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THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL- Of these three, it seems that we concentrate more on dealing with the works of “the flesh and the devil,” while the “world” has been spared the scrutiny of the other two. Yet it is through “the world” that the flesh and the devil exert and extend their most forceful and evil rule over the people of the earth. Recently, the Spirit opened a prophetic window with a clearer view at “the world” and its power over the people. This view is especially needed to reinforce our faith, at a time when we are witnessing the collapse and demise of the “world” in a way that few saw coming or prepared for; and it is only the beginning.

The changes have to do with the world’s rulers. Paul gives us a good revelation of who rules the world, *“wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”* (Eph.2:2-3) The world raises children of wrath, very angry, and rebellious against any authority that they have to submit to. They are ready to make war against anyone who opposes their views or who threatens their ways of life. They are never satisfied with anything for long. This is because the demands of the flesh, the self, are continually gnawing at their heels to satisfy their many appetites. This was the condition we were in when we were ruled by the prince of the power of the air. The power of the prince of the “air” consists mostly of forces that rule over us from “without.” It has to do with the demands of our own governments, societies, religious associations and all the things we have to submit to in order to be respected citizens. While “the flesh” or the “devil” work from within our souls and spirits, the power of the air begins attacks from without. The “prince of the power of the air,” consists of outer influences that work to stir up our emotions, and to bring our souls under its dominion. The prince of the air plays on our nature which needs to be accepted and to be conformed to everybody else in the world- our need to belong. These are the evil ways that the prince of the power of the air uses to keep us in bondage.

The prince of the power of the air uses man’s need to belong, to gather and organize people of common interests and convictions, and to re-enforce their zeal to accomplish their goal. In this way these people become stronger and better able to promote their ideas in the world. They feel safer, but in reality, their safety is based on their numbers and not on God. They are what the Bible calls “beasts,” that is to say that they find their power in the flesh. The world’s countries and organizations are all ruled by a prince of the air. Paul wrote, *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”* (Eph.6:12) A principality is the domain of a prince. It is a state administered by a prince. In the physical realm, Monaco is a principality ruled by Prince Rainier. Wales has not been a principality since 1542, yet Prince Charles is the Prince of Wales, and the Crown of England does rule over Wales. In the spirit realm, there are many princes who rule over the countries, organizations and the many social and religious groups loosely formed of members who have the same interest and identity. These are visibly led by leaders who were chosen or elected for their zeal and magnetic personalities. They spur their members into achieving the purpose of the group. Unknowingly, these leaders are controlled by a prince of the power of the air.

When Daniel inquired of God about what would befall the people in the latter days, he waited 21 long days for the answer. Then the messenger came and explained, *"...thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words, but the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days; but lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come..."* (Dan.10:12b,13,14a) The prince of Persia withstood the messenger, then Michael, the prince of God's kingdom freed the messenger. Without a doubt, anyone who inquires about God's plan for the latter days, stirs up the evil princes who rule over the world's kingdoms and societies. After delivering his word, the angel said to Daniel, *"...I now will return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come."* (Dan.10:20) At that time we know that Persia was a huge power in the world, then Greece, (Grecia), arose as the next great power. The image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in a dream, explains it all. Ancient history records the head of gold, which was the most powerful kingdom of Babylon, followed by the Mede-Persian and then Grecia and Rome. The messenger revealed how these kingdoms would fall, as they were crushed by the stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands. He then told of the kingdom that shall never be destroyed, but that shall *"...break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."* (Dan.2:44b) This prophecy is very clear in its description of the rise and fall of the kingdoms of this world, until finally being totally replaced by the kingdom of God. It also clearly showed how these worldly kingdoms would end, *"Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."* (Dan.2:45)

Principalities and powers on high, have always been in control of the world's nations. Unknowingly, zealous leaders have worked with seemingly inexhaustible strength and vigor to convince the people of their ability to bring back peace and prosperity to their land. Today, the stone that was cut out of the mountain, (Christ in His body), has picked up momentum, and we are seeing the kingdoms of this world crumble with no possibility of restoration. They will soon be replaced by the kingdom of God that is being established first in man's heart, and whose glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas. This is God's own plan and purpose, and it will not be deferred or stopped. This is why each one who is trained by the Spirit of God finds themselves separated from anything that resembles an organized assembly or group. May God's kingdom come quickly in earth, (visibly), as it is in heaven, (the invisible realm within each of us.) Lord, may it be according to your will!

A CORRECTION- It was brought to my attention, that in my recent study/letter No.21, I erroneously stated that Job never whined or complained throughout his time of testing. However, as soon as we read the first chapter of Job, we find that indeed, Job complained a lot and said so himself! Perhaps, what made me cancel out Job's constant complaining was that Job's heart before God revealed a man of inner strength, of great faith and of hope in his weakness. After Job suffered the first blow of his devastating trial, we read, *"Then Job arose, and rent his mantle and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshiped, and said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."* (Job 1:20-22) It is easy to look past Job's complaining, when we see the spirit that motivates this man. By the same token, God looks upon the hearts, and looks for the Christ spirit who rises with determination to overcome the thoughts that continually gnaw at man's heels. Job was not being judged for his flaws, and neither are we; God was revealing the strength and faithfulness that withstood the most bitter testing. God looks past our complaints, into our hearts. In the end, God richly rewarded Job who said, *"But he knoweth the way that I take, when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."* (Job 23:10) This is also the way our God is dealing with us, as sons who walk by the Spirit. May all who seek truth be blessed!

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*