

# *Self, The Greatest Battle Ever Fought*

## *Daniel Three Part Two*

### **The worship of images (idols, false gods) represents the worship of self:**

Idolaters are condemned by the Word of God. Their folly consists in trusting in self for salvation, in bowing down to the works of their own hands, not necessarily icons and statutes, for God classes as idolaters those who trust in their own wisdom, their own devising, depending for success on their riches and power, striving to strengthen themselves by alliance with men whom the world calls great, but who fail to discern the binding claims of His law.

If we forsake God and choose to worship self by placing our wisdom on the throne of decision, then we shall be faced with attempting to save ourselves from the results of our choice, which we are unable to do. This is the mystery of iniquity which began in heaven with Lucifer, was reproduced in the garden with Adam and Eve, was alive and well in King Nebuchadnezzar, and still remains our battle today. Satan's kingdom principles of self dependance manifested in self exaltation, self preservation, and self salvation were produced in the ancient kingdom of Babylon. Spiritual Babylon has come into Jerusalem (the church today), and besieged it. Until we have forsaken the principles of self-exaltation and force manifested by Satan and Nebuchadnezzar, and learn through the fruits of faith to implicitly trust and obey God, we will bring upon ourselves the fruits of that distrust.

This whole experiment in sin and its results, began with self trust, and sin with its results will not end until God's church learns to trust Him implicitly. The final self-exaltation of the end time antichrist, will be the final test to all the world. The mark of the beast will reveal those who finally trust in God and those who finally trust in themselves. Why we are still here on this earth? Christ's coming depends on His church demonstrating that God can be fully trusted, giving humanity an opportunity to know Him that they too might choose to trust Him implicitly.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6) In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. 7) Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

### **The self exaltation of Lucifer:**

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Ezekiel 28:1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, 2) Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

Ezekiel 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18) Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of

thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

#### **The results of self-exaltation of Satan:**

Isaiah 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Ezekiel 28:18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:9 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

#### **The self-exaltation of Adam & Eve:**

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

#### **The result of self-exaltation of Adam & Eve:**

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

#### **The self-exaltation of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon**

Daniel 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37) Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38) And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath He given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

Daniel 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

#### **The result of the self-exaltation of Nebuchadnezzar:**

Daniel 4:31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

Daniel 4:18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour: 19) And for the majesty that He gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down. 20) But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: 21) And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with

grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that He appointeth over it whomsoever He will.

### **The self-exaltation of Belshazzar, King of Babylon:**

Daniel 5:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. 2) Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. 3) Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them. 4) They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

Daniel 5:23 But [thou Belshazzar], hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

### **The result of self-exaltation of Belshazzar:**

Daniel 5:5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Daniel 5:24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. 25) And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. 26) This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. 27) TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28) PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

### **The self-exaltation of all the wicked:**

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate [hardened] mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29) Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30) Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31) Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

### **The result of the self-exaltation of all the wicked:**

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: 14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16) Do not err, my beloved brethren. 17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Malachi 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Obadiah 16 For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

#### **The self-exaltation of the last day antichrist:**

Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4) And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? ... 8) And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

#### **The result of the self-exaltation of the last day antichrist:**

Revelation 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

The Scriptures reveal without a doubt, that there are natural consequences to our actions. Nothing is arbitrarily imposed. Every cause lawfully produces its natural effect.

Proverbs 26:2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

### **Why does God not want us to worship other gods?**

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5) Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Hosea 13:4 Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me.

It's obvious to most of us that the gods of wood and stone are not able to save us, but how many realize that they cannot be saved trusting their own wisdom more than they trust the Word of God?

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6) In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. 7) Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

### **What is the result of worshipping other gods?**

Judges 10:13 Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. 14) Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.

2 Chronicles 30:7 And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, who therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see.

The heart of God expresses deep sorrow when He is rejected and cannot save the sinner from the consequences of his sin.

Psalms 81:11-13 But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels. Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Mark 3:5 And when He had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, ...

It is Lucifer who exalted himself and will finally be abased, but Christ humbled Himself and will be exalted.

Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

### **The battle between Christ and Satan is over our minds:**

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7) But made Himself of no

reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8) And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

In order to have the mind of Christ, we must allow the Holy Spirit to renew our mind.

Ephesians 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

2Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Jeremiah 9:23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24) But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.

1Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time:

The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, and being clothed with humility, possessing that love that is pure, peaceable, and easy to be entreated, full of gentleness and good fruits (James 3:17), is not an easy attainment. And yet it is our privilege and our duty to be a perfect overcomer here. The soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in knowledge and true holiness. The holy life and character of Christ is a faithful example. His confidence in His Heavenly Father was unlimited. His obedience and submission were unreserved and perfect. He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister to others. He came not to do His own will, but the will of Him that sent Him. In all things He submitted Himself to Him that judgeth righteously; and from the lips of the Saviour of the world was heard these words, "I can of my own self do nothing"

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Man's greatest enemy is himself. When he comes under the deceptive power of Satan, he obstinately insists on carrying out his own devisings. The great battle of life is with self, to restrain the passions, and bring them into subjection to the mental and moral faculties. Yet the power of Christ is stronger than the power of Satan, and through human beings who are sanctified by His presence, God causes to flow forth to the world the knowledge of His infinite love.

We have a great battle before us in order to overcome. We have let self get the victory. This victory is not gained without effort. The Christian life is a battle and a march, but the victory to be gained is not won by human power. The field of conflict is the domain of the heart. The battle which we have to fight—the greatest battle that was ever fought by man—is the surrender of self to the will of God, the yielding of the heart to the sovereignty of love. The old nature, born of blood and of the will of the flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The hereditary tendencies, the formed habits, must be given up, then self will be hid in Christ.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

1Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.

2Timothy 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8) Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

2Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

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