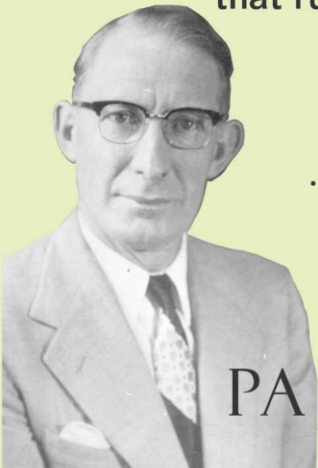


DEMONOLOGY SERIES



# THE BATTLE FOR THE NATIONS

Dethroning the satanic powers  
that rule from the heavenlies



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PA S.G. ELTON

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# **THE BATTLE FOR THE NATIONS**

**Dethroning the satanic powers  
that rule from the heavenlies**

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**NiU Nation Publishers**

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Unless otherwise stated, all scriptural quotations are taken from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible

All references to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom are in title case. Heaven, when used in reference to God's Kingdom & government is also rendered in title case. All references to satan however are rendered deliberately in lower case.

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 A stylized, white, serif letter 'P' is centered within a black, tilted rectangular box with a white border. The box is rotated slightly counter-clockwise.

## PREFACE

**T**HIS book is the transcript of two messages of Late Pastor S.G. Elton (fondly called Pa Elton). The messages themselves are Parts 5 and 6 of a six-part lecture on Demonology given in Ilesha in 1982 - a time when there was very little known on the subject in the church in Nigeria. His emphasis however goes beyond analysing demons to the bigger picture of the Kingdom of God being re-established in God's world as the church begins to exercise their kingly authority over all satanic powers and operations.

Part V of the message, titled, *"The Weapons of our Warfare"* adopts a practical approach to the exercise of our God-given weapons both for the defensive as well as the offensive in the ongoing battle against the forces of darkness. The last in the series, titled *"The Battle for the Nations"*, challenges satan's right to govern Nigeria. According to Pa Elton himself, it is actually the most important of all in the series and is a wake-up call to believers to take responsibility for their nation.

## *Preface*

Though, publishing the entire series has actually been in the pipeline for more than two years, the decision to pull out Parts five and six was taken in view of its timeliness and strategic relevance to where we are today as a nation and as we overlook our centenary celebrations. As you read on, you will undoubtedly agree that these messages are very much needed today, thirty years after, particularly, as we are faced with critical national challenges that all border on the same issue Pa Elton, in his prophetic insight, highlights herein: who rules in Nigeria - satan or the Lord Jesus Christ through His Body, the Church? May the Lord through this message of his servant rekindle a greater commitment in the hearts of believers today to their God-given responsibility of enforcing the rule and reign of our Lord upon our land.

As we continue to receive help from the Lord, the complete series on Demonology and other works of Pa Elton will be brought to public domain. We remain deeply grateful to Mama Ruth Elton for the trust she has reposed in us in giving us access to the Elton library and the liberty to undertake this project.

If you are blessed by this book, please, do what you can to spread it far and wide. The good Lord bless you and keep you in the centre of His will and prophetic purpose, amen.

***Adeyemo Temidayo***  
***Niu Nation Publishers***



**DEDICATION**

*To the memory of Pa S.G. Elton and  
his avowed passion for a nation  
other than the land of his nativity*

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## I NTRODUCTION



### Who was Pa S.G. Elton?

*"Nobody can truly write the history of either Pentecostalism or full gospel, as it were, in Nigeria and leave Pastor S.G. Elton out of it." - E.A. Adeboye*

**T**HE late Pastor Sydney Granville Elton, undoubtedly, was a prophet and an apostle to the church of God in the nation of Nigeria. He saw many years ahead of his time and stood in that prophetic anointing to declare the counsel of God concerning the



last days and what the attitude of the Church should be to God's purposes. His messages provided clear prophetic warnings and instructions for a church that will avoid the many pitfalls along the way of a quest towards the finish.

Pa Elton, as he was often called, left his native country, England, to come to Ilesha, Nigeria in March 1937 in response to a divine call to be a missionary - under The Apostolic Church of England - his wife and only child, 3-year old Ruth, joining him about six months later. And since that time right up to his eventual home-call, 50 years later, Pa Elton has always been found at the centre of revival, playing one role or the other.

His first arrival into the country coincided with an on-going revival in Ilesha with Apostle Joseph Ayo Babalola as the arrowhead of that revival. S.G. Elton therefore had the opportunity of being a part of that work, and the subsequent growth of The Apostolic Church as a denomination in Nigeria including the establishment of the Teacher Training College, among many others.

In the advent of the Latter Rain revival of the early 50's, Pastor Elton, sensing that this was the direction the Spirit of God was moving, embraced it wholeheartedly. This however did not go down well with his denomination and that led to his eventual resignation. Upon resignation however, he became of greater service to the

work of the Kingdom in Nigeria, ministering across denominations and providing an inroad for the Latter Rain revivalists to come into the country. Pastor Elton, thus, became God's open door for that move into Nigeria.

Similarly, in the wake of the evangelistic move of the 60's, S.G. Elton was there, providing a platform for major international preachers and evangelists like Gordon Lindsay, T.L. Osborne and so many others. He was also a major channel of financial provision for many indigenous missionaries and evangelists because he had contacts with a good number of foreign missions that were willing to sponsor evangelistic work in Africa.

It is difficult to pin Pa Elton down to one particular message. At one time, he would be seen on crusade platforms, with salvation and works of healing and miracles. At other times, he was ministering and teaching on deliverance; at other times, he got down to earth, teaching the nitty gritty of spiritual warfare, marriage, faith and Christian missions. Suffice it to say that he preached the whole counsel of God.

The major emphasis of Pa Elton's vision and message however was the Kingdom of God interfacing with human lives and societies. This, he taught with vigour, bringing an erstwhile complacent church to begin to demand a righteous social order. Though a Briton by

birth, Pa S.G. Elton was a complete Nigerian at heart and he undoubtedly provided accurate prophetic direction for the church and the nation, speaking profoundly about God's plan to use the nation to spearhead the last day revival.

Pa Elton's bull's eye prophecies are also worthy of note. Most of his prophecies concerning the church in the nation and the nation at large have all come to pass. At a time when everybody was struggling to go to America, he declared that the move of God in the last days would come from Africa with Nigeria being the trigger point of that revival and that Nigerian ministers will take the gospel of Jesus all over the world. He prophesied that a time would come when the Government of the nation will pay Christian students to preach the gospel and this was fulfilled in the creation of the Youth Service Scheme.

He warned severely of commercialisation of the gospel and the influence of the American pop culture in Christianity. He spoke about the divisions and empire building which would later threaten the great work that was going on at the time. Needless to say, the church today is better off where his warnings were adhered to but seriously battling the consequences, where his prophetic warnings were rebuffed. It is hoped that the Church today will reconsider those salient truths that the Spirit of God is once again echoing.

The greatest legacy of Pa Elton however was his unparalleled commitment to the younger generation. A man of profound simplicity who insisted on building men rather than structures, Elton made himself available to mentor and father the charismatic revival which, at the time, was just breaking out particularly among the nation's tertiary institutions' fellowships. He virtually spent his latter years traversing the entire country, ministering to students and emerging Pentecostal ministers.

