

The Battle with Amalek– A Kingdom at Stake Part One

Today we are going to begin a series of messages on “The Battle with Amalek,” a series that will teach us about the ongoing battle within each one of us between **the flesh** and **the spirit**. These things are important for us to learn in our everyday lives because these things teach us about the enemies of our soul, and how to deal with those enemies. And the result of the outcome of that battle determines one’s inclusion into or exclusion from a kingdom—the Coming Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

That is quite a statement, isn’t it? But it is a true statement, and in the next few weeks time, you will see why such a statement can be made.

1). Who was Amalek, anyway? And why would we ever do a study on a man that few people have even heard about? At the least, he is an *inconspicuous* character in Scripture. And yet, there is very much we can learn from this story, that can cause us to make personal application in our lives...perhaps so as to tip the scale in our favor concerning the inclusion or exclusion from the coming kingdom.

As we study about these things in the weeks to come, you may find that Amalek is not as inconspicuous as you may think he is today.

2). Let’s back up a bit into some fundamentals that are important to understand before we go any further. There is one thing we can know about God’s Word...We can **KNOW** that God ***begins*** His Word *at a particular place*, and He ***ends*** His Word *at a particular place*, and *everything between those two points is placed within Scripture for a purpose*.

- And at a particular point between the beginning and the end, at a very specific point, there begins a specific story line that can teach us much about a battle that ensues in each one of our lives.
- We can also know something else about God’s Word. He is very specific about things. For example, we can know that man was created to rule within the kingdom connected to this earth (which is within God’s Universal kingdom), because the originally created rulers – Satan and his fallen angels – have disqualified themselves from ongoing rulership. Let’s not forget that God specifically stated His own purpose for creating man both before He created man, and after creating man.
- And if man was going to rule, he would have to be created as an eternal being, like God, in order to rule on into eternity. So what do we find in man’s creation? Remember, just prior to creating man, God said:

Genesis 1:26

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

(We really should begin every Bible study at this point, because this is where God began. And everything in the Bible relates to this fact that “man was created to rule.”)

- Then God created man:

Genesis 1:27

27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- Then, just after creating man, He said again:

Genesis 1:28

28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- Can it be made any clearer than that? Does God need to be any clearer than this for us to believe it? *Let them rule.*
- And so we need to understand, when we come to any study of the Bible, that man was indeed created to rule, and that even though man fell, God is at work, bringing His intention for man to pass. And therefore, we can truly say, **"that STILL...THERE IS A KINGDOM AT STAKE!"**

2). Something else we need to understand is that **we have been redeemed for the same purpose for which we have been created—to rule in a kingdom!**

- So the **purpose for our creation** and the **purpose for our redemption** is one in the same.
- And in seeing this, we would have to see that Satan is always diligently at work seeking to bring about a loss of our potential in the coming kingdom. Satan works diligently against the purpose for man's creation and diligently against the purpose for man's redemption.
- Satan worked against man's created purpose in the garden, when he deceived the woman, bringing about her fall as well as the man's fall, through questioning God's Word--

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

- Satan opens the way to bring the woman to a point where she might not believe God's explicit word. *He imparts doubt.*

Genesis 3:2-3

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'"

- The woman answered him by saying that God had said, *'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'*? But is that what God had said? Let's look at exactly what God had said:

Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

(Death only ever means SEPARATION in Scripture. When referring to man, it never means "ceasing to exist." Man had been created an *eternal being*.)

- So the serpent had just *questioned* the very Word of God— "Indeed, has God said...?" The woman then misspoke the Word (*by adding to the Word*), leaving an opening for the serpent to then deceive the woman about the Word.

Do you see the personal application here? I hope you do.

- Since there was now an opening for the serpent to speak lies...the serpent said to the woman—

Genesis 2:4

"You surely shall not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Do you see where the point of contention is here? Do you see where the deception really is? It is in the LIE that if you disobey God ***you will not die***. The truth, of course, is that ***disobedience leads to death***. Whom do you believe?

Genesis 2:6

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make [one] wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

- It was the woman through whom the Seed would come.
- Remember what God said after both the man and the woman disobeyed God...that He would put enmity between the serpent and the woman, between her seed and his seed.
- Satan worked against the created purpose for man. He knew that if the man died (separated from God, not able to live eternally *with God*, he would not be in the position wherein he could rule), and so he continued to work against this same purpose.

