IT'S ALL ABOUT THE NATIONS

Have you ever wondered why there are rulers of nations in every generation that seek to take over the world, that persecute and kill those who don't agree with them, and that only understand military force not reason? I'm going to break all of this down for you, and then reveal why your role in the marketplace isn't just crucial but actually required. Some of this I might have already shared in previous teachings, but I felt it was important to bring all those fragments together into a seamless picture.

Note: Some of this might challenge your current beliefs and even offend. I'd encourage you to be like the Bereans and listen to this message then study it out on your own to see if what I say is true in the Word.

THE THREE REBELLIONS

Many of us mainstream believers focus the majority of our attention on Adam and Eve's fall, its impact on the world and us, and how to resist the effects of their rebellion. The reality is that there is so much more to what's going on that Adam and Eve's rebellion. In fact, focusing solely on that event will cause you to miss your role in the "big picture." You are so much more important than you realize!

THE FIRST REBELLION

The first rebellion was the fall of Lucifer, and I believe scripture reveals that his rebellion wasn't some pre-historic fall with a third of the angels falling with him (and these became demons) as many teach. Let's dive in to what the scriptures say about this fall.

Ezekiel 28:11-19 ESV

¹¹ Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me: ¹² "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord God: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast

you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. ¹⁸ By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever."

This scripture has a dual application—the King of Tyre and Lucifer, which is quite common in the Bible and reveals that in God's mind, the King of Tyre is being influenced by the Evil One. But we know that parts of it are definitely NOT the King of Tyre because he wasn't in the garden of Eden, he wasn't a cherub, he didn't walk in the midst of fiery stones, etc.; therefore, this section is definitely to Lucifer.

Verse 13 reveals the timing of Lucifer's fall. It says that he was "in Eden, the garden of God." According to the original language this word is "the place where God placed Adam and Eve to live and where they rebelled against the Lord's words." It goes on to say that Satan was permitted in the garden and fostered the rebellion of the first humans. But I don't believe that's the case because of WHY Lucifer rebelled.

If Lucifer was in Eden in a pre-fallen state then his fall was post creation of Adam and Eve not pre. And it appears from verses 13 and 14 he was somehow tied and possibly in charge of worship between heaven and earth (in the KJV, we see that he was made of musical instruments; something other translations remove for some reason). Ezekiel called him the "anointed cherub." Cherubim guard the presence of God. I can just imagine the colors and sounds that came from his body during worship! I'm sure it was stunning.

Verse 15 tells us that Lucifer was blameless in his ways until unrighteousness was found in him. What exactly sparked this unrighteousness? Let's read verses 16-17 again.

Ezekiel 28:16-17 ESV

¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

Again, we know this is referring to Lucifer because a man can't be cast out of the mountain of God. And from some of my studies, especially Dr. Michael Heiser's work, the mountain of God might be referring to the Heavenly Council, which we've discussed quite a bit already. But here's the main point: what corrupted Lucifer was the abundance of trade. Trade, here, is "referring to merchandise,

trading. It refers to the material wares traded or to the process of merchandising and trading itself." I.e. commerce, marketplace, business.

Lucifer's heart was filled with violence, and when this word (hamas btw) refers to a person, it can "mean an oppressor or a violent man." His heart became proud because of his beauty, and he "corrupted his wisdom for the sake of his splendor." Get this: splendor is "used of the glamour and glitter of a city or nation." Lucifer began to covet the splendor of cities and nations. Remember that we don't know how long Adam and Eve procreated before the fall. We do know there were others people groups because when Cain left after killing Abel, he found some people in Nod. Different languages came in after Babel, but people being born and going out subduing the earth from the Garden of Eden occurred for who knows how long!

Ezekiel confirms this again in verse 18:

Ezekiel 28:18 ESV

¹⁸ By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you.

Unrighteousness means "injustice" and trade is the same as in verse 16. By injustice in trading, he profaned his sanctuaries, which are sacred and holy places set aside for use during worship. Personally, I believe that Lucifer was in some type of financial advising role or worked with Adam and Eve in that role as well as led worship. I could be totally wrong, of course. But what we can for sure take away is that Lucifer was somehow involved in trade and that he coveted what wasn't his and he used violence and injustice entered to take what wasn't his.

