

# *Rescuing Children from the Domain of Darkness*

## *Key Scripture:*

*"For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin, but I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." 2 Cor. 11:2-3*

## *Portion for the Journey:*

When we pray for the education of our children, we need to ask the LORD to give us a clear vision of His plans, His heart and His purposes for the Church. If we are to be an effective means of reaching and changing lives in the power of Jesus Christ, we need His leading and direction. It is not God's purpose to change the world systems, but to rescue children from the schemes of the devil, and bring them to salvation. **We do know clearly God's will concerning children: (Matt. 18:14) "For it is not the will of the Father that any of these little ones should perish"**

When we pray, we need to ask God for understanding of His ways and remain within the realm of the mission He gave the Church to fulfill on this earth. Though the New Testament was written at a time of incredible moral decay where slavery, abortion, and infanticide were rampant, these issues were never specifically addressed in the New Testament. Yet the early church greatly impacted the institutions of the time, but not by a direct assault. They changed the institutions from the inside out by reaching souls for Christ.

Rick Joyner, in the Morningstar Journal comments, "It was not because of negligence or irresponsibility; they had a higher strategy with a greater power. They did not just flail at the branches of human depravity, they put the ax to the root of the tree. ...With focused, unyielding concentration, the apostles of the early church maintained their frontal assault on sin. They drove back the spirit of death by lifting up the Prince of Life." Secular historian Will Durant observed, "Caesar tried to change men by changing institutions. Christ changed institutions by changing men."

It is vital to understand what God is doing in the world right now and to join Him in His purposes. The systems of this world are becoming more entrenched in a spirit of the anti-Christ, and we need to know, AS CHRISTIANS, how we are to pray and take our stand.

## **Background Information:**

I felt the Lord had called me to "spy out the land" and to come back to offer an intelligence report for the purpose of prayer. He opened my eyes to see the "giants in the land" but also has continued to reassure me that "We should by all means go up, and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it. (Numbers 13:30). We must be very careful not to get into the attitude of defeatism that was so pervasive amongst ten of the spies of Israel who felt themselves to be as grasshoppers in comparison to the giants. Rather, we need to have the attitude of little David when he confronted his giant, Goliath. David didn't see him as a giant, but asked "who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should taunt the armies of the living God?" (vs. 26). He went on to say in vs. 32, "let no man's heart fail on account of him..."

(vs. 45) David's eyes were fully on God and His power when he said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands."

One of the biggest hindrances to praying for children in the public schools is to become disheartened by the discouraging reports of what is happening in our educational system. If you look at Numbers 13:31 we see the attitude of the Israelites was that "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." Let us pray to have hearts like Joshua and Caleb who knew God intimately from having followed Him fully. We must make their heart cry our heart cry: "Only do not rebel against the Lord, and do not fear the people of the land, for they shall be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them."

In 1967, Albania declared itself to be the world's first atheistic state. Their constitution made it a capital offense requiring the death penalty if one believed in God. This 1967 declaration began 20 years of brutal and systematic obliteration of all religious institutions in Albania. In the 1980's, it was not known by the Church outside of Albania whether there were any living Christians in Albania. Then in 1990, Albania's president Alia delivered a speech calling for sweeping constitutional reforms and lifting of ban on religion. Three months later the communist structures began to fall. In March 1991 their leader was filmed walking arm in arm with Mother Teresa. Albania has now turned to democracy and in the pro-democracy riots all of the text books were destroyed. The nation of Albania has requested that Youth With A Mission come in to develop a new educational program for their nation. This was with the understanding the education system would be developed from a Christian perspective, with Christian history, Christian science, etc. being taught. They recognized the need for Christ and said this was what they desired for their nation. In 2014, Charisma magazine reported a continued open door in Albania for the sharing of the Gospel.

### *Digging Deeper in the Word*

**TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY** IN REPENTANCE FOR ANY DISCOURAGEMENT, UNBELIEF, or ALLOWING OURSELVES TO BECOME DISHEARTENED BY BAD REPORTS. Lord, we ask Your forgiveness that we have not fully believed in what YOU can do. Forgive us for our discouragement which paralyzes and for our intimidation of those who oppose you. Please cleanse us from the sin of wrong attitudes now, in Jesus Name. Please grant to us the grace and the faith to again pray in faith, knowing that You are a Mighty God. Lord, we cry out to You, teach us to pray in faith!! Amen.