Indeed, that sacrificial commitment to generational mentoring produced seasoned Kingdom labourers who have all become notable fathers in the body of Christ today. Among these are the late Archbishop B.A. Idahosa, Pastor E.A. Adeboye, Dr. W.F. Kumuyi, Dr. Mike Oye, Barr. Emeka Nwankpa, Revd. Paul Jinadu, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, Bishop Francis W. Oke, Pastor Austen Ukachi, Apostle Geoffery Numbere, late Bishop Oduwale, Bishop Paul Nwachukwu, Bro Gbile Akanni and a host of others too numerous to mention. His Ilesha home was open to all and sundry night and day and his exemplary servant-leadership qualities will remain a high standard for believers and ministers for all time.

Pa Elton's only child and daughter also trailed her parents' steps by becoming a full-time missionary to the middle belt region of Nigeria. The wife, Hannah, died in Nigeria in 1983 and Pa Elton also passed on four years

later, having spent half a century on Nigerian soil, serving His Lord with his all. Both were buried in their Ilesha home. Today, Mama Ruth Elton, now about 80years of age, resides in Ilesha and continues to teach and mentor missionaries and evangelists and church workers for greater effectiveness in the Great Commission.

*Part One*

**THE WEAPONS  
OF OUR WARFARE**

## The Nature of our Warfare

.....

**I**N this message, we shall look to some detail at the weapons available to us in the ongoing battle against the forces of darkness. The first point to clearly understand is that this battle is entirely spiritual, and as such, our weapons also must be spiritual. God has therefore provided weapons that are appropriately spiritual. In II Cor. 10:3-5, Paul writes:

*“Although we do walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of (satan's) strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into*

*captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”*

When Paul said in the passage above that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, by implication, he was also saying that those weapons are spiritual. No natural or carnal weapon can be of relevance in this spiritual warfare. It is neither by our knowledge nor by our ability; we cannot confront the enemy with our expertise. God has provided us with spiritual weapons to use; therefore we must learn to make use of the spiritual weapons God has provided.

The scripture passage above however describes the attacking side of our warfare. While we shall examine this in detail, I want to first of all deal with the defensive side. And to do that, we will examine the most popular scripture on spiritual warfare, which is Ephesians 6:10-18.

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. <sup>13</sup>Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the*



*breastplate of righteousness; <sup>15</sup>And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup>Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. <sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: <sup>18</sup>Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" [KJV]*

### **From individual to corporate territorial warfare**

Now, in relating with this powerful scripture passage, we should observe every pronoun in the passage is in the plural. What does this tell us? It simply means that the level of warfare being addressed here is not so much about individual warfare. This warfare is national in scope; it is "body warfare," not individual. We can see that we are beginning to move on from our experience of dealing with demons at the individual level to a corporate experience of dealing with princes over territories - or as Paul puts it, principalities and powers.

Jesus Christ spoke to His disciples and said, "*I give you power and authority over all demons, to cast them out*" (Matt. 10:1). But in Ephesians 6 refers to and describes our body warfare - the warfare of the Church universal against the principalities and powers in high places. Let me give you a free translation of the 12<sup>th</sup> verse of Ephesians 6:

*"For our wrestling match is not against persons with bodies, but against rulers with various realms of authority, against the world dominators of the present darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies".*

In other words, we are fighting an army of invisible spiritual persons without bodies; all of whom take their orders from the headquarters located in the heavenlies, and the objective of these opposing forces is to keep the world under their control. Their objective and operations have regional, national and international or global dimensions.

Up until now, we have been dealing with demons which inhabit human bodies. I am not sure I can give you a proper and detailed explanation of where demons came from; we know that the principalities and powers in the heavenly places were the former good angels that rebelled with satan against God and they were cast out. Whether demons are included in that, I am not sure - and the trend which we have seen in the last few years has been a focus, by the Lord's people, on casting out demons.

Yes, we have learned, and it is true, that demons will obey us; we have learned that we can cast out demons in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ - all that is true. But now, we have to move on to another level of warfare which begins

with recognising that the real powers and authorities of demons are the principalities and powers in force in the heavenly places. We now have to learn how to deal with them.

### **Christ's victory over satan**

In approaching this warfare, we must first recognise that Jesus Christ has totally defeated satan. In Colossians 2:15, Paul tells us that through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, God has spoiled (stripped) the principalities and powers of the kingdoms of darkness, triumphing over them in that death on the cross. And this is what he says in II Corinthians 2:14:

*"Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ, and makes manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place". [KJV]*

God always causes us to triumph in Christ. The triumph is not the actual winning of the victory but the celebration of the victory that has already been won. And the Lord Jesus Christ has already won that victory for us but He has left to us the responsibility of enforcing and administering that victory over the forces of darkness now trying so hard to retain their grip and control of the nations of this world.

Having seen earlier that our warfare is spiritual and in the heavenlies and that God has provided us with spiritual

weapons to use, let us now look at what Paul taught the Ephesians about this level of warfare.

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having guarded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness; and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” - Eph. 6:10-18*

Note the number of times Paul uses the word, stand. He does not ask us to run or sit; no. He says you have to stand and claim the victory, and assert your authority on the earth on the basis of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done.

## Our Defensive and Offensive Weapons

.....

**G**OING further to describe the whole armour of God, Paul mentions for us the various components of the armour, which are our defensive weapons:

- The belt of truth (*vs. 14*)
- The breastplate of righteousness (*vs. 14*)
- The shoes of the gospel of peace (*vs. 15*)
- The shield of faith (*vs. 16*), and
- The helmet of salvation (*vs. 17*)

You will readily observe that these five, which we are to put on as our armour, are principally for defence. But Paul does not stop there; moving on finally to the offensive,

he mentions two very important weapons:

- The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (vs. 17)
- Prayer and supplication (vs. 18).

I consider these two to be the primary weapons of offence given to us to attack. You do not attack with anything else. There is a large amount of Christian activity going on today in the churches: committee meetings, plans, programmes, crusades and revivals - all intense activities in an effort to win men and women for Jesus Christ. The real battle, however, is in the heavenlies, and you can only win that real battle if you are properly armed with spiritual weapons.

In other passages of scripture besides Ephesians 6 which we have explored, we can find some other weapons available to us. Those weapons include the following:

- The name of Jesus
- The blood of Jesus
- The word of our testimony
- The high praises of God

### **The supremacy of prayer and the word of God**

Of all these, I believe that prayer remains the greatest in our arsenals of spiritual weaponry. It is the first weapon that the church as a body can use. It is the main weapon that we use to effectively deploy other weapons. In

prayer, we use the word of God, just as the Lord Jesus Christ used the word in defeating satan in the wilderness. Three times, He declared: *"It is written!"* Using the word is very effective in dealing with satan - though satan equally has a way of using the scripture to confuse us. Please be careful; it is usually only half the verse and only a partial truth which are as dangerous as no truth at all. We have to learn how to detect that half-truth and how to deal with it.

