

Chapter Four

Down Will Come Baby

Esther 1:19

We've all heard the nursery rhyme:

“Rock-a-bye baby in the tree top;
When the wind blows the cradle will rock;
When the bough breaks the cradle will fall;
And DOWN WILL COME BABY cradle and all.”

Some homespun poetry may be in order here:

Weakened by the serpent way up in the tree;
Adam's lovely Vessel unable to see;
The winds of temptation howling near by;
Had uttered feigned words: “Just give it a try.”

Cradled in creation and secure what she thought;
Took a small taste, ensnared, she got caught.
Seeking her husband to give him a bite;
Was the next to get caught in sin's awful blight.

Cursed by the Creator, found tainted with sin;
No longer were sinless and pure within.
Not Adam only, The creation did fall;
Bringing swift judgment on him and on all.

Thorns and thistles, THE FALL it did yield;
Graceful blossoms, now marred in every field.
Yesterday this happened, but tomorrow we'll see;
What was lost for them, will be renewed for me.

If today, God considers the most lovely flower in His field, marred (Genesis 3:18); can you imagine the *condition* of Paradise *before* the fall? Does that picture tantalize your eye gate? What about your nose? I wonder what kind of *scent* awaits us in Heaven? Will “...the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys...” whisper the fragrant hush of God’s pure and perfect holiness? Or, might its aroma flourish like freshly opened “...mandrakes...”, when they “...give a smell...”? (Song of Solomon 2:1 and 7:13)

Won’t that be a day! Not only will we see Glory, we will SMELL it too!!

The thought of all this reminds me of one of the sweetest smells on earth. A smell I’ve been privileged to experience five times. Four individually, and two at once—twins! If you haven’t already guessed; I’m speaking of the birth of my children. Now I’m not referring to diaper changing time. That will be another sermon, in another book. This wonderful experience happened when they were very young, around the time they were newborn babies. I remember snuggling real close to them. Then I’d open my nostrils, and breathe that newborn smell right in. There is nothing like it! Yet, EIGHT days after he’s born, God commands that *sweet smellin’* little baby boy’s flesh to be cut away, like there is something *terribly* WRONG with it.

Eight, in Scripture, means, *new beginnings*. Noah’s new world started with eight. “...In the days of Noah...few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” (1 Peter 3:20) Saint Peter calls him “...the eighth person...”, in his second Epistle. (2:5) In Genesis chapter eight; Noah’s ark rested on dry ground. In verse sixteen (two times eight); God tells him to “Go forth...” from the ark, to *begin* AGAIN. God sums this up in eight words, when He tells Noah and his family to “...Be fruitful, and multiply, and REplenish the earth.” (Genesis 9:1)

After seven *full* days; Creation *week* ENDS. The *next* day begins a *new* week. The new week *starts* with the *eighth* day. One day soon, the curse will be lifted. For a thousand years, The Lord Jesus Christ will sit on His Throne. Once

those years are past, God will destroy this world, and begin it *anew*, on the eighth day. (II Peter 3:8) The Lord will START AGAIN, with "...a *new* heaven and a *new* earth..." (Revelation 21:1; II Peter chapter 3)

Since The Scripture deems eight to be the number of *new beginnings*, it is no mystery *why* God gave this SIGN (Romans 4:11) to a very young initiate, who was exactly EIGHT days old. (Genesis 17:12; 21: 4) *This SIGN would remind, and instruct him, for the rest of his life*, that the FLESH was no good and had to GO. It also affirmed that he, and his race, started ANEW with Abraham.

Three Strikes, ...And You're Out!

The *first temptation* hurled at mankind was delivered to the *weaker* vessel.

The *first* attack was aimed at our *flesh*, stirring up our *natural instincts*. **"And the woman saw that the tree was GOOD FOR FOOD..."** (Genesis 3:6) There is nothing wrong with food, unless *God* tells you not to eat it.

The *second* attack was aimed at our *soul*. **"...And that it was PLEASANT TO THE EYES..."** (Ibid.) Someone has aptly said, "The eyes are the window to the soul." Whoever made up this maxim was more Scriptural than they might have thought.

