what man did.

It also required that the SIN ISSUE be resolved so not only did God have to become Man, He also had to become sin and take upon Himself the penalty of sin required by the law to restore to those who believe THE GLORY OF GOD. God out crafted the crafty one.

**JOB 5:13 (NKJV)**

**13 HE CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR OWN CRAFTINESS, AND THE COUNSEL OF THE CUNNING COMES QUICKLY UPON THEM.**

Remember, all have fallen short of the glory and Jesus restored that glory to us and glory is health, wealth, peace, prosperity, mental and emotional health and wellbeing, and all that is good in God.

**1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-8 (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,**

**8 WHICH NONE OF THE RULERS OF THIS AGE KNEW; FOR HAD THEY KNOWN, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY.**

The word lord is "kurios" here and means "Lord, master, owner." It's the Greek equivalent for the OT word YHWH. It's the POSSESSOR. It's SUPREME LORD, SOVEREIGN like the ROMAN EMPEROR was over Rome. It's SUPREME IN AUTHORITY. Satan was under the delusion that HE WAS THE LORD OF GLORY. So God in His wisdom, His shrewdness, His craftiness, ordained FOR OUR GLORY a restoration of the GLORY through the LORD OF GLORY being crucified and LEGALLY RESTORING the glory that was lost by restoring to us the IMAGE OF CHRIST freely given when we were BORN AGAIN or BORN FROM ABOVE by faith and that's present in us through the INDWELLING ([Col. 1:27](#)).

## 2 CORINTHIANS 8:9 (NKJV)

9 FOR YOU KNOW THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT THOUGH HE WAS RICH, YET FOR YOUR SAKES HE BECAME POOR, THAT YOU THROUGH HIS POVERTY MIGHT BECOME RICH.

Rich is "wealth, abundance, riches," and fig. means "happy, prosperous, lacking nothing." Now we can take this and spiritualize it to His redemptive word as a Man and our salvation and that applies. But it also clearly means wealth in material goods. The days of separating material wealth from spiritual wealth are over. You can't legally separate them because Christ didn't and He purchased them together!

## 3 JOHN 1:2 (NKJV)

2 BELOVED, I PRAY THAT YOU MAY PROSPER IN ALL THINGS AND BE IN HEALTH, JUST AS YOUR SOUL PROSPERS.

The more our soul prospers by receiving the implanted word with meekness, the more prosperity invades all ours of our lives including health and wealth. And by the way, don't think that Jesus was poverty stricken while on earth. He came to demonstrate what it means to be a kingdom citizen on earth and a model of who we are now. But when you take the wealth He possessed in heaven, it simply looks like rags. He never lacked a single thing He needed and always had leftovers!

We saw glimpses of the glory of God in the OT through Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, and Solomon through their wealth, their authority, their influence, and their rule. Solomon experienced the greatest of these for two reasons: peace and wisdom. Peace was Solomon's possession because his father, David, conquered all of Israel's enemies. Jesus has conquered all of ours as well.

## 1 KINGS 10:4-9 (NKJV)

4 AND WHEN THE QUEEN OF SHEBA HAD SEEN ALL THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON, THE HOUSE THAT HE HAD BUILT,

5 THE FOOD ON HIS TABLE, THE SEATING OF HIS SERVANTS, THE SERVICE OF HIS WAITERS AND THEIR APPAREL, HIS CUPBEARERS, AND HIS ENTRYWAY BY WHICH HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, THERE WAS NO MORE SPIRIT IN HER.

6 THEN SHE SAID TO THE KING: "IT WAS A TRUE REPORT WHICH I HEARD IN MY OWN LAND ABOUT YOUR WORDS AND YOUR WISDOM.

7 HOWEVER I DID NOT BELIEVE THE WORDS UNTIL I CAME AND SAW WITH MY OWN EYES; AND INDEED THE HALF WAS NOT TOLD ME. YOUR WISDOM AND PROSPERITY EXCEED THE FAME OF WHICH I HEARD.

Now the church is to display the wisdom of God.

**EPHESIANS 3:10 (NKJV)**

**10 TO THE INTENT THAT NOW THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD MIGHT BE MADE KNOWN BY THE CHURCH TO THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES,**

The final display of the fullness of God's wisdom won't be until the Prince of Peace returns. Our job is to use wisdom and wage war against the one who has been stripped of all power and authority. We are to recapture the splendor he so desired and tricked our first parents into handing over. As we do this, we'll then bring wealth into the church. **ALWAYS WAGE WAR FROM A PLACE OF VICTORY.**

Let me leave you with this thought: **every person in the bible, including the lord, won their battles and came out with incredible spoils of war.** I.e. they left bondage and battle with freedom and wealth. **Every battle you encounter and every bondage you overcome is supposed to bring INCREASE not DECREASE.** That is why we can praise God in the midst of trials and tribulations because our victory has already been won.