Consequently, in our prayer meetings, we must use the word of God and claim God's promises therein. We must also use the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus - for at the mention of the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, including those of the authorities in the heavenly places, earthly lords and powers, and every tongue shall declare that He is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11). The blood of Jesus that was shed is the great triumph in heaven, and the host of heaven are proclaiming him the victor by virtue of His shed blood.

Please, notice that as we pray, we use the word of God, we use the name of Jesus, and we use the blood of Jesus - all in our attempt to attack, and these weapons are used by words through our mouth. Our words are to be creative words, and they are used in prayer, in praise, in testimonies and in preaching. But I believe the most important of them all is in prayer. I am afraid that many of our prayer meetings are a waste of time. We meet

together and we beg God to do this or that. We have a whole agenda of items that we bring to Him to ask Him to do whereas He has already defeated satan and He is not going to do any more work in the defeat of satan. The work is now ours. It is our responsibility to exercise our faith and divinely-vested authority in overcoming satan. We do this as we speak confidently that satan is defeated, and on that premise, issue orders which the enemy is compelled to obey.

### **The prayer of binding and loosing**

In spiritual warfare, the first aspect of prayer we want to consider is binding and loosing. In Matt. 16:19, Jesus said to Peter, *"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven"*.

By these words, Jesus conferred on Peter, the most tremendous spiritual authority to be exercised on earth. But it was really a manifestation of what has already been decided in heaven. The literal translation of that scripture is this:

*"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatever you bind on earth has already been bound in heaven: and whatever you loose on earth has already been loosed in heaven".*



This implication of this is that we have a responsibility to find out what the will of God is, and then to express God's will, using the prayer of binding and loosing. We are to make it effective by using our words as the voice of God to bind the enemy forces. Isn't this staggering! We have to adopt the attitude to truly put into operation what God has already decided to be done and then we take the action on it.

Let us at this point zero in on one particularly type of binding which is very relevant to our theme. This is what Jesus says about it:

*"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house" - Matt. 12:28,29*

Now, let us look at Luke's account of this same scripture:

*"When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armour in which he trusted, and divides his spoils" - Luke 11:21,22*

In this passage, the strong man refers to the devil and the house of the strong man refers to the entire humanity that has fallen under satan's power; while the Lord Jesus

Christ is the stronger man. In other words, Jesus has entered into the devil's house; He has entered into humanity, into the kingdoms of this world, and has disarmed satan; He has completely overcome him and is now dividing all his spoils among us. He is almost saying to us, Come in and help yourselves; satan is already disarmed and utterly helpless.

This, undoubtedly, is the inner meaning of Matt. 16:18, "*I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*". It means that satan can lock the doors of his citadel and kingdom as much as he likes with the desire to keep safe his goods inside, and to keep his captives inside. We, by prayer, can break down those gates, move into his kingdom, attack his strongholds, and deliver his captives - that is what that scripture means. But first of all, we are to bind the strongman.

This has a personal application in relation to problems. There are spiritual powers that are holding people in bondage, and our first operation should be to bind those spiritual forces, and to loose (set into operation) the power of God to liberate those men and women who have been held in captivity. The responsibility for the exercise and administration of spiritual authority has been placed upon the church. God has chosen a body of people to be His representative on earth, and that body must learn how to use prayers as a method of commanding the powers of darkness to obey the desires

and plans of God Almighty. We are to use prayers; we are to use words. God shapes the whole world through the prayers of His people.

The people of God must come to understand that prayer is not just begging God to do something; it is not trying to overcome any reluctance in God but rather, it is putting into operation what God has already decided in heaven. Prayers make it possible for God to move in the spirit realm to accomplish what He wants, and He cannot do without the prayers of the saints; He cannot do it without us. We have a critical function in executing the purposes of God. God inspires it; God plans it, and the answer is prepared before it is uttered, but it must be uttered by us to control events and control spiritual forces. We are absolutely failing God when we fail to recognise our spiritual authority in the heavenly places to put satan and his cohorts under control.

### **The high praise of God**

One of my favourite psalms is in Psalms 149, particularly from the fifth to the ninth verse:

*“Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to*

*execute on them the written judgment - this honour have all His saints. Praise the Lord!”*

I believe that our praises terrify satan even more than our prayers, but we are yet to fully understand the value, the purpose and the efficacy of praise. It is true that in most churches, we often begin our services by singing choruses, but those choruses, in many cases, are merely pieces of entertainment. They are not the high praises of God; they do not extol the virtues of Jesus Christ. They are not lifting up praise and honouring God. Praise is the highest occupation of angels. Heaven is full of praise.

*“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” - Rev. 4:8,10-11 [KJV]*

*“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of*

## II The Battle for the Nations

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*thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!" - Rev. 5:11,12*

This kind of praise goes on in heaven for all eternity, and when we engage in this level of praise and we praise God and worship the Lord Jesus Christ, then we are actually attacking the forces of darkness. It therefore means that praise forms part of prayer because it combines petition with faith. Praise is a solution to many of our problems because when we offer a sacrifice of praise, it opens a door for God to come in and work miracles. Praise is one of our greatest weapons.

### **The word of our testimony**

The word of our testimony is another powerful weapon available to us. May I direct your attention again to Rev. 12:11, which is another very favourite portion of mine. There, the scriptures speak of the overcoming of the dragon in heaven:

*"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they did not love their lives to the death" - Rev. 12:11.*

God is waiting for us to declare His victory and to declare that satan has been defeated. One of the usual moves that I make when I deal with people who are coming into

salvation or those who come for deliverance is to ask them to openly state that they are rejecting satan; to openly state that they are rejecting all his efforts in the past, all his attacks - to reject him openly, and to declare in their testimony that they are leaving him and are moving into the Kingdom of light. We do well to testify regularly. But let me point out that in giving testimonies, a good deal of time is misspent extolling and exalting the work of satan in our lives. This is a golden rule in warfare: do not magnify satan. Do not enlarge and dwell upon all the terrible things he's been doing in your life. Rather, magnify Jesus Christ and reject satan completely in your testimony.

God is waiting for a body of people who will arise; He is waiting for those who have known the power of the blood of Jesus Christ in cleansing, who have exercised themselves in the use of the power of the blood and the name of Jesus Christ to combat the enemy, and a people, who by their testimony and the high praise of God, shall execute vengeance upon the nations. This is what happens in the realm of the spirit when we continually testify of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us.

I have a habit that whenever anything unusual happens in my experience, I pause for a moment and I ask why. Why did that happen? Is it God trying to speak to me or is it satan trying to attack me? What is the meaning of that event? When I do this, I am able, most times, to check up

■ ■ *The Battle for the Nations* \_\_\_\_\_

and be quite sure that I am walking aright, and that I am not walking indifferently. Events in time have a way of being messages from God, so we need to be sensitive to interpret every single one of such events. That is the meaning and the story behind the book of Job.

## The Trials of Job

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**G**OD had a message for Job but Job did not know all that happened in heaven before all those disasters struck him. He was unaware of the contents of the first chapter of Job. God trusted Job, but Satan was trying to accuse God that He was buying the allegiance of men by the good things He gave to them. Satan insinuated that God served and blessed Job by giving him all that he needed, and thereby secured his worship, allegiance and faith. Satan wanted to challenge that, and God, who trusted Job, decided to accept the challenge. In fact, it was God who threw the first challenge at Satan, but Job did not know that. God's challenge to Satan was, "*Have you observed my servant Job?*" His integrity was beyond doubt - a man whom God



could trust. And satan accusation against God was this: *"Yes, but Job is only serving you because of what you're giving him. Take away the protection and you will see what a man can do"*.