The *third*, and last, attack landed squarely on the *spirit* of man, by the use of pride. **"...And a tree to be desired TO MAKE ONE WISE..."** (Ibid.) **"...And ye shall be as gods, KNOWING good and evil..."** (Genesis 3:5)

May I point out that, "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" was only ONE tree. *One* tree tempted the weaker vessel in THREE areas of her life.

When the "last Adam" (I Corinthians 15:45) showed up, Satan did not change his bag of tools. He repeated what he did in The Garden to Eve. Only this time, the intended target was Jesus! He that was "an hungred", became the next *weakened* vessel to be struck by Lucifer's awful blow.

"Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward AN HUNGRED."¹ Matthew 4:1-2

The *first* dart hurled at The Son of God; attacked His *flesh*. **"...If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made BREAD."** (Matthew 4:3) The first attack hit the Son of Man's *natural instincts*; centered on His NATURAL hunger. The Devil *assumed* Jesus would give in as easily as Esau did, for a mess of pottage. (Genesis 25:27-34)

The *second* dart hurled at The Son of God; attacked His *soul*, to no avail. **"Then the devil taketh him up into the HOLY CITY, and setteth him on a pinnacle of THE TEMPLE..."** (Matthew 4:5; please read vs. 6) Since the *time* of His Kingdom had not yet arrived, Satan tempted Jesus *through* the EYE gate. He knew setting Jesus on the Temple would tempt Him to want The Kingdom, *before God delivered it to Him*.

Thinking Him *weakened* by the first two blows, Satan, *assuming* victory, took careful aim at The Son of Man's *spirit*. With all the force of Hell, his diabolical weapon went off. For the *third* and final time, the marksman's *dart* reached its intended target. Thank

¹ Just a thought here: Before she reached for that awful tree, I wonder how long it had been, since Eve had last eaten a meal? Was it *really* "forty days and forty nights," or had it only *seemed that way*?

God, it neither wounded nor impaled *Emmanuel!* (Matthew 1:23) **“...All these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and WORSHIP ME.”** (Matthew 4:9) Jesus didn't even consider it! “...For it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him ONLY shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10) Like bullets bouncing off the chest of Superman [circa 1955], all these darts did not puncture nor penetrate His body.

Satan tried to STRIKE at Jesus THREE times that day. And he missed every one! Strike THREE, *you're OUT!!!* THE VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION WAS WON. And it was won that day BY JESUS!

These THREE temptations are again mentioned by Saint John in his first Epistle:

“For all that is in the world...”

“...the lust of the FLESH...”: In Matthew 4:3, the Devil attacked Jesus, by tempting Him *to do it all*. [Arminianism] This attack comes from the *FLESH*, attacking man's flesh. The last sentence sounds strange at first, but let's look further. Have you ever heard someone say, “YOU are *your own worst enemy?*” The TRUTH IS, if I listen to the flesh, I am listening to my *worst enemy*. By the way, unless God intervenes, this very *personal* foe will make us all *self-destruct!*

“...and the lust of the EYES...”: In Matthew 4:5-6, the Devil attacked Jesus, by tempting Him *to let God do it all*. [Calvinism] This attack comes from the *WORLD*, attacking man's soul.

“...and the PRIDE OF LIFE...”: In Matthew 4:8-9, the Devil attacked Jesus, by tempting Him *to let Satan do it all*. [Satanism] This attack comes directly from the *DEVIL*, attacking man's spirit.

“...is NOT of the Father, but is of the world....” I John 2:16

If Satan could *only* tempt Jesus in three areas of *His* life, then there are ONLY *three* areas of temptation! (Given the resources, I'm sure Satan would have tried to throw the kitchen sink at our Saviour.) As we follow in the steps of the Saviour, these THREE AREAS become *our personal* battleground. In Mark chapter four, Jesus mentions these areas once more. This time through, He taught three reasons why a man would not receive seed (The word of God) from the Sower (God): 1- **“...Satan....”** (Mark 4:15) 2- **“...Affliction and persecution...”** of the *flesh*. (Mark 4:17) 3- **“...cares of *this world*, and the deceitfulness of...”** this *world's* **“...riches, and the lusts of other things...”** that are with us in this *world*. (Mark 4:18-19)

In the Parable of the Sower, there's a fourth group that Jesus referred to. A GOOD GROUP! One, that *received* God's word. Jesus called this group **“...good ground...”** which brings forth GOOD fruit, **“...some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.”** (Mark 4:20) Thank the Lord; *some* seed takes root, and grows!!