I don't want to proof text. Are there other scriptures that support this. I'd say the entire Bible is a picture of the battle between the seed of the enemy and the seed of God. If you look at the activities of the seed of the enemy, it's always world domination through military might, religion, and wealth. But before I get into that, let me give you a few New Testament scriptures.

2 Peter 1:4 ESV

⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Sinful desire is "to strongly desire to have what belongs to someone else...to covet." Corruption entered the world through "sinful desire," but it's sourced in Lucifer.

1 Timothy 6:10 ESV

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Many misquote this saying that money is the root of all evil. As you can see, the LOVE of money is the root of ALL KINDS of evil. The word craving is translated covet in other Bibles. It means literally "to stretch out especially with the hands, to snatch...to reach after something, and hence metaphorically meaning to covet, long after, desire, try to gain, be ambitious." This is obviously related to the word for "sinful desire." And the phrase "love of money" is actually one word, "philarguria" and is regarded as a type of covetousness. It's an AFFECTION FOR MONEY that drives one to do whatever is necessary to get it including using injustice and violence. Sound familiar?

The main thing I want you to notice is that the "love of money" is tied to covetousness and it's through covetousness that corruption entered the world. And the source of that corruption is the devil. But let's read his own words.

Luke 4:5-8 ESV

⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

First note how glory and worship are tied together in the enemy's mind. Could it be because those were his main areas of focus and expertise in Eden? But where is the wealth aspect in this passage that I'm referring to so far?

The enemy showed the Lord the kingdoms of the world and said that he'd give Him the authority and their glory. In the Greek, glory is "splendor." But since the NT was written by Jews who knew the OT, let me take you to the first place glory is used.

Genesis 31:1 ESV

¹ Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, "Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth."

Genesis 31:1 KJV 1900

¹ And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath taken away all that was our father's; and of *that* which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory.

As you can see, in the ESV and many other translations, the word wealth is used but in the KJV, glory is used. Why? Because the word for glory is "kabod," the exact word used over and over of God's glory in the OT. It means "honor, glory, majesty, WEALTH." So the VERY FIRST PLACE KABOD IS USED IS REFERRING TO MATERIAL WEALTH! And just as important within the glory of God is the wealth

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of God, which He gives us the ability to gain here on earth. **Not only is wealth** warfare but wealth is also a reflection of His glory IF your heart is free from the spiritual influence of mammon meaning your love for God keeps you pure from an unholy affection for money.

Going back to <u>Luke 4</u>, we can see that the glory of the kingdoms of this world include the wealth of those kingdoms a.k.a. nations. And that in order to gain them from the enemy, Jesus simply had to worship him. That's been the deal since the fall. In order to take over the world, you must worship the devil. We'll dive into that in depth in a bit.

So when Lucifer fell, he knew that he had to take over the world in order to perpetuate his evil plan of taking all of the splendor, the wealth, the glory, and even the worship of all peoples. But God always has His remnant.

THE SECOND REBELLION

The second rebellion was Adam and Eve, of course, using the same "covetousness" that led to the enemy's own fall. There is some dispute among scholars of whether the "snake" was Satan or a different type of angel. I, personally, believe it was Lucifer hiding himself to keep what he was up to hidden, which might be why Adam and Eve didn't think it was strange (animals didn't speak pre-fall contrary to what has been taught).

But for the Second Temple Jews, this wasn't the fall that caused the most damage. It was the third rebellion that unleashed the most devastating corruption and depravity of all.

THE THIRD REBELLION

I've taught on this in depth in "The Ancient Battle" of the ekklesia training you should have already taken. The main point is that for the Second-Temple Period Jew, the sin of the watcher angels with human women that produced nephilim spirits a.k.a. and gross evil in the hearts of all mankind except for Noah and his family was the catalyst for an escalation of evil in the earth even to this day.

THE NATIONS

After Lucifer fell and convinced Adam and Eve to rebel, he began to set up systems through men and women that opposed God and His will in the earth. Through his influence of convincing the watcher angels to produce offspring with human women, he advanced his plan rather quickly and introduced gross forms of idolatry. And one of the key strategies he uses is world rulers under the influence of an anti-Christ spirit. You see, the anti-Christ spirit has always existed even pre-Christ. For the Jew it was an anti-Messiah spirit that has tried numerous times to completely annihilate all Jews. Hitler. Mussolini. Antiochus Ephiphanes. And more.