God trusted Job, and accepted that challenge. It was a challenge that also put God's integrity at stake yet He accepted it. So He took away the protection that was over His servant Job, and allowed satan to bring trouble into Job's life. Satan then used war, bandits, death, disease, the breakup with his family, the weather and strange signs from heaven in his attempt to destroy Job's trust in God.

What was Job's response? We know that in the overall, Job maintained his trust in God but because he did not know anything at all about what caused his predicament, he, in his ignorance, made one or two rash statements in his defence. One of such statements he made in error was this:

*"And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." - Job 1:21.*

*Naked I came from my mother's womb - that is true; naked shall I return - that also is true. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away - that was where Job missed it. Job blessed God in spite of his tribulation, but he was wrong*

in assuming that it was the Lord who had taken away. God does not destroy; God is not a robber. The real robber is satan. Job did not know what we know today; that satan's job is to steal, kill and destroy; and God sometimes allows satan to take away things from us. God does not take them away. It is satan who takes them away. It is satan who brings disease; it is satan who brings trouble and disaster, but Job did not know all that. He however did not accuse God even though he simply made a wrong statement - *the Lord has taken away*.

Satan soon came again; that is his job - to always accuse the brethren. So the Lord asked him:

*"Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." - Job 2:3.*

And satan answered the Lord and said:

*"So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" - Job 2:4-5.*

That was satan's jibe; his accusation against God. And the Lord said to satan, "Alright, he's in your hand now. But you

can't touch his life - that belongs to me." Satan then went away from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job's body. Satan is, in most cases, the author of sickness. He was the one responsible for Job's affliction; and Job sat in the ashes and scraped his sores in his misery. His wife soon came and said a strange thing. She became an instrument to bring doubt into Job's life. She said, *"Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"* (vs. 9).

Job's response to her was his next big mistake. He said, *"You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"* (vs. 10) In other words, Job was implying through that statement that God was the author of his evil. That is wrong; God is not the author of evil. God is the author of good. And Satan was used by God to prove the strength of Job's faith.

### **Trials are to make you stronger**

Let me digress a little bit in order to answer a question asked severally by many Christians. Reading further about Job in Job 29, one would see that God's anointing rested upon Job and he was greatly respected because of his spirituality and willingness to minister. It was Job's knowledge of spiritual things, the blessings of God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit in his life that marked him as one who was capable of standing up to the battle.

Otherwise, God will not allow satan to test somebody who is too weak to be tested. Here is a scripture to validate that:

*"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." - 1 Cor. 10:13*

God is faithful. He does not allow satan to meddle unnecessarily with His children. If you are having difficulties, problems and trials in your life, it probably means that God is allowing satan to test you and that can be an instrument to make you stronger.

### **Signs of the end**

May I point out something: the weapons satan used to assault Job are also referred to in the Gospels as signs of the end and the Lord's second coming: war, strange relationships, strange weather and signs in heaven. These signs in the midst of prosperity and worldwide evangelism are spoken of in Matt. 24:7-14 & 29-30, and show that the end of this age is very close and more and more of the people of God will be put under tests and trials. In fact the scriptures say that if God does not intervene, satan intends that the very elect should be deceived (Matt. 24:22). We know what satan is trying to

do, and we know that in the end time, his difficulties will increase, and he will turn his attack upon the saints of God, and to cause trouble to come into our lives.

Nevertheless, we are to be aware of his devices, and we are to use our God-given Holy Ghost anointed ministries, the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit and our spiritual weapons to deal with the enemy and attack his strongholds. We are to use the weapons that the Lord has given us to defend ourselves and to turn difficulties into triumphs, and to turn depression into praise. By praising the Lord, by praying and testifying of the victory of Jesus, we are teaching the enemy a big lesson.

In these next few years, there is going to be a significant increase in the number of men and women - mainly young people in Nigeria - who are going to learn the art of attacking satan; who will recognise satan's work and ministry in the lives of men and women, and are going to be taught by the Holy Spirit to deal with that. We protect ourselves by studying the word of God; we protect ourselves by giving our testimony, by praising the Lord, by putting on the breastplate of righteousness, by walking in the ways of the Lord and by not moving from under His covering and canopy.

We can then turn from defence into attack. We can attack satan's operations in the lives of our colleagues, in the lives of our families, and the lives of people around us.

We can then move to a higher level of offensive warfare by attacking the spiritual authorities that are moving behind the people in charge of government departments and ministries in the nation; and eventually, we can take the offensive to the level of the nation as a whole.

Meanwhile, there is much to be done. By a widespread increase in evangelism, we are attacking the forces of darkness. By preaching that Jesus Christ is Lord, by mass evangelism, by house to house evangelism, we are attacking sin; we are attacking sickness; we are attacking demonic powers and weakening their influence over lives and territories. When we make it known that we are willing to pray for people, people will seek us out for prayer. I have a constant stream of people coming to see me who know that I can detect where satan is moving in their lives and that I have the answer. I know how to deal with satan, and I have, through the power of the Holy Spirit, delivered hundreds of men and women in Nigeria.

God is eager to increase the army of deliverers in this country -men and women who are dedicated to serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Having been delivered themselves, they are beginning to move out of the defensive into an attack position against satan. Armed with their offensive weapons, they go after men and women who are firmly in satan's grip, bringing them out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.



## The Last Days' Conflict

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**I**N these last days, there will be intensification of the war between satan and the Lord's people on earth. The battle line is drawn between satan, his demons, his principalities and powers, on one side; and an elect army of the Kingdom, on the other side. Those who make up this army have learnt how to deal with satan, and are prepared to take the battle to the gates of the enemy, and to dethrone him and assert the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. May I draw your attention to a verse in Daniel:

*"I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a*

*judgment was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.” - Dan. 7:21,22*

As we move towards the end of this dispensation of grace and begin to move into the dispensation of the Kingdom, there will be a greater realisation of the real meaning of the gospel of the Kingdom. Believers will begin to practically declare and assert the government and the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ on the earth to rule and reign; they will declare that the Kingdom of Heaven is coming back again to the earth to be established and they will move valiantly into attacking the usurper of authority in the earth.

Consequently, satan will turn his special attention to us, and there will be war with the saints. Now there are various ways in which this war will be carried on. The greatest and most important aspect of it will be in the spread of wrong doctrines and false spiritual experiences in order to deceive the saints. Men are commanded to test and prove all doctrines and experiences in the supernatural realm to see whether they are of God or of satan. That is the reason for the gifts of discerning of spirits. We are to recognise and check up everything that supposedly comes from God to see if it is coming from satan.