Help From Above

When born into the world He created, the “...child Jesus...” (Luke 2:27) was able *to be tempted* because He was a man; “The Son of *Man*.” (Luke 5:24) He was also able to *resist temptation*, because He was God; “The Son of *God*.” (John 9:35 to 37; 10:36) Those of us who are genuinely Born Again have the *same* two natures that Jesus had, when He walked on this earth. He was born of the flesh AND He was born from ABOVE.

The Scripture that says, “...God sending his own Son in THE *LIKENESS* of sinful flesh²...” (Romans 8:3), proves that Jesus had a FLESH body (though He NEVER sinned!³) that *looked* like ours! We got our flesh from Adam, and He got His from Mary!⁴ *The same three enemies that tempted Jesus two thousand years ago are still with us today.* The only possible way to overcome them successfully is to ask Jesus for help. Don’t forget; He went through the very same temptations we are going through right now.

“For in that he *himself* HATH SUFFERED BEING TEMPTED, he is ABLE TO SUCCOUR...” [*help-HALLELUJAH!*] **“...them that ARE tempted.”** Hebrews 2:18

We look to Jesus for help, for GOOD reason. HE WAS SUCCESSFUL EVERY TIME!!! (You wouldn’t want help from someone who was successful only 94% of the time-would you?!!!) Put your faith in Jesus. He won every battle! Like the “good ground” of Mark 4:20, Jesus *overcame temptation, and brought forth fruit A HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE TIME!*

When temptation comes (and it will), faithfully quoting The word of God will enlist our Saviour’s help and strength. Remember; quoting Scripture was His ONLY defense against Satan! This plan made Jesus successful, and it will also work for us.

There is no *quick fix* to victory. If Jesus “suffered being tempted,” then we will suffer, when we are tempted. Saint Peter said that we will “...suffer as a Christian...” at the hand of our enemies. (I Peter 4:16) Please never forget; all three of these enemies are *savagely* fierce.

Jesus not only suffered through those temptations; He TRIUMPHED “...OVER them...” (Colossians 2:15) Remember; we serve a RISEN Saviour! Elated by all this, the Apostle Paul writes, “Now thanks be unto God, which ALWAYS causeth us to triumph IN Christ...” (II Corinthians 2:14a) To those who care to avail themselves of Christ’s VICTORY; study, in The Book of Esther, is imperative. That victory, by the way, is offered only to those who seek it.

Enemy #2 Please Step Forward

Before we begin this topic, I would like to repeat something I said earlier, concerning our first enemy. “Early on, we must conclude that there is an enemy all around us. Every place our foot treads, in every quarter of the globe; we are confronted with this enemy.” I repeated those sentences, in order to say the next two. Geographically speaking, our flesh is even *closer* to us than the world is. We walk in it twenty-four hours a day. And, like prisoners inside (it), we can’t escape. Saint Paul reminded us of this, by asking, “...who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24)

Although we’ve said much already about Vashti, I thought it only right to *properly* introduce her. Are you ready? *Introducing Vashti!*... Wait a moment, she didn’t show.

² Conceivably, Christ’s flesh was like Adam’s flesh *before* the fall-*sinless!*

³ God knew Jesus would “refuse the evil, and choose the good”, seven hundred years before His birth. (Isaiah 7:14-16)

⁴ If Adam-CREATED in the very *image* and “...*LIKENESS*...” (Genesis 1:26) of *GOD*-fell by temptation, then it stands to reason, the Last Adam-BORN in the “...*LIKENESS*...” of sinful *MAN*-must also be tempted. Adam yielded to sin through a “...woman...” (I Timothy 2:14, Romans 5:12-19), but thankfully, Emmanuel-*God with us*-“...*made of a woman*...” (Galatians 4:4), was able to resist. See chart: Page 188.