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In the Revelation of John, we see a final antichrist ruler that seeks to take over the entire world using the financial and religious systems. He will also make a treaty with Israel and then break it and destroy over 2/3 of the Jewish population. John wrote in one of his epistles that the antichrist is coming and has been in the world already. The antichrist spirit seeks to replace God, oppose God, and destroy all that is God's including His people.

The first world antichrist ruler is mentioned in Genesis 10:6-12.

Genesis 10:6-12 ESV

⁶ The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. ⁷ The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. ⁸ Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." ¹⁰ The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and ¹² Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

I think the vision of world domination originated in Ham, first, though. Ham was cursed because he uncovered his father's nakedness. In the Old Testament and the Jewish mind, that wasn't a homosexual act. It was the act of sleeping with your father's wife in order to take over your father's rule. You see that happening a few times in the Bible. There's some evidence, including in the original language, that Ham raped his own mother and might have impregnated her as some type of takeover (Dr. Heiser has great original language and resources on this in his podcast, Naked Bible, and Youtube videos). And from Ham came his grandson, Nimrod.

Nimrod is referred to as "a mighty hunter before the Lord." Here's one definition of his name:

The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament 5248. בְּמִרֹד nimrōdַ

An ancient king of antiquity (possibly Sargon I of Akkad) who was celebrated both as a great warrior and as a kingdom builder in the area of ancient southern Mesopotamia and later in northern Mesopotamia near the Tigris River. Nineveh, Babylon, and Akkad are just three of the foundational cities he set up.

Notice he was a great warrior and kingdom ruler. He is described as a "mighty man," which is one who is a champion in battle. Years ago, I discovered that the main idea here is that Nimrod was the first great warrior in the earth who sought world domination as an act of rebellion in the face of God. In fact, he was behind the Tower of Babel (v. 10 "the beginning of his kingdom was Babel), and his wife/mother behind the religion of Mystery Babylon. The tower of Babel was a portal to try to access the dark secrets again because the watcher angels are chained in Tartarus and can't teach them those things anymore. However, their

nephilim spirit offspring can. Nimrod started Babylon, Nineveh (Assyria)—both nations that opposed the Hebrews.

Just like from the beginning, Lucifer a.k.a. Satan has always been about cities, nations, and kingdoms. He always seeks those susceptible to his lust for power, wealth, and glory to spread his rule and will through systems he has captured or created. Nimrod. Hitler. King Nebuchadnezzar. Alexander the Great. Antiochus Epiphanes. Caesar. And, finally, he will concentrate his power and focus into one final Antichrist figure that will make these pale in comparison.

What does this have to do with you?

YOUR ROLE

Jesus is the answer to the enemy's plans of using the nations, which is why He said this:

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Notice Jesus said to "make disciples of ALL NATIONS not just individuals. Are individuals included? Absolutely. But we are not called to disciples only individuals. We are called to infiltrate systems of influence and disciples nations. Also, I hope you see even more clearly that the battleground is in the marketplace because it's in the marketplace that the glory is located (and you could say the governmental arena as well. The marketplace is the splendor of nations. Take the marketplace; take the city or nation. Your gifts—both natural and spiritual—are supposed to take you before kings so that you can use your gifts and influence to solve problems to create a trust currency to capture them for the kingdom.

Psalm 2:1-12 ESV

¹ Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, ³ "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." ¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of

the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

This is the motivation behind His command to disciple nations—they are His heritage. Where the enemy was able to capture the hearts of nations with the same lust for their glory, Jesus Christ came to solve that problem. Where extraordinary depravity entered through the Nephilim, Jesus has set up a ruling council on earth to reverse the curse of Mount Hermon. That is your role! That is my role! And that is why your active presence in the marketplace is so important. We are to infiltrate and take over the systems that have captured cities and nations. We are to go after the influencers on mountains and capture those mountains for the Lord in our cities and nation. This isn't done in church services or even in the four walls of church. It is accomplished in the marketplace. And our work now will determine whether the nation we live in will be a sheep nation or a goat nation.