3). Let's keep going in Scripture to see what Satan's plan is:

- As man began to multiply on the face of the earth, look at what it says in Genesis chapter 6 just prior to the flood...

Genesis 6:1

1 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

“Sons of God” is a term used in Scripture to infer rulership, because only “sons” rule. Most of the time, as here in Genesis 6:1 the term “sons of God” is referring to angels.

Genesis 6:4

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore [children] to them. Those were the mighty men who [were] of old, men of renown.

- The word ‘Nephilim’ means “fallen ones.” Satan’s angels, in an *attempt to defile the entire human race*, sought to prevent Gen. 3:15 from being able to take place (*The seed of the woman would crush the head of the seed of the serpent*)...
- Fallen angels attempted to bring about circumstances wherein the seed of the woman could not bring forth the promised Redeemer. The reason is simple: it is Satan’s purpose to bring about circumstances wherein man, having been created in God’s image, **could not rule...could not fulfill his very created purpose.**
- And this defilement was so prevalent upon the earth at that point that God intervened—

Genesis 6:5-6, 11-12, 8-9

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9 These are [the records of] the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.

- But let’s look again at Gen. 6:4. There is a small phrase I want us to notice, which we may have missed.

Genesis 6:4

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward...

- “and also afterward...” What does that mean? It means that the Nephilim appeared after the Flood, as a result of Satan doing the same thing again: trying to pollute the human race to keep the seed of the woman from coming. How do we know? Because God told us.

4). So let’s fast forward in history several hundred years, after the flood of Noah, and see what happened.

- God called a man named Abram out of Ur of the Chaldeans to order to take him into a specific land which God would give him as an inheritance, promising to bless all the families of the earth through this man and his descendants:

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- Over a period of several decades, God progressively revealed to Abram (later called Abraham) His plan to bring about kings who would come from Abraham's lineage.
- But God continued to reveal to Abram...

Genesis 15:13

And [God] said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.

- Now Satan could know how much time he had to work – *400 years*.
- God continued revealing to Abram...

Genesis 15:16

"Then in the fourth generation they shall return here (to the land, wherein Abram stood when receiving the promises), for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."

- Then God specifically spelled out the geographical location of the promised land:

Genesis 15:18 -20

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite 20 and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim 21 and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite."

- God further detailed His plan to Abram in Gen. 17 & 22—

Genesis 17:4-6

4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you.

Genesis 22:17-18

17 ...indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

- Satan would have surely known God's intent through Abraham's lineage, especially since we have reference to *kings* (what do kings rule over? *Kingdoms*) and descendants *possessing gates of their enemies on the earth and in the heavens* (gates indicate governmental activity).
- Now Satan could not only know how much time he had to work in (400 years), he could also know where to work – within the borders of a specified land.
- And four hundred years later, (after having been sojourners in a land not their own, and finally enslaved in that land), God brought about the night of Passover. The descendants of Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob, were redeemed out of the bondage of slavery by the blood of the paschal lambs, taken out of Egypt in order to be taken into the Promised Land...a Promised Land wherein they were to be made a kingdom of priests, a holy nation...

5). Now look at what God said this new nation of Abrahams' descendants just after arriving at Mount Sinai, after their redemption out of slavery:

Exodus 19:4-6

'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and [how] I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself.

5 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

- There was about a 2 year period of time before God would take them into the Promised Land. During this time God taught His people, preparing them to go into the land of Promise, preparing them to become that kingdom of priests.
- But we can see the result of Satan's work over that long period of time leading up to this (400 years). When God's people were ready and equipped to go in and take the land of their inheritance wherein God planned on making them a kingdom of priests, instead of simply obeying God and trusting His Word, the people desired to send spies into the land. And the Lord allowed them to do so, instructing them to send one leader from each of the twelve tribes.
- After spending 40 days in the land, the 12 spies came back to the children with their report. You all know what happened:

Numbers 13:27-28

Thus they told him, and said, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 Nevertheless the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified [and] very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 Amalek is living in the land of

the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan."

- We have already seen some of these names, haven't we? The Hittites and the Amorites and the Canaanite and the Jebusites...these are the people groups who God named as residents in the land of promise back in Genesis 15.
- Then notice what the text also says:

"...we saw the descendants of Anak there..."