Let me try again: INTRODUCING VASHTI!! She *still* didn't show. Did YOU get it yet? That's *exactly* what the King tried to do. He "...commanded ...the seven chamberlains...to bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal...." (Esther 1:10 and 11) The next verse says, "But the queen Vashti refused...." She was taking a bath, or made some *other* plans. The Scripture doesn't say what she was doing; only that she didn't show. My goal, for the next few paragraphs, is to contemplate *why*.

Have you noticed all the spas that have cropped up lately? In the last ten years almost every major hotel has equipped themselves with an exercise room, a massage therapy room, steam room, sauna room, and a nice size pool. Maybe you're thinking, "There's nothing wrong with all those things." The truth is, I don't see anything wrong with them either. (In fact, I can't wait for spring to arrive, so I can set up *my* pool, for the season.) What I do see though, is the *reason* for this trend (that seems to be growing faster than the average church). In Romans chapter seven; God refers to this progressive (?!!!!) trend as THE FLESH! *The flesh* wants SATISFACTION. It wants PAMPERING. Like Queen Vashti, it wants its WAY. Saint Peter pointed this out; when he said, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from *FLESHLY LUSTS*, which war against the..." saved "...soul." (I Peter 2:11) The FLESH LUSTS. The flesh wants *what* it wants, *when* it wants it.

Though the spirit and soul of a Christian has been renewed, the flesh is *that part* which remains *fallen*. Remember; the flesh is VOID of the Spirit. That's *similar* to what Saint James said in chapter two, verse twenty-six of his Epistle. He declared, "...the body without the spirit is dead...." Saint Paul picked up on this theme; by teaching us that the flesh, without the Spirit of God, is NO GOOD.

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth NO GOOD thing...." Romans 7:18

Truly, the *best* thing anyone can say about you and I, dear Christian friend, is "...Christ IN YOU...." (Colossians 1:27) The only good thing about us is Christ living in our body through the person of the Holy Spirit.

The flesh is more than just our physical bodies, or our carnal nature. *From* the fall, it enjoined everything Adam *lost* OUTWARDLY that was beautiful, pure, and clean. Not only does the flesh have a propensity to sin; it *loves* to sin. (Romans 7:17) That's why, when we see the flesh *rise up* in our children, we ought to correct it as soon as possible. Correcting your child "...betimes..." (before it is too late-Proverbs 13:24), will indoctrinate them against their enemy, and show them, early in life, that *their flesh* is really *their* ENEMY. The flesh says, "I'm hungry; I'm tired; I'm thirsty; I want gratification." In fact, it wants IMMEDIATE gratification. It does not like to wait. This ugly and depraved part of mankind screams out, "SATISFY ME NOW!!!"

The last thing I'd like to say about this "creature" (LOOK THAT ONE UP-Romans 8:18 to 21), is that it is *self-centered*. It has NO concern for others. I wonder what Vashti had on the agenda that was more important than answering the King's call? I'm reminded of a woman my wife knows. Both she and her husband are Christians. She is wearing a head covering *against* her husband's wishes. A head covering, according to Saint Paul, is supposed to SHOW a wife's *submission* to her husband-even though personally I believe that her long hair will do that job just fine. (I Corinthians 11:15) In an effort (so she thinks) to "obey God", this young lady has BYPASSED her husband, *who*

she should be obeying. [May I remind you, it wasn't the King who called Vashti; it was the King's seven chamberlains. Just because the words don't come DIRECTLY from the King's mouth, doesn't mean we are not to obey.]

The only reason I used the above example, was to show that even Christians-who are trying to please God-have the *same* UNREGENERATE flesh as the lost do. Even though we are saved, the flesh tempts us to say "NO" to our King and to His Chamberlains. That should be reason enough to seek God's help, in order to get victory over our second enemy-THE FLESH.⁵

Prove It!

Even though the average Christian would rather NOT be tempted by the world, the flesh, and the Devil, it is those very temptations that make us stronger. Resisting temptation proves whether or not we have power with God. Wasn't it *through* temptation that our Saviour PROVED *His* power and deity? Was He the *only one* required to be tempted and proved? Are *we* not also Sons of God? Then why do we marvel when He asks us to do the same? Please allow me to pose a few more important questions to you here. If there were no temptations, how could we be proved? How could we be rewarded? If there were no temptations, why would we call upon the name of the Lord for help and deliverance? If everything was going well; who would bother? Here's the answer to all those questions: As much as we don't *like* temptations, we NEED them.