It is certain that every religion, doctrine and experience



among men cannot be of God. We know of many in this country who have been misled strangely by a side-experience or a doctrine that is taken out of its context or timing. Some are right in their doctrine but wrong in their timing, and there is great danger in this. The knowledge of truth is very paramount in the warfare against satan. There is great danger when believers accept anything and everything in the realm of the supernatural as being from the Lord. We are to know that satan will try to duplicate what God is doing. I have seen many miracles but I've also noticed that satan tries to duplicate even the supernatural. I have known and heard several prophecies from the Lord, but I have also noticed, heard and checked prophecies which are not from the Lord. Therefore, the army of God, the elect of God, the people who are moving into authority with God and over satan are going to be the definite target of satanic attack.

### **Detecting a wrong spirit**

There are different ways outlined in scripture by which we can detect what kind of spirit is seeking to move and work amongst us. If we neglect to study the word of God, if we remain in ignorance concerning these matters, we may fall prey to one of satan's demons. It must be realised that ignorance is no excuse when dealing with evil spirits. In fact, ignorance is one of the major ways satan and his forces use to enslave people. It accounts for the widespread success of various counterfeit doctrines and

spiritual manifestations introduced by satan into the churches today. But any doctrine that inspires doubt or unbelief about anything taught in scripture, or denies them altogether, is from satan and his fallen angels. Here are five ways to check up the spirit behind a manifestation or teaching. Note that any religion, doctrine, power, influence or any inclination that:

1. Denies the divine inspiration of the bible
2. Casts doubt upon the actual reality of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ in the scriptures, that casts aspersion upon the Lord's virgin birth and His deity, that attempts to discredit His miraculous power and supernatural ministry, or that denies His atoning death and His bodily resurrection from the dead and His ascension into heaven (these are the seven fundamental truths about Jesus Christ in the bible)
3. Causes one to become passive, inactive or submissive in the work of the Lord
4. Attempts to approve sin or compromise or to ignore the necessity of repentance and holy living
5. Compromises, lessens or reduces the standard of righteousness

--- is certainly not from God but the devil actually at work, seeking to put lies into the minds of men and to bring them into bondage. We must stand our ground against yielding to the spirit of error. The Holy Spirit can

be recognised as working in the lives of individuals where there is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

### **Whom the heavens must receive until...**

We are to recognize that there will be war on the saints until a particular conditioned is fulfilled:

*“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” - Acts 3:19-21*

Note that this scripture does not only concern unbelievers; it concerns the believers as well. One of the great signs of the new move of God in these last days is that believers, ministers, long-time serving men of God will begin to come under a fresh conviction of the Spirit. They will begin to recognize that much of their life and ministry for the Lord has been human, carnal and not of the Holy Spirit and there will be weeping and great repentance.

This act of genuine repentance will subsequently pave the way for God to send King Jesus Christ who is currently

being 'detained' in the heavens until the fulfilment of all that God has spoken through prophecy since the world began. The Lord Jesus Christ is in heaven, waiting for the completion of all that the prophets have said. One of those things He is waiting for is that the enemy shall be made His footstool, and He is looking towards us - His body on earth, the elect company on earth, the militant army on earth, the portion of the body that is recognizing their own authority, and are moving in to deal with satan and to control him - to accomplish this.

That is what the Lord is waiting for at the moment. All over the world, God is pouring out His Spirit upon His people, and moving them into greater realms of activity in the Holy Spirit, into greater realms of revelation, and particularly, releasing more accurate understanding of the doctrine of the Kingdom - the doctrine of the restoration of the authority of man, through Jesus Christ on the earth, over the powers of darkness and over the nations. I want to deal particularly with the authority and the battle with the nations in my next message, but God is definitely moving us forward. There is a great need for us to realize that there is much territory to be possessed. Much of the enemy's power must be exposed as not being real power; much of the enemy's plans and deceit must be exposed, and we have the responsibility to assert that Jesus Christ is Lord on the earth, and to counter satan's plans. We've got to exercise our God-

given authority to deal with it.

We can do this by praising God at anytime and at every time; praising Him and declaring that the Lord reigns, and that His Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour and our Deliverer is seated on the throne in heaven, having triumphantly overcome all the powers of satan. We must declare that He has fully paid for the sins of the entire world, and has been raised from the dead triumphant by His Father; and that He is now seated on the throne far above all powers and all authority in heaven and on earth; and that He has given that power and authority to us and we can demand that satan should recognize it and obey us.

We can then move on to demand that our communities, cities, states and the nations of the earth, likewise do the same. We are the winners. We are the victors and we must begin to exercise our God-given authority, by prayer, demanding satan's obedience; by quoting the word of God, stating and affirming publicly as loudly as we can, the truths of the bible and the victory of Jesus Christ.

In the strength of our declaration of faith, we can then go into battle against the devil, being led by the Holy Spirit and using the gifts that He has given to us: the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom, faith, the working of miracles, gifts of healings and the discerning of spirits.

We then move in to dispossess devils of their captives, delivering men and women, young and old, towns and villages, cities and nations. We move on in the power of our high praises to God, claiming our protection daily by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, asserting that we are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and affirming the positive at every moment.

We are never to dread the foe, regardless of the fact that we read that he will make war with the saints and will prevail over them for a period - we know that in the end we shall be victors and out of the battle, we will emerge a company of victorious men and women who are being trained in the exercise of authority on the earth; in the exercise of authority over the principalities and powers occupying our territory in the heavenly places until they are thrown out. We have got to learn how to exercise that authority on the earth, and then to praise God, to move in and occupy the territories, and turn to the nations and speak to them, saying, "The Lord reigns!"

*Part Two*

**THE BATTLE  
FOR THE NATIONS**

*Dethroning the satanic powers  
that rule from the heavenlies*

## Who Governs The Nations?

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**M**ANY Christians today are unaware of their responsibility and their privileges as regards the world and the nation. But in these last days, we shall be witnessing a major increase in the level of awareness of Christians about their responsibility towards their own nation. This is not limited to Nigeria alone but applies to all the nations of the world, because God's work is for the nations. We are told in John 3:16 that God so loved the world that He gave. And, of course, He rules over the nations. This established truth is repeated several times in the scripture. Psalms 93:1 says, "*The Lord reigns*". Psalms 97:1 says "*The Lord reigns*". Psalms 99:1 says "*The Lord reigns*". In Psalms 24:1, we are told that "*The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the*



*world and those who dwell therein."*

Right now, I want to deal with our responsibility towards the nations, and particularly in relations to satan's operations and work in the nation of Nigeria. The great problem of the world today is not economics, it is not religion, neither is it poverty. The great problem is: *who governs the nations?* The ongoing crisis in Nigeria today borders on this same question, who governs Nigeria? I do not speak of any particular political party. I know that there are various people and certain political parties that will step forward and claim that they govern Nigeria. Certain people will step forward and say they have been elected by the people, and as such, they govern Nigeria.

But we know that as far as the unbelieving world is concerned, the real power lies in the spiritual, and satan today is governing the nations from the heavenly seat and centre of authority - but that must not continue. God is not going to allow satan to rule His nation and His world. This is what I wish to deal with and to show how we must recognise and embrace our responsibility towards this Kingdom vision.