- Who are the descendants of Anak? The Bible is it's own commentary so we are not left to guess. A little further down in the text, it says:

Numbers 13:30-33

Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us."

32 So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of [great] size.

33 There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

- Notice, too that they said that "Amalek is living in the land of the Negev"... More on that as we come to it later on.
- All of this to show you that the Word of God is true. Remember that little phrase from Genesis 6-

"The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward..."

And so we continue to see that Satan's plan is to thwart the very plan of God—that man *should rule within a kingdom, over the earth*. He did so in the garden...he did so in Abraham's day...and he did so at Kadesh Barnea (influencing ten of the twelve leaders that were chosen to go in and spy out the land).

6). Now let's see Satan using the Leaders of God's own people at the first coming of Christ.

- First let's look at the main message in the opening chapters of the New Testament—
 - Before Christ begins His earthly ministry we find John the Baptist, the one who would prepare the way for the Lord preaching this message –

Matthew 3:1-2

Now in those days John the Baptist *came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- After John's arrest and imprisonment, we then find Jesus preaching this same message -

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- Not only was this the message He began to preach, but the very reason He had come -

Luke 4:43

But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."

- It was the message He sent out the twelve to preach –

Matthew 10:7

"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

- It was the message that continued after His resurrection –

Acts 1:3

To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over [a period of] forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

- It was the message preached in the early church –

Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

- And the focus of Paul's ministry –

Acts 20:25 "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more.

- What was this message---this message about a kingdom? What kingdom is being dealt with here in the NT? It is a kingdom which has to do with the heavens, the location from which these fallen angels now rule, and actually have ruled since their creation. But they disqualified themselves in a rebellion.

Colossians 1:16, 20

16 For by Him all things were created, [both] in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created by Him and for Him. ...20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say], whether things on earth or things in heaven.

- But His people did not receive the message and they murdered the Messenger.

John 19:14-16

Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" 15 They therefore cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 So he then delivered Him to them to be crucified.

John 1:11

He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

- His message was concerning His coming Kingdom, which He was sent to redeem...that which Adam lost in his sin and death.
- And Satan is at every turn, seeking to thwart this plan of God.
 - In fact, at one point in Jesus' public ministry, after giving the parable about the unrighteous judge and the persistent widow, Jesus asks (the question is written in such a way in Greek that He expected a negative answer):

Luke 18:8b

...However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

- Satan has worked *at every turn*. Let me ask you something now... Do you think he is still actively working to thwart this Plan of God? Paul says:

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

- What is his scheme? What area of doctrine do you think he would scheme against? Look at what Paul says:

2Corinthians 11:2-3

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. 3 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.

- What was Satan's deception to Eve? Was it not the same deception he has been using throughout all of mankind's history from the very beginning?

"You shall surely not die!"

We all face this same deception every day—*Even though God has said that certain continued behaviors will result in death...there is a lie from Satan that comes at the same time that tells us WE WON'T DIE IF WE DO THAT!*

7). Look at what is the God-breathed truth...

Romans 8:5-8, 12-14

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able [to do so]; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- Does it need to be more clearly stated? Whom do you believe?
- Satan has been actively at work from the beginning. He has been a liar from the beginning. But will he succeed? Never! The Bible comes to a close with this statement—

Revelation 11:15

And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

- "The kingdom of the world..." What is the kingdom of the world? This very kingdom, the kingdom of the world, has become (at that time yet future) the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ...

8). What the first man, the first Adam, lost at the hand of Satan in the garden, which Satan brought about through the deception of the woman, is exactly what Jesus – the Second man, the Last Adam – was fully qualified to take – *the kingdom of the world*.

- The truth is THERE IS A KINGDOM AT STAKE! And there is something we can do about it as far as our inclusion into that kingdom, or our exclusion from that kingdom. It is a choice we need to make...

It is a choice we need to UNDERSTAND.

- There is a battle raging...it is the battle between the flesh and the spirit, and the story of AMALEK will help us to understand this battle.

AND THAT IS WHY IT IS GOOD TO DO A STUDY ON A MAN WHO SEEMS TO BE SO INCONSPICUOUS IN THE SCRIPTURES!