#### **Prayer Strategy:**

**1. Learn from Paul's example as intercessor on behalf of the Corinthians: *"For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin, but I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."* 2 Cor. 11:2-3**

vs. 2 **He expresses great concern for their faithfulness.** The attitude of Paul's heart as an intercessor is that he has a godly jealousy for them. The word 'jealous' in this context means eagerness, enthusiasm, intense desire, passionate commitment. The word contains both the idea of great zeal and jealousy. The core of godly jealousy is not to allow another to have what rightfully belongs to God.

vs. 28 **He has a deep concern for the believers,** the phrase 'deep concern' is defined as 'care so intense that it brings disruption to the personality and the mind.'

**He was willing to sacrifice himself for their sake.** "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls, though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved." 2 Cor. 12:15 The word 'spent' (Strong's #1159) is 'dapanao' meaning 'to expend, to incur cost, to consume, to be devoured, consuming cost.' The word 'be spent' (Strong's #1550) 'ekdapanao' means 'to expend wholly, ie. fig. to exhaust, spend, speaks of completion, to exhaust completely.'

Ephraim, in Col. 4:12 exhibits this same heart in prayer. Paul says, "Ephraim, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." The words 'laboring fervently or earnestly' is from the Greek word 'agonizomai' which means 'to contend for victory in the public games, to fight or wrestle. The task of persevering amidst temptation and observation, to take pains, straining every nerve and muscle to the uttermost toward the goal, to suffer extreme pain, anguish, to make a convulsive effort.'

This represents the sacrificial nature of prayer, in which the heart must be sold out for the cause. This can only come by a move of God's Spirit upon our hearts, we cannot work it in ourselves, but may make ourselves available to God and ask Him to work in us all that He desires.

**2. Look at Paul's specific direction for prayer:** He fears their minds would be deceived from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus. Isn't his fear for the Corinthians is the same fear we express for the children of this nation--that their minds would be deceived from knowing and loving Jesus? Paul compares this deception to the strategy Satan used to deceive Eve. Turn to Genesis 3:1 and examine the strategy Satan used in his deception of Eve:

Isn't it interesting that the original sin in the Bible had to do with the acquisition of knowledge and the temptation to have knowledge apart from God? It is no wonder that Satan has chosen the field of education as one of his front lines in his battle to deceive and enslave our nation and the world.

Read Genesis 3:1-6. Note Satan's original ploy to separate man from God contained seven aspects that directly correlate to the strategies used within our own educational system today.

1) vs.1 ***"And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said...?"***

Satan's first tactic was to change, weaken, or eliminate God's Word. In this passage Satan's primary effort was to cause Eve to question God's word. Underlying all of Satan's strategies is a direct challenge to the truth and validity of God's Word. This is exemplified with the removal of God's Word from the schools, attempts to remove the evidence of God's hand upon our nation, and teachings that contradict the truth through teaching of theories of evolution, etc. All other deceptions must first arise in the absence or distortion of God's truth. That is why the Belt of Truth is the first and most vital piece of the Christian's armor, all other pieces attach to this. The new educational paradigm is that there is NO TRUTH, NO ABSOLUTES and encourages children to develop their own personal truths or accommodate

new pagan absolutes such as "everything is sacred or all things are interconnected..." Critical thinking skills as taught in the public schools carries with it the question "Indeed, has God said...? in which children are encouraged to ridicule, reject and replace old values, to criticize and challenge traditional beliefs, values, and authorities.

## 2) ***"Ye shall not surely die."***

Satan plants the idea that we are not accountable to God and will not be held responsible for actions taken in direct disobedience to His ways. They have assumed the attitude of Pharaoh, who said in Exodus 5:2 ***"Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.*** This is the attitude that has no fear of the Lord and no fear of the penalty God has said we will face for our disobedience to Him and His ways. Imbedded in Satan's statement, "you shall surely not die." is the direct elimination of the awareness of sin and the penalty of sin in our lives. We see this exemplified in the schools with values clarification and situation ethics teaching.