### **Authority lost and restored**

In the first message in this series, we discussed and discovered Lucifer as being the created angel of God. Before his fall, he was God's delegated authority over all the earth. Consequent upon his rebellion and eviction

from heaven and that esteemed position, God unfolded another plan: He created man in His own image, with His own hands; and then out of Adam, He created Adam's wonderful partner and wife, Eve. And concerning both of them, God declared, "Let them have dominion; let them rule; let them reign; let them exercise authority; let them subdue the earth and control it" (Gen. 1:26-28). And so, prior to his tragic fall, Adam was the number one king of the earth; he was the number one authority of the whole of the earth. God delegated it so - and God does not change His mind.

We know, of course, that satan came in, tempted Eve and Adam, and they fell and forfeited their divinely-vested authority. God then turned and found Abraham to whom He gave authority, and made very lofty promises concerning his seed to be a blessing to the whole world. Then He turned to Moses and chose Moses as His authority over a whole nation - the nation of Israel.

We know, of course, that Abraham died without seeing the fulfilment of all of the promises of God. Similarly, Moses did not lead the children into their inheritance; and so, we discover that God had to step into the arena of man's failure to unveil His master man. This was a great plan God had in heaven which satan knew nothing about.

When God brought forth His man - Jesus of Nazareth; satan's anger and envy knew no bounds. He (satan) tried

in every possible way to kill Him as a babe but failed repeatedly; God protected Him. The little child grew and became a man, fully dedicating Himself to the authority of God and the call of God on His life. When Jesus Christ came out of the waters of baptism in the River Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove and He was thereafter driven straight away to meet satan, the usurper of the authority of the kingdoms of this world. God used Jesus Christ - the man - to challenge the authority of satan, the fallen angel. That was the beginning of the end of the road for satan.

### **Authority manifested**

Jesus won the battle in the wilderness, and from there moved to the whole of Palestine, challenging the authority of satan over men and women. Jesus Christ forgave sins, a thing only God could do - since the sins were against God. But Jesus of Nazareth was God manifested in the flesh; so He exhibited, manifested and demonstrated His authority by forgiving sins. He demonstrated His power and authority over sickness; no one who came to Him in faith ever went away unhealed; He healed them all - the blind, the lame, the paltry, sick in body and the weak in mind. Whoever came in faith, touching Him and asking in faith, always received from Jesus Christ, because He had the authority.

Satan doesn't have the authority anymore. Jesus Christ

could speak to a girl and raise her from the dead; He could speak to a young man and raise him from his coffin. He spoke to Lazarus who was already in the grave and satan had no choice but to release him. Jesus Christ defied the authority of satanic powers, because He had greater authority. He never in any way worried about them. He rebuked them; He cast them out; they acknowledged His authority and they obeyed Him. Jesus Christ demonstrated that He had the complete authority over all the powers of darkness, over all the evil powers and over all the problems of His people - social, economic and political. He had power in the nation, and they knew it.

The time came for Jesus Christ to go back again to heaven, having completed the work of atonement on the cross. He then gathered His disciples round Him, and in words they did not understand, He said, "All authority now has been given to Me and I'm giving it onto you. Go now into all the world and preach this same message, delivering the people and exercising the authority that I have, because I'm giving it to you."

The leaders, the twelve apostles, did not understand all that He had taught them for about forty days after His resurrection. They then asked him, "Won't You at this time restore the kingdom to (natural) Israel?" In response, He told them it was not for them to know the times and the seasons. You see, they had a small mind

that limited God to just the nation of Israel. God's plan, however, was for the whole world because God came to save the whole world.

So Jesus Christ went back to heaven. He had to go back to heaven in order for the third Person of the Trinity, the mighty Holy Spirit, to come to fill and equip a corporate man - the body of believers on earth called His body. They became baptised with the fullness of the Holy Spirit just as He had filled the Lord Jesus Christ, so that that body is now God's representative on earth, manifesting the power, the love, the life, the character, the order and government of Jesus Christ the Lord on earth.

### **Commissioned with authority**

Now, that body has been sent out by God with authority on earth to deal with the problems of the earth; to deal with the kingdom of darkness; to cast out demons; to forgive sins; to heal the sick; to deliver the captives, and to exercise authority and power over all other power.

Looking at the church today, we have so far understood that we can preach the gospel and talk about the wonderful changes that await anyone who truly accepts the gospel. But we are always careful to refer it again to what Jesus Christ can do. I want to change that word: Jesus Christ has already done it; now, it is our own turn to do it. Jesus Christ said, *"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are*

*retained*" (John 20:23). We have been given authority, and as long as we are moving in submission to the authority of the Holy Spirit, ours is the right and responsibility to exercise the authority of forgiving sins and retaining sins. God is training a body to exercise authority; though we are yet to fully comprehend the import of this, God, nonetheless wants us to exercise full authority and to dethrone satan.

Take note that God has not dethroned satan; Jesus, indeed, defeated and completely overcame satan, but at the present moment, he has been allowed by God to operate from the heavenly places, and we have studied and learnt that the heavenly places where satan is enthroned is the headquarters of the powers of darkness. From there, those evil spiritual powers are operating against the nations, governing the nations, causing trouble, chaos, turmoil, riots, confusion, wars, diseases, and all the evils that are rampant and growing in intensity in the world today. They originate from the throne of satan in the heavenly places.

We have been commissioned by God to fight and wrestle against satan, to turn him out, to unlock the gates of hell and let the captives go free, to dethrone satan from his position as the ruler of the powers of the nations of the world, and to take back that authority. Shall I, again, remind you of the scriptures: Psalms 93:1 says, "*The Lord reigns*" - not satan. Psalms 97 says, "*The Lord reigns*" - not

the powers of darkness. Psalms 99 says, *"The Lord reigns, let the whole earth tremble, let the heavens be glad."* And Psalms 96:10 says, *"Say among the nations - announce it to the nations, make a bold declaration to the nations that - the Lord reigns!"* - That is our message.

Our message is not merely a matter of *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved."* Of course, that is true; but we don't halt at that one tiny bit. We have a much bigger message and commission. We are here to dethrone satan, to cast him out, to establish the Kingdom of heaven on earth, and to establish the rule, the reign and the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ over all the nations. And Jesus Christ is going to have that authority because when He ascended into heaven, God His Father said:

*"Seat at my right hand till I make all your enemies your footstool"* - Psa. 110:1

That includes everything that has raised its voice in rebellion against God. This same Psalm is quoted in two other books of the New Testament: Acts of the Apostles and Hebrews. The Lord Jesus Christ is seated on the throne already crowned in heaven as the king of heaven and is waiting for the time when His enemies should be made his footstool. Who do you think will make those enemies His footstool? God intends that His body - the church triumphant on earth - should cause all His

enemies to bow, for in the name of Jesus, every knee should bow. This is our work, and I want to draw your attention to this great work.

One other aspect that interests me greatly which I want to look at is in Psalms 2:4-5.

*"He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure"*

God, in this passage, is speaking and laughing at the efforts of the nations to join themselves together in a united nations confederacy against the Lord and against His anointed. God laughs, and His answer to all their machinery, to all their planning and all their arrangements is, *"I have set My King* (that King is the Lord Jesus Christ, the crowned King of heaven) *on my holy hill of Zion"* (vs. 6). His holy hill of Zion is His church today - the body of Jesus Christ. That is where God has set His King; that is where God has established His authority; that is where God means to manifest His authority.