Though they are "common to man" (I Corinthians 10:13), each temptation seems (to be) *tailor made*. The reason? Our enemies know *how*, *where*, and *when* to attack. They also know *how long* to keep it going.

Often, it SEEMS like we're the only ones being tempted. The reason? Each temptation comes engraved with our personal name and address on it. The enemy knows exactly where and when to deliver it, since he's done it so many times before! He carefully places it at the threshold of our free will; knowing, sooner or later, we'll have to make a decision. This furnishes us with at least TWO ways out. The first way, is to take the path of least resistance. This is done, by "giving in." This path, adds yet another sin that the blood of The Lamb paid for, on Calvary. Yielding to temptation reaps broken fellowship with OUR KING, causing us to forfeit some or all-future rewards.

When we are tempted to sin, Praise God, there IS a second way out. RESIST it, *by the power of God*. This is the only SURE way to overcome temptation.

Can we PROVE the power of God will overcome our temptations? Absolutely! The next time temptation comes, use His power to resist it. Each time you resist, you will be spiritually stronger to do it again. There's your proof!

Last, I'd like to say, if we rely on our own strength and power to resist temptation, we will fail every time. If we rely on His, we will have VICTORY. By the way, when we do it that way, *He* gets all the Glory!

(It may look like I'm changing topics here, but I'm *not*. Try to follow this to the end of the chapter. Remember the subtitle is, "Prove It!")

⁵ Postscript: Years after writing this, my wife (who read the above account for the *first* time, when helping me to clean up my atrocious spelling) informed me that the above couple are now divorced!

When reading through the Bible, do you ever stop to ask yourself questions? Let me give you an example: Do you ever wonder why *this* comes before *that*, or *that* comes before *this*? If you're up to it, I'd like to ask you one of those type of questions. Here it is: I wonder if The Book of Daniel *following* The Book of Ezekiel is just coincidental, or does The Lord have a lesson He wants to show us from that? I believe He does!

In the *last eight chapters* of Ezekiel; The Lord presents us with the Millennial Kingdom. The last verse of The Book ends like this:

“It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, *The Lord is there.*” Ezekiel 48:35

Turn the page in your Bible, and the *next thing you see, is* The Book of Daniel! Ezekiel said, “*The Lord is there.*” The VERY *next* character we run into is Daniel! Is this just a coincidence, or is The Lord (*through* Ezekiel) trying to tell us something *about* Daniel? This may be MORE than just a coincidence! To get the full meaning of what's going on here; we should first pin on our detective badges. Then, with magnifying glass in hand, we should closely examine *HOW* the Holy Spirit organized and arranged His voluminous Book.

How do you think The Holy Spirit BUILT the Book in the first place? Wasn't it word upon word, and “...line upon line...”, like Isaiah said? (28:10) Then, wasn't it, chapter upon chapter (like I'm doing now), and finally Book upon Book? Don't all those Books make up THE BOOK!! Personally, I believe He had an exact plan for the PLACEMENT of all those individual Books. Don't forget, He was/is It's Author. He got to choose the location that each and every Book would fit; in the ONE volume we call The Holy Bible. Given the fact that we are about to study the character of Daniel, it might be a good time to see what The Lord is trying to show us by all this.

Do you remember our three CROWNING Heroes? We learned about them in The Book of Ezekiel. “Though these three men, Noah, DANIEL, and Job were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by *their righteousness*, saith the Lord GOD.” (Ezekiel 14:14) When it comes to getting victory over the flesh; Daniel, our *second* hero, stands tall. His pristine portrait hangs high, in His Majesty's gallery of integrity. I said integrity, because, NO *record* of his sins are recorded in Scripture. Other than one questionable incident, his record is flawless. In chapter one of his book, Daniel and three other Hebrew children become captive slaves to Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. These four were chosen when they were just children.

