

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DESTROYING THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

RLJ-1246

JOHN S. TORELL

JULY 11, 2010

PART 7A: DEFENDING THE BIBLE

THE BIBLE

Since the days of Adam and Eve, the Devil has worked to destroy the Word of God given to man. This is a relentless war and most Christians are not even aware of the many different ways Satan is using to destroy the Bible.

A few Christians are aware that the Roman Catholic Bibles have been tampered with to fit their church doctrine but more Christians have knowledge that the Mormons and the Jehovah's Witnesses have changed the text in their Bible versions. This tampering has taken place in the English language but very few Christians know about the destructive tampering that was done to the standard Greek text of the Bible in the late 19th century by Westcott and Hort, two British clergymen. Their Greek manuscript has been used to translate all modern versions of the Bible, the most well known is the New International Version (NIV).

But there is another tampering of the Bible that is done by ministers and Christians when they misinterpret the Bible. Some do it intentionally while others do it in ignorance. Regardless of how it is done, Satan still achieves the goal of polluting the Word of God and changing its meaning.

No Christian is immune from being used by the Devil to do his work and it takes discernment and fellowship with other believers to hinder the Devil from hijacking you. The apostle Peter received a great revelation from God. **Matthew 16:13-18**

But a short time later Peter was hijacked by the Devil and Jesus told him so. **verses 20-23**

CHRISTIANITY IS A COVENANT WITH GOD

Before you can rightly discern the Word of God, there are certain definitions that must be accepted as stated in the Bible:

1. God made a covenant between Himself and a man named Abraham. This is known as the First Covenant. **Genesis 15:1-18**

Abraham was a Chaldean who was told to move to the land of Canaan. **Genesis 11:26-28; 12:1-5**

2. This covenant was confirmed to Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, and the family name was changed to "Israel," which means "ruling with God." Thus the family of Abraham ceased to be known as Chaldeans and became the Children of Israel. **Genesis 32:22-30**



3. The family of Israel eventually became a nation and God separated them from all other people on the earth as the other nations became known as Gentile nations. **Deuteronomy 7:1-9**
4. The promise of a Messiah (Anointed One) was part of the First Covenant who would become a final sin sacrifice and take away the sins of the people and give them eternal life. **Isaiah 53:1-12**

This promise was first given to Adam and Eve. **Genesis 3:15**

Job was a contemporary with Abraham but not related to him had understood this message and spoke about it. **Job 19:25-27**

Abraham was not saved because of circumcision but through his faith in God and the coming Messiah. Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:1-5

5. It is important to note that when the Messiah came to the earth, He did not come to the Gentiles but to the physical seed of Abraham. **John 1:1-11**
6. The Children of Israel had become known as “Jews” by this time since the Kingdom of Israel had been split and the ten northern tribes had been removed from the land and the remnant of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, lived in the province called Judah with Jerusalem as its center. They became known as “Jews” because they lived in Judah. It was their leadership that rejected the Messiah and crucified Him. **Acts 4:1-12**

THE SECOND COVENANT

The second covenant was not made between God and the Jews *but between God and God* and is therefore a perfect covenant which cannot be broken! **2 Corinthians 5:17-19**

The descendants of Abraham were initially offered the choice of being brought into the Second Covenant through the Messiah. **Hebrews 8:1-13**

This was done because the First Covenant ceased to exist when Jesus died on the cross. **Hebrews 9:11-26**

All Gentiles have subsequently received the offer to be brought into the Second Covenant. **Acts 11:1-18; Romans 9:22-30**

The entire Jewish leadership rejected Jesus as the Messiah and had Him crucified and they still reject him as the Messiah today! Matthew 26:57-68; 27:1-2, 11-25, 62-66; 28:11-15

THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Jesus was only able to convince 120 Jews that He was the Messiah. **Acts 1:1-15**

The Jewish people were told by their leadership that they could only trust in the law and that there was no such thing as salvation by grace. **Romans 9:31-33**

In order for the Jewish Apostolic Church to survive and break away from Judaism and the First Covenant, they had to establish the fact that no man could be saved by the law, that believers in Christ were free from the law and that their salvation totally depended upon the work that Jesus had done on the cross. It was a battle that would cost many their lives and in many instances they were tortured before they were killed. **Acts 7:51-60; 12:1-2; 22:1-23**

CULTURE AND THE GOSPEL

Do not superimpose the culture of your nation on the Gospel. This is where many believers in Christ are led into false doctrine because you cannot superimpose your culture on the Bible. The Bible is the story of a family that evolved into a nation and lived in the land of Canaan. **Furthermore, if you do not understand the First and the Second Covenant, then you are doomed to be entangled with error when you read the New Testament.**

The New Testament is the historical document of how a young vibrant Jewish Apostolic church waged war against Judaism and was able to break loose but they were never able to convince the Jewish leadership and the bulk of the Jewish people that Jesus was the Messiah.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?