God has established the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ in the body of the Lord on earth, and He expects that the body as a whole should manifest the authority, the government and the dominion of the successful Man, Jesus Christ, now seated on the throne in heaven and worshipped by the crowns of heaven. God wants Him worshipped also by the crowns of all the nations and



■ ■ *The Battle for the Nations* \_\_\_\_\_

kingdoms on earth and has given the body on earth the task of bringing all enemies to be made His footstool.



## The Nations For Your Inheritance

.....

**I**N order to appreciate the right of the Lord Jesus to rule, as well as the extent of His Kingly authority, over the nations, we will find - in Psalms 2:8 - God the Father saying to the Son:

*"Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession." - Psa. 2:8*

Ask of me: God placed a blank cheque before Him. Remember that Jesus Christ, during His temptation in the wilderness, was offered the kingdoms of this world by satan. He refused them because what He needed to do

was to go to the cross and pay the debt of rebellion of the nations against God, wipe out that debt, go down into Hades, claim the keys of death and hell from satan the usurper who had taken them by deceit, release the captives, take some of the captives back again to heaven and then give gifts to men to govern His body on earth.

He has asked His Father and has received all the kingdoms, the nations and the peoples of the world as His inheritance. He inherited all the promises of Abraham; He inherited all the promises made to Israel. He inherited all the promises of His father, king David - and those promises to David are royal promises; promises of an eternal throne, of an everlasting kingdom, mentioned in Daniel chapters seven and ten. And Jesus Christ has inherited all the promises made to Adam; He became the Son of man and so inherited all the promises of Adam. He became the Son of Abraham and inherited all of Abraham's promises; He became the Son of King David, the royal throne of Israel and so inherited all the royal and regal promises of the kingship.

So Jesus Christ is now King of the whole world. But He is not content to remain alone as King, He wants a body of people - His body - to rule and reign with Him. We need to understand clearly that whatever Jesus Christ inherited, we inherited likewise. We are not going to heaven as beggars. I am not a beggar today. I am a royal priest, a royal king having been brought into relationship

with the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Romans 8:17 says God has made us joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

### **Joint heirs on the throne**

This means that whatever Jesus Christ inherited, that also is our inheritance. Note that it does not say co-heirs but joint heirs. There is a difference between the two. He does not just share His inheritance with us; what He has inherited, we also have inherited. What belongs to Him belongs to me. And He cannot do anything with His inheritance without my consent because His inheritance is my inheritance. So if Jesus Christ has inherited the nations, that means we have equally inherited the nations as well.

Does that make you gasp? Does that make you realise what your relationship is to Nigeria? You may be a beggar in Nigeria; you may not own any property. You may, like me, not own any land in Nigeria but by virtue of my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, I am a joint-heir with Him to the nation of Nigeria; Nigeria belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Beloved, this is not some mere pious hope. This is not just wishful thinking. He has inherited the nations as a gift from His Father, and Jesus Christ wants to share that inheritance with His people. Regardless of the fact that I was not born in Nigeria, by virtue of my relationship with

the Lord Jesus Christ, I share His inheritance, and part of His inheritance is the nation of Nigeria. So I am responsible for Nigeria. And beyond that, I have been left here on earth to find a body of people, to teach them their inheritance, and to train them to take over their inheritance.

Remember that their inheritance is the nation of Nigeria; and more than that, the nations of the world, but let us handle Nigeria at the moment, particularly at this great crisis period in the history of Nigeria. We are facing a national election in the coming year. And we have been worried and troubled as we have seen the various political parties maneuvering together to gain power. They do not realise the real power behind the throne in Nigeria. They do not realise that satan, his principalities and powers have established authority over the nation. They have their authority and prince in charge in Abuja. They have a prince in charge of Aso Rock, Abuja and the Government House in every state capital.

We may elect men as governors, but the real authority, the real centre of power is the powers of darkness. The governor of the state may decree many things but they can't stop the turmoil and confusion of economic disasters, of failures, of riots of trade union unrests. They cannot stop all that because those are stirred up by principalities and powers whose job is to cause strife, wars and confusion.

So the real centre of power is in the heavenlies, which, at the present moment is controlled by satan. But Jesus Christ has completely defeated satan; Jesus Christ has completely disarmed satan. He however has allowed him to remain where he is, exercising a measure of authority, and is waiting for the time when satan and all his powers will be made His footstool. The people who are going to bring satan down are the body of Jesus Christ - it is a body and that body is composed of men and women who are born again, filled with the Holy Ghost, and have been brought into covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and with one another, and are exercising corporate authority to deal with satan and challenge his right to cause confusion.

### **Taking responsibility**

May I tell you that that is where we are in Nigeria today. Nigeria is our inheritance. There are far too many Christians in Nigeria who having been born again, having recognised that they are citizens of heaven, are too anxious to get out of this world because of the way that the world is using them. So they want to get out of the world and get into heaven and stay in heaven. But that is not the will of God.

These Christians excuse themselves and say a believer should not entangle himself with the affairs of this world. That is quite correct. They are quick to quote II Timothy

2:4 which says: *"No one serving as a soldier entangles himself with the affairs of this world"* - that could mean the politics of this world. We agree with that; we are not arguing about that. We are not inviting you to take part in politics. We are not inviting you to become part of the world system. And we know that when they say satan is the god of this world, they are indeed quoting the scripture.

*"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out."* - John 12:31 [KJV]

The prince of this world referred to in the scripture above, indeed, is satan and he thinks he is in control. But he has been defeated and he has been disarmed. He is not the prince owning it all but he is the prince causing all the confusion in the world system. The world in that scripture refers to the world system. We are not to love the world system (I John 2:15) but we must love God's world. God so loved the world (John 3:16) but He does not love the world system. Satan is the god of this world system - this world present system of politics, government, economy and so on.

Today, many Christians are arguing politically for or against the various ideologies. Some say Democracy is the right form of government. Many African nations are finding a brand of socialism which is suited to their own nation. Others are finding a totalitarian state and a

dictatorship as the government, as the right government. Half the world today is governed by one man or a group of men in a totalitarian system - a dictatorship.

May I tell you that Democracy is not God's way. A well-known American said that the government of the people by the people for the people is God's plan of government. That is not correct. We have learnt by experience that we cannot govern ourselves. God has set His king on His throne upon the holy hill of Zion. He has caused Jesus Christ to be recognised as the King of kings and the Lord of lords; and the Lord Jesus Christ is not going to sit down in heaven forever. He will come back again to this earth to take up the government of this world, and He will rule and reign over the nations of this earth for at least a thousand years, and Rev. 5:10 says we are going to come with Him and we are going to reign here as kings and priests.

At the present moment, we may appear as if we are nobodies, but really, we hold the centre of power. In our hands lies the power to control Nigeria - only we have not realised it. Gradually, slowly, Christians are becoming aware of the extent and magnitude of their authority in Christ; and God's expectation for us in these last days is that we should recognise that authority and rise up to deal with the powers of evil causing so much confusion in Nigeria, in our precious God-given inheritance - our dear



nation, Nigeria.