“Children in whom was NO BLEMISH, but well favoured, and skillful in ALL WISDOM, and cunning in KNOWLEDGE, and UNDERSTANDING science....” Daniel 1:4

The wisdom that Daniel had was not like the false magicians and astrologers of his day. (Daniel 2:10) Daniel

“...blessed...the name of God...”, because he knew that “...wisdom and might are *his*...” (Daniel 2:20)

In chapter two, men of flesh were ready to be slain, because they couldn't produce the results that the “...king requireth....” (Daniel 2:11-13) He REQUIRED one of the holy men in his kingdom to tell him his dream. No one stepped forward. It looked like all hope was lost. This scenario reminds me of *our flesh*. OUR *unregenerate* flesh can't produce

the results that THE King requireth. This flesh is NO GOOD and ready to be slain! Christian, are *you* about to be slain over the sins of your flesh? Are your temptations too strong? Is all hope lost? If you answered yes to all three questions, then won't you read this story with me?

Noah overcame the world, but Daniel, our second hero, overcame THE FLESH. Like Jesus, he PROVED he had power over it.

Though TODAY, in the court of Heaven, Daniel stands and communes "...before the king..." (Daniel 1:19) of Glory, when we turn to his Book, he is always ready to give us a repeat performance.

"Look!", cried one of the astrologers. "We won't have to die. Someone is stepping forward. Why, it's Daniel! He's showing the King his *dream*, AND its interpretation." Since only he (and no one else) was able to give the King the dream, Daniel PROVES he has power with God.

After Daniel shows this King his dream and interpretation, the King "...fell upon his face, and WORSHIPPED Daniel, and commanded that they should offer..." (Daniel 2:46) a sacrifice unto him. (*This is the questionable incident I referred to above.*) Why did Daniel accept this worship? Peter wouldn't receive it! (Acts 10:25 and 26) I believe Daniel accepted it for two reasons. *IN TYPE*, he pictured The Holy Spirit, who has ALL wisdom and knowledge. Don't forget, Daniel becomes the third ruler of the kingdom, which in type, pictures the Third Ruler of God's Kingdom. That's *one* reason I believe that The Book of Daniel succeeds The Book of Ezekiel, but not the main one.

In The *Millennium*, there will "...be ONE Lord, and His name ONE." (Zechariah 14:9) No longer will the Trinity be *divided*. The Three will become ONE again. The day that The Holy Spirit ["...*the spirit of the Lord...the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord...*" (Isaiah 11:2)], re-joins the Trinity, He will sit down on the SAME Throne that will be also occupied by both The Father and The Son!

Ezekiel describes the Millennium in the last eight chapters of his Book. The *last* verse tells us *who* will RULE that city: "The LORD is there." Who shows up on the next page? A man who is a beautiful *type* of The HOLY SPIRIT. That man is said to possess "...an excellent spirit...in him..." (Daniel 6:3 and 5:12) Even the Babylonians recognized that he had "the *spirit* of the holy gods..." in him.⁶

When King Nebuchadnezzar bowed down to Daniel, *in reality*, he was bowing down to *The Spirit* that took up residence INSIDE him. Daniel proved he knew what this King was doing, by not saying a word. Being a Hebrew and Jew; he would have never let anyone fall down to worship *HIM*. He knew God's admonition about this. (Exodus 20:4-5; repeated the second time in Deuteronomy 5:8-9) From Daniel's vantage point King Nebuchadnezzar was doing *nothing* wrong, by bowing down to him. Don't forget, Daniel *informed* the King all along; it was *God* who *gave* him this information. He made it clear, his wisdom and knowledge was being revealed *through* him, not *by* him. (Daniel 2:28 and 30!!!) That being the case, what else could this young captive do (while this King did obeisance to him), but stand there, and *TAKE IT?!!!*

⁶ These heathen were polytheistic, which prompted them to *add* gods to the ONE God that filled Daniel's bosom. (Daniel 4:8, 9,18; 5:11:14)

Who will rule The City of The Great King? “The LORD is there”: THE LORD *God*, The Father; THE LORD *Jesus Christ*, His Son; and THE LORD, *The Holy Spirit*, God’s spirit. I repeat, who will sit on The Throne of God in the Millennium? “The LORD...’HOLY SPIRIT’...is there.” Now I can answer my original question. Is it a coincidence that The Book of Daniel *follows* The Book of Ezekiel? I say NO!! The Holy Spirit, who AUTHORED Ezekiel, let us know, HE was about to make *an appearance* in His next Book. That appearance was made, *both* in fabric and character; IN The Book of DANIEL!!!