## 3) ***"Your eyes shall be opened."***

Satan gave Eve a promise of enlightenment and an illusion of greater knowledge. She and Adam received the exact opposite, their eyes were not opened to Truth, but darkened and deceived. At whatever point we choose to ignore the Truth, we open ourselves deception or to delusion and deluding influences. 2 Thes. 2 speaks of the age of apostasy (which is the deliberate turning away from revealed truth verses 10-12 "...and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, ***because they did not receive a love of the truth so as to be saved.*** And for this reason, God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness." Many people today are not only no longer heeding what the Bible says, they are no longer taught the Word of God and therefore they have little defense against what the Bible has so clearly warned. "...we grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight...truth is lacking." (Isaiah 59:10).

## 4) ***"You shall become gods."***

Humanism is the religion of humanity, a supreme faith in our own ability to both rearrange the world of Nature and engineer our own future in any way we see fit. Romans 1:22,25 states *"professing to be wise, they became fools...who exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever."*

Humanism has its roots in the Golden Age of Greece in the 5th century B.C. when learned men taught that reason and philosophy should take the place of superstition and the worship of the old gods. The education system today follows in this tradition. The National Education Association Journal published a letter from an educator who stated that one of the greatest needs of education is that they could teach children not to accept the Christian teaching of their parents but to think for themselves. The article carried with it the clear implication that Christianity was an outmoded superstitious belief that needed to be rooted out of the children of this generation.

There is an ingrained belief in the humanistic lie that man and society is evolving into a better, more competent order. Traditional methods and goals are deemed no longer appropriate because society has outgrown them and moved beyond them. Educators are repeatedly told they must be willing to change with the underlying lie that all change is beneficial because we are always moving in the direction of

higher and better. There is a determined effort to break down present ways of thinking, to prepare the way for the New World order or secular humanism and new age. Some actually call this “creative destruction.” Children are asked to question and separate from all of the traditional teachings and ways of looking at the world. Once all of the moorings are destroyed a feeling of hopelessness, heaviness and despair pervades because there is nothing solid upon which to build. Ps. 11:3 says, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

In the 1980’s, the traditional family was declared a failure. Schools were presented as the only hope for children. Many very well-intentioned educators believe this lie. We see the failure of the family in the high rate of divorce, children of broken homes, families where children are neglected, children come to school starved for attention. At the present time, the very definition of family has been re-defined and shaped through the educational system and the world. The family is no longer considered to be the compass to direct the training and education of children. The enemy continues to focus his efforts to undermine Biblical role of the family.

#### 5) ***“Good for food”***

There is a spiritual God-given hunger that is placed in the heart of each person. Satan’s strategy was to tempt Eve to partake of that which had been forbidden by God even though she had an abundance of everything she needed from God. The educational system often offers food for the spirit, through a variety of sources that appears to meet that need. Many children and educators now have no church background, or have never attended a church where their spiritual needs are not met. The void can be filled in through forbidden areas that lead them astray from the Truth. Prov. 27:7 tells us, "A sated man loathes honey, but to a famished man any bitter thing is sweet."

#### 6) ***"that it was pleasant to the eyes"***

This is the same root as the "if it feels good, do it" movement we saw introduced in the past generation. This same attitude of heart caused the downfall of Samson, (Judges 14:1,3) *"Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines. So he came back and told his father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, ...now therefore, get her for me as a wife...vs. 3 "for she looks good to me."*

1 John 2:15-16 warns, *"Do not love the world nor the things in the world, If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world."* The educational system of today teaches "freedom of expression" and stands against almost any attempt to "suppress" the lusts of the flesh, but instead encourages children to explore their desires. Mastery learning and outcome-based education frequently assess students on feeling-centered responses not cognitive or factual knowledge. The child who refuses to compromise or show willing to adapt will not receive a certificate of mastery. Sex, suicide and drug education often have the effect of causing unthinkable acts to become alluring possibilities.

#### 7) ***"knowing good and evil"*** and that it was ***"desired to make one wise"***

An underlying philosophy in public education is that we can have wisdom apart from God. This addresses the area of human intelligence and human reason. Prov 3:7 warns: "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil." Isa 5:21 "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes,

and prudent in their own sight!" The Bible differentiates between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world. James 3:14-18

**SUMMARY:** Eve accepted the statements of the devil as true and did not question his grounds for making these declarations. Within the field of education today, there is incredibly passive acceptance of new ideas. In fact, those who question new directions, or seek to maintain traditional belief systems are ridiculed and often penalized. Those most concerned with teaching our children to think are accepting statements of monumental significance to our entire way of life and manner of government and education without question. If educators do not have a solid foundation in the Truth, they have no basis to evaluate new information and determine its validity. Olga Marshall noted in her article on secular humanism that humanism flourished in times when the common people were ignorant of the Scriptures. She states that presently "There is an absence of sound Scriptural teaching today in the Church and in school. Discussion and the mutual exchange of ideas often take the place of ordered Bible teaching."

