

SATAN'S STRONGHOLD

Satan is a master theologian. His knowledge of the scriptures is beyond question, and his ability to twist them into something different is unmatched. The apostle Paul warned against those who were "...false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ**" II Corinthians 11:13. "And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light**" II Corinthians 11:14. Paul warned the Galatians, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" Galatians 1:6-7. Before the first generation of the church ended, Jude gave his warning concerning how men were already twisting the gospel message: "...there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness..." Jude 1:4. It is in this perverted understanding of grace that Satan successfully holds millions of sincere people in bondage to sin, even though they "believe in Jesus." Sadly, this view of grace is perpetuated continually from the pulpits of many churches with the saying, "We are all sinners! We sin every day." How can we account ourselves to be sinners when the apostle Paul said "reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord?" Romans 6:11, If we are "all sinners" we are "all lost," because Christ did not leave those in sin, who trust in Him. Jesus told some Jews, "If you believe not **that I am He**, you shall die in your sins" John 8:24. During the same day, He told the same Jews, "...you shall **know the truth**, and the truth shall make you free (from sin)" John 8:32. The "truth" which we must know is who the "**He**" is, of whom Jesus said "**I am He.**"

Many people attempt to twist these words (*I am HE*) into proving certain "godhead doctrines." In doing so, they blind themselves and others to the power and truth of what Jesus was saying. He was referring to those who refused to believe that he was in fact the Messiah (the Christ) who was prophesied to come in their generation.

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness..." Daniel 9:24 KJV

God sent the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel to tell him about one called "**the Messiah the Prince**," who would come into the world "to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins..." Daniel 9:24-27. The date of his coming was established as the same year the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus of Nazareth at John's baptism verse 25, which allowed Him seven years (the seventieth week) to accomplish what He came into the world to do verse 25. Verse 26 says the Messiah would be "cut off, but not for himself," and verse 27 shows this would happen in the exact middle of the seven years. His death would be the perfect sacrifice He would offer to end all sacrifices, and thus "confirm the covenant" which God gave to Abraham when he offered his son, Isaac Genesis

22:16-18, Galatians 3:17. This "**Messiah the Prince**" is the "**He**" which Jesus spoke of when He said, "If you believe not **that I am He**, you shall die in your sins" John 8:24. The apostle John said, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah the Prince) is born of God" I John 5:1.

"...he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son." I John 5:10

The record God gave of His Son was given through the prophets hundreds and even thousands of years before Jesus was born to Mary. The "record" says

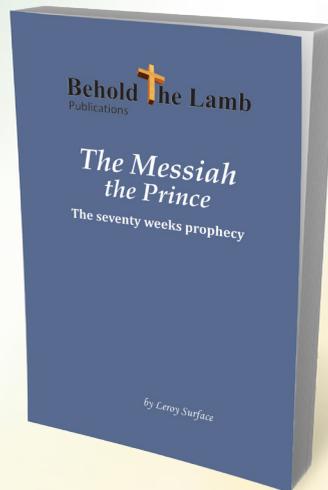
He would "**bruise the head of the serpent**" Genesis 3:15 and "**make an end of sins**" Daniel 9:24, which is exactly what Christ came into the world to do. John the Baptist said He is "**the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world**" John 1:29. The apostle John gives witness, saying, "**We know He was manifested to take away our sins...**" I John 3:5. The apostle Paul said Christ partook of flesh "...that through death, he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" Hebrews 2:14. These are the things the prophets said he would do. These things are the reason He who was "**with God and was God**" John 1:1, became a man to die on the cross Hebrews 2:9. He came, He lived, He died, and He rose again.

There can be no doubt that Christ accomplished what He came to do. The Apostle John said, "**We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not**" I John 5:18. He also said, "...whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not" I John 3:6, "**Whosoever is born of God doeth not commit sin...**" I John 3:5, and "**Whatsoever (whosoever) is born of God overcometh the world.**" I John 5:4 The apostle Paul said, "**Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness**" Romans 6:18, and "...**being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye**

have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" Romans 6:22. All these passages confirm that Christ accomplished for us exactly what the prophets declared that he would do.

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:8

Philosophy is the great enemy of the gospel of Christ. To the philosophical preacher, Christ alone is never enough. In fact, they believe you cannot make it without their philosophy. They are the propagators of the great deception, that we are "all sinners" who have been forgiven our sins "past, present, and future," before we commit them. Their "philosophy" denies the possibility of a believer being "**made free from sin**" by the atonement of Christ, and thus they deny "...the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" Jude 1:4. They refuse to preach "**Christ-crucified...the power of God and the wisdom of God**" I Corinthians 1:23-24, thus they become the agents of Satan to hold the people in bondage to sin with their vain words. This is "Satan's Stronghold" in the modern church, from which only "the truth" can "make you free" John 8:32-36.



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