

## THE CONTRAST OF TWO PRINCES

### I. FIRST, THE PRINCES DIFFERED IN THE MATTER OF OBEDIENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE.

- A. In Eden God required obedience from Adam and Eve in the perfect environment of the garden of Eden when He gave a “command.” Gen. 2:16-17
1. Their disobedience brought spiritual death and ultimate brought physical death to them and all their offspring. Gen. 3:23-24; 5:5; Rom. 5:19
    - a. Not everyone inherited the “guilt” of their transgression, but the results. Rom. 5:12
    - b. From this time on, the whole practice of man was to yield to Satan.
  2. Man's every imagination and thoughts were against God, and brought the flood. Gen.6:1-5
- B. Jesus the Prince of Peace came to **do** the Father's will, and His perfect obedience is our example to be obedient to God. John 6:38; Heb. 10:9-10
1. Our forgiveness of sins is dependent upon **obedience** to the gospel. Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:17-18
    - a. The book of Romans opens and closes with emphasis upon obedience. Rom. 1:5; 16:26
    - b. In every case of conversion recorded in the book of Acts, **salvation** was enjoyed **after** obedience in the act of baptism. 1 Pet. 1:22-23; John 3:3-5
  2. Our eternal salvation depends upon our **obedience**. Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:14

### II. SECOND, THE PRINCES DIFFERED IN THE MATTER OF TRUTH AND LIES.

- A. God is the Author or ORIGINATOR of all **truth**, which is represented in the **person** of Christ. John 1:14; 14:6; Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18
1. The **truth** is found in God's **word** as is recorded in the pages of the Bible. Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; John 17:17
    - a. The Bible was written by men who were inspired to write the words of the Bible for the benefit of the world. 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 1 Cor. 2:9-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17
    - b. We are not to add to or take from the God-given word. Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19
  2. There are many benefits to **obeying the truth**.
    - a. First, there is the blessing of being free from sin. John 8:32; Rom. 6:17-18
    - b. Second, there is the blessing of being able to know and do those things that please God, and continually enjoy salvation and have the hope of eternal life. 1 Pet. 1:3-5
    - c. Third, there will be the joy of eternal life itself. 2 Pet. 1:4-11; Matt. 25:21
- B. Satan, the prince of darkness, is the ORIGINATOR of all **lies** and religious **error** that has divided the religious world today. John 8:44; 1 Tim. 4:1
1. Satan knows that the **scripture** is God's truth, so he does many things to cause some to reject it.
    - a. He tempts people through a perversion of scripture. Matt. 4:6; Gal. 1:7; Acts 13:10; 20:30
    - b. He uses false ministers to deceive. 2 Cor. 11:14-15
    - c. He uses outright lies about spiritual matters. Gen. 3:1-4; 1 Kings 13:18; 1 Tim. 4:1-3

- d. He causes some to wrest or twist the scriptures. 2 Pet. 3:16
  - e. He subtly mishandles the truth. 2 Sam. 22:27; 2 Cor. 11:3; 2 Pet. 2:3,18
  - f. He speaks damnable heresies to please people. 2 Pet. 2:21
2. What will be the final **destiny** of Satan and all who are deceived by him?

- a. There will be a judgment against them. 2 Pet. 2:1; Matt. 7:21-23; 25:41
- b. There will be damnation. 2 Pet. 2:3
- c. There will be a swift destruction. 2 Pet. 2:3; Rev. 20:10-12

### III. THIRD, THE PRINCES DIFFER IN THE MATTER OF TEMPTATION.

- A. It is not God's nature to **be** tempted to sin, nor does He temp any man to sin. Jas. 1:13
- 1. Some might think God is responsible for Adam's transgression, because He put **in** the garden where temptation could take place.
  - 2. However, God made man a free-moral agent so as to give him a choice in life.
    - a. God made man where he **could** sin if he chose to, and obviously knew that someday he would sin and need a savior. Cf Gen. 3:15
    - b. If man could **not** have sinned, he would have merely been a robot and God would not have been glorified in His battle with Satan.
  - 3. God does not will that we sin, and gives us avenues of escape. 2 Pet. 3:9; Matt. 26:41; 1 Cor. 10:13
- B. Satan, the prince of this world, uses the characteristics of man as a means of causing him to sin, as he is the “tempter.” Matt. 4:3
- 1. He used Jesus' hunger in the flesh to tempt Him to sin. Matt. 4:1-3
  - 2. He uses our natural desires to cause us to commit sin. 1 Jn. 2:15-17
    - a. The process of temptation and sin is described by James. Jas. 1:13-15
    - b. It is not a sin to **be** tempted, but it is a sin to **yield** to temptation. 1 Cor. 7:5

### IV. FOURTH, THE PRINCES DIFFER IN THE USE OF MIRACLES.

- A. The prince of darkness uses **false miracles** to “deceive” which causes them to not receive the word of truth and enjoy salvation, and find pleasure in their error. 2 Thes. 2:9-12
- B. The Prince of Peace used miracles during the first century to **confirm** the message of truth and cause believers to accept and obey the message and ultimately have eternal life. John 20:30-31