God is shaking the earth right now. Hebrews 12:26,27 states, "And His voice shook the earth the, but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven. And this expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."

Beloved institutions falling. Educators are afraid. They see the systems in which they trusted failing. They know that something must change for the present methods are not producing desired results. There is an incredible vacuum in education which is allowing the enemy to build strongholds against the knowledge of God and His ways. The more God has been rejected in the schools, the more vulnerable our children become both mentally and physically. Violence has entered the walls of the schools and they are no longer a safe place of learning. The foundational beliefs of education have produced a ground ripe for deception and the system of education is being used to further the plans and philosophies of a relative minority of individuals in this nation.

Our God will not leave us without hope! Daniel 1 is an example where Satan tried to employ his schemes to hijack the education of the sons of Israel, but he failed. This is an excellent passage for meditation and prayer regarding children who are currently in a public education setting or simply those facing the onslaught of the world's system in this day.

#### **Pray and meditate on this passage:**

**Setting:** Israel has fallen into apostasy and rejected God's ways. He has allowed them to be taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon. In the Bible, Babylon typically represents the world system. Secular history credits Babylon as the source of our modern educational systems.

#### **The Characters:**

**Nebuchadnezzar**, the King of Babylon. The name **Nebuchadnezzar** means: "may the god Nabu guard my boundary stones." This is very pertinent to our study today, because Nabu was the patron god of wisdom and literature, said to be the patron god of learning and education! The root of the word Nabu comes from 'herald, scribe.'" This is the same name used for the herald who called the people to bow down before the golden idol in Daniel 3.

**The Young Men belonging to the Lord:** *“The king ordered that they were to “bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, youths who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding, and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. And the king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.”*

**The plot:** vs. 3-5 Reveals Satan's goals, purposes, and the means by which he intends to achieve them. These men were to be brought into the king's palace and taught in his ways.

**The Victory: These young men remained true to God in the midst of a very wicked, godless kingdom!!** As we meditate upon the actions of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, we can see a strategy for prayer for our young people to stand in victory against Satan's schemes.

1. Daniel **made up his mind** that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food. The KJV "Daniel purposed in his heart" The word 'purposed' (Strong's #7760) has a large number of meanings but as it applies to this passage, it indicates: to commit, determine, to be steadfast, to set or fix firmly in place.' The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament indicates that this word means to take a stand in a given position, including placing people in an upright position, to appoint to a position of authority, or place of determination, to establish a relationship, or assign something to someone, in this way it is used to describe God's everlasting covenant, or to set aside for special purposes. To place something in one's heart so as to make it possible for them to receive it fully.

Contrast this with verse Ps. 78:8b which describes a generation that “did not prepare its heart, and whose spirit was not faithful to God.” Almost all of the recorded prayers in the New Testament relate to prayer for the Church, especially concerning prayer to be **firmly established** in God. This must be the priority of our prayers for children and families if we are to survive Satan's onslaught on the TRUTH.

2. Daniel sought permission **and God granted him favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials.** Pray for favor for kids in the public schools, but also for parents who desire to homeschool, for Christian schools, etc.

**RESULT:** God granted them knowledge, intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom, 10 times better than any others. They found positions close to the king and God used Daniel and his friends to bring Nebuchadnezzar to a place of acknowledging and worshipping the MOST HIGH GOD.

Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, successfully overcoming each of the temptations that caused Eve to fall. It is key that Jesus used God's Word to defeat Satan's lies. God's Word must be central to our lives and to our prayers!! Ps. 119:98 promises us "Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers because Thy testimonies are my meditation."