The above study should prove conclusively that our help *does NOT* originate *from* our second hero. It comes *from* The Spirit that filled his body. Daniel had no more power to resist his temptations than we do from ours. *God was the source of his power*. We need to be taught this lesson, and our young children do too! Until they are saved, and can understand these things on their own; our job as parents, is to show them how to resist temptation. We should show them by *our* EXAMPLE.

Daniel’s parents are NOT mentioned in his Book. Yet we can conclude that his parents taught him to resist temptation by TRUSTING GOD.

Daniel was among the number of “Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science....” (Daniel 1:4a) Usually, CHILDREN DON’T LEARN THOSE SUBJECTS ON THEIR OWN. THEIR PARENTS ARE THE ONES TO TEACH THEM. [This “*modern day care/public school philosophy*” is on my mind and tongue right now, but this chapter is too long already! Therefore, I am holding *it* (my tongue-*that is!!!*) for another time.] Daniel’s parents taught him those things, AND *a little more*. Those subjects were taught *in relation* to Jehovah God. (Deuteronomy 6:7)

Do you know what happens when you teach a child about science without getting God involved in the conversation? As he gets older, he yields to his flesh, and becomes an evolutionist. Teach a child knowledge devoid of the knowledge of God, and he will listen to the flesh every time. When he grows up, he will become a psychologist, who thinks the world revolves around *him*, and *his* feelings. Teach an unblemished, well favoured child that he is “special,” and sooner or later he will learn to trust his flesh, in order to get by. With no blemish, he might even become a movie star. Let’s face it; it should be *easy* for anyone *this* special to make friends. As his circle of friends widens, he might get into alcohol and drugs. Let’s tack on a *social* disease or two, and maybe AIDS. This well-favored son might make a lot of money. What happens one day, when his money fails, or no longer satisfies? Might he relieve that pain by taking his life? I wonder if anyone ever took the time to tell this special son that there is more to life than his flesh. I wonder if anyone ever took the time to read the word of God to him. *I wonder where his parents were, when he needed them most*. And last, I wonder if a Christian, who simply quoted one scripture to this young man, would have saved his life? These are the words, he most needed to hear, “Wherefore do ye spend money...and labour for that which *satisfieth* NOT?” (Isaiah 55:2)

As a child, “Daniel purposed *in his heart* that he would NOT defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank....” (Daniel 1:8) Someone at home in Judah, taught Daniel that it wasn’t right for God’s people to eat defiled meat and fermented wine. Maybe, he remembered someone reading Isaiah 5:22? Either way, when push came to shove, “...he requested...that he might *not* defile himself.” There it is!

That was his temptation. Someone asked him to do something he knew was wrong, and, Thank God, he had some TRAINING to fall back on. Moreover, not yielding to his temptation gave Daniel an opportunity to PROVE himself better off.

“PROVE thy servants, I beseech thee...”, and instead of defiled meat and fermented wine, **“...give us pulse to eat, and water to drink....”** Daniel 1:12

If given the chance, Daniel KNEW, he, and the other children could have VICTORY over THE FLESH, and was willing to PROVE IT! They DID prove it:

“And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king’s meat.” Daniel 1:15

We don’t have to be defiled. We don’t have to yield to this second enemy. There is sweet victory to a Child of God who is willing to put his faith *to the TEST*. That’s exactly what Daniel did, and he was no “worse liking⁷” for the wear.

I close this chapter, with the Born Again Christian in mind. If we are not PRESENTLY *walking* in the Spirit, then we are PRESENTLY *walking* in the flesh. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, DANIEL WALKED IN THE SPIRIT ALL HIS LIFE.

Enoch of old started walking with The KING. Locking arms, they continued right up into Glory. (Genesis 5:21 to 24) I wonder if they are walking *together* right now. Soon, it will be *our turn* to travel Upward. At the trumpet sound, we will meet The Great King. (I Thessalonians 4) Do you ever imagine yourself walking beside Him? If we fail to walk with Him *here*, how likely will we walk with Him over *There*?

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

II Corinthians 5:10

⁷ “Worse off”-Daniel 1:10.