**See attached prayer grid to be used in your personal or group prayer sessions. Pray through the verses provided and ask the Lord to expand your prayers according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Remember, God's Word is more powerful than any force of deception and His light overcomes the darkness!!**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR MEDITATION AND PROCLAMATION

*"But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." 2 Cor. 11:3*

Satan's Tactic	Our Prayer Response
<b>1. "Indeed, has God said...?"</b> (to change, weaken, or eliminate God's Word)	<b>Pray for Restoration of God's Truth:</b> Ps. 43:3; Eph. 6:13-18
<i>"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you... Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children."</i> Hosea 4:6; Jer. 6:10-11; Isa. 5:13; Prov. 5:23	<b>Repent on behalf of the Church and this nation</b> that we have forsaken God's Word. <b>Pray for a release of God's Word and a love for the truth.</b> John 8:37; Psalm 43:1-4; Psalm 40:11; 1 Timothy 3:15; Psalm 51:6; John 17:17-19
<b>2. "You shall surely not die..."</b> (remove accountability and fear of the Lord = disobedience)	<b>Pray for accountability to God; recognition and conviction of sins:</b> Rom. 6:23; 3:19-20; 8:6
<i>"Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice...?"</i> Ex.5:2	<b>Pray for a Spirit of Repentance</b> (to change one's mind or direction, to return again or turn to God) Joel 1:14-15; 2:1, 12-14; 2 Cor. 7:9-10; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ps. 51 (esp. v 3-4)
<b>1. "Your eyes shall be opened..."</b> (deception, deluding influences, darkness; ignoring the truth)	<b>Pray for removal of deception; for eyes to be opened to know God:</b>
<i>"...they did not receive a love of the truth so as to be saved."</i> 2 Thes. 2:9-12; Isa. 59:9-15; Rom. 1:18-32	Psalm 79:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6; Rev. 3:18; Luke 24:27-45 (esp. 31,45); Ephesians 1:15-20; 2 Timothy 2:24-26
<b>3. "you shall become gods..."</b> (New Age, humanism, usurping God to make our dominion)	<b>Proclaim the name of El Elyon-Most High God; Declare His absolute sovereignty over all mankind</b> Dan. 4:34-35; Isa. 46:9-11; Deut. 10:14; 32:39; 1 Sam. 2:610; Col. 1:18; Neh. 9:5b-6; Eph. 1:21,22; Acts 4:12
<i>"I will make myself like the Most High..."</i> Isa. 14:12-14; Judges 17:6; Rom. 1:18-32	<b>Pull Down Strongholds of False Belief Systems and Idolatry:</b> 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Col. 2:2-4,8; Rom. 13:12; Isa. 45:1-3
<b>5. "...good for food..."</b> (God-shaped vacuum, hunger for spiritual food)	<b>Pray for release of teaching and preaching of the Word in boldness and Power:</b> Matt. 4:4; Lu.10:2; 1Cor. 2:4-5; 1 Thes. 1:5; Rom. 10:14-15; 1 Tim. 4:6
<i>"to the famished man, any bitter thing is sweet."</i> Prov. 27:7 Deut. 8:3; Amos 8:11-12; Lam. 2:19	<b>Pray for Boldness:</b> 1 Th. 2:2-4; Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:2-4; Acts 4:13,24-31; 14:1-3; Phil. 1:14,19-20
<b>6. "...pleasant to the eyes..."</b> (appeal to desires of fleshly natures)	<b>Pray Christians will understand and walk the way of the Cross</b> (crucify the flesh; separation from the world):
<i>"... enticed by his own lust. ...gives birth to sin; ...brings forth death. Do not be deceived..."</i> James 1:14-17; Jud. 14:1-3; 2 Sam. 11:2-4; Phil. 3:18-19; 1 John 2:15-17	Mat. 16:25-26; Gal. 5:24; 6:14; Ps. 25:14-15; Heb. 12:1-3
<b>7. "Knowing good &amp; evil...desirable to make one wise"</b> (wisdom of the world, appeal to human intelligence)	<b>Pray for the Fear of the Lord (true beginning of wisdom):</b> Prov. 2:1-5; Ps. 34:9-11; Prov. 14:27; 19:23; Isa. 11:2-3
<i>"Knowledge makes arrogant but love edifies."</i> 1 Cor. 8:1; Isa. 5:21; Rom. 1:18-25	<b>Pray for godly wisdom; spiritual understanding; humility to depend upon Jesus the Helmet of Salvation:</b> 1 Cor. 1:18-2:16; Ja. 1:5; 3:14-18; Rev. 22:1-5,14; Prov. 3:7 <b>Pray for release of love that covers a multitude of sins:</b> Prov. 10:12; James 5:20; 1 Pet. 4:8