Now, does that mean we are to join political parties? I do not suggest that. But it does mean that we are to deal with the enemy. And you don't deal with the enemy by a ballot box. You don't deal with the enemies by guns or armies. You deal with the enemy by exercising spiritual authority; the spiritual power given to us by the Lord Jesus who has now been raised and given all authority above all the powers on earth. He is raised above the heavens and now seated on the throne, possessing all authority and all power over all governments, over all nations and over all powers that think they are exercising authority - and that includes satan and the powers of darkness.

Jesus Christ has defeated them, and has passed to us that same authority and He is eagerly watching together with the angels in heaven, to see how far His body on earth, who has been given authority, will understand their authority and exercise that authority. Ephesians 2:6 says *"God has raised us up together to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."* Jesus Christ further promises that the overcomers in His body shall sit with Him on His throne, exercising authority - in Rev. 3:21. God plans that Jesus Christ alone shall not be the sole occupant of the throne of the universe; the throne of the universe shall be occupied by men and women who have learned how to exercise authority.



## Qualifying for Kingship

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**W**E have talked about God's wonderful plans and provisions for us to rule and reign with Christ on the throne. However, I do not think that the whole church will sit on the throne. I do not think every born-again believer will exercise authority, because God is not going to entrust the authority over the nations into the hands of babies. And so we have got to learn how to exercise authority and how to qualify to live on the throne and exercise authority from the throne because when we come back again into this earth, we will come back with the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings.

But note that He is a man and He will be restricted to His own throne in Jerusalem, when He comes back.

Therefore, He will have His delegated authority in Nigeria, men and women who have learned how to exercise authority - and of course, most of those people will be Nigerians - born again Christians who have learned how to exercise authority particularly in relation to dethroning, rendering null and void the power and authority of the powers of darkness operating in Nigeria.

Now, I said most of them will be Nigerians, but not all, because I have an idea that I also shall be among them even though I am an English man; an English man who has learned how to exercise authority in Nigeria - for in God's Kingdom, there is no colour, no race, no tribal difference - we are one in Jesus Christ. And when I come back again with Him, I anticipate that I will be allocated a responsible position of authority and government in Nigeria because I have been associated with Nigeria for forty-five years. I have learned of the problems, I know how to deal with them - and though I have no vote, and do not wish to vote in Nigeria, yet I know how to exercise authority over the powers that have usurped God's authority in Nigeria, and we know how to deal with them.

How then do we deal with those in authority in the powers of darkness? There are those who are recognising this truth about our authority in Christ and our responsibility for the nation. And they are meeting together in prayer meetings and are exercising authority and commanding satan and telling him what to do. Their

desire is good; their ambition is correct; their objective is noble yet they have not learned some very simple but fundamental principles in connection with the training for authority.

### **Basic principles for reigning**

You are not put on the throne the moment you are born. I do not think I can overemphasise this point: God is not going to trust the government of the nation into the hands of babies. They must be men and women of maturity who know how to handle authority. That means we have got to be trained. A son of the king in the king's palace is still subject to his tutors; he is still subject to those who are training him, despite the fact that those who are training him are not sons but servants. The servants are used to train the sons, and the sons have to learn what it means to govern and what it means to be a king. It is a very special privilege and, at the same time, an awesome responsibility. Not every one of us can occupy a throne. God is teaching us how to be kings. That means we have to undergo a very long series of training lessons.

First of all, we must learn how to govern ourselves, for if we cannot govern ourselves, we have no right to claim authority over anybody else. There are still a large number of Christians, many who are baptised in the Holy Ghost, who are still being used by satan and are still being controlled by him. When they rise up and utter a

word of authority over satan, satan laughs and slaps them down. They can't rule themselves, how much more rule satan. He has too many rights to come into their lives and control them. We have to learn to find out every area that is not submitted to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to surrender ourselves hundred percent to the Lord Jesus Christ, to be led and controlled by the Holy Spirit, and to learn how to govern ourselves.

Having learnt self-government, we must then learn how to govern our families. Family government in Nigeria is in a very sad state. The relationship between a man and his wife is not fully understood, and there are many Christian marriages that are on the verge of collapse. They are certainly not patterns of what God would have; where a woman usurps the authority of her husband, and does not realize her true authority. She recognizes and asserts that she has equal rights with her husband. But that is not what God wants.

God has established authority in the family and in His view, the husband is the head of the family and whether the husband likes it or not, and is able or not, God holds him responsible to exercise authority in the family. The wife is a joint heir with her husband to the inheritance of each family, but she is only second and she must realise that there is only one head. However, by virtue of her love and submission, she can even exercise a greater authority in the family than her husband. Her husband is the voice

but she is the brain; she is the mind; she is the moulder of the family.

When we exercise our rightful place in the family, then God will lead us on how to exercise authority in our workplaces, in our businesses, in our world connections; and to govern the powers of the world that are operating behind our businesses. Many businesses today are in serious financial difficulties because they have not learned how to let God into their businesses. They are running their businesses in a worldly way and satan governs them. Questionable business practices are going on and God has withdrawn and is not taking part in that business. It may prosper financially, but it will not prosper spiritually and the people who are running that business will not be able to learn how to manage it and eventually satan will seek to interfere and cause confusion and will spoil it.

So we have got to learn how to govern ourselves; we have got to learn how to govern our families; we have got to learn how to govern our businesses and our government departments - we have got to exercise spiritual authority in these different sectors of life. When we have learned how to exercise spiritual authority, only then can we turn to the nation.

### **Corporate body authority**

You see, we don't turn straight away to the nation. God

wants us to recognize certain basic principles, and one of them is this: not one single individual is responsible for Nigeria; it belongs to the body of God's people in Nigeria. It belongs to the Lord and to the Lord's body in Nigeria, and God is not going to allow any one Christian to exercise total authority in the nation; it must be a corporate body authority.

In view of this, we have got to learn how to join ourselves together. In these next few years, there's going to be a new aspect of Christian relationships which is going to come into prominence. I call it covenant relationships. We must therefore learn how to join ourselves together and how to find those with whom we can share like interests. Those interests may be in regard to our nativity; perhaps we are both natives of the same town or village. Then we can take responsibility for the spiritual warfare in that town/village.

We are responsible to dethrone satan in our towns and villages so that Christians in the same village can get together to exercise their God-given authority to challenge satan's right to govern, and to step-by-step challenge his authority, to exercise our authority over him, to tell him what to do, to prevent him from doing things and command him in the name of the Lord Jesus to obey. We are to exercise that authority for our villages, for our towns and for our cities. And when we have got to the state level, maybe we will be qualified to stand as a

corporate body in Nigeria to challenge satan's operations in the nation of Nigeria.

For those of us who are prepared to come together in covenant relationships in order to exercise corporate authority over our nation, let us understand that we all do not have to be from the same tribe - we certainly are not - but we belong to the same family. We are brought into relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and we must recognize that we have power, the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, over the enemy and we are going to commit ourselves to learn how to dictate our terms to the enemy. Satan will not rule Nigeria - this is our verdict.

### **Prayer for the nation**

In regard to the nation, may I direct your attention to the first epistle of Paul to Timothy:

*"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." - I Tim. 2:1-4*

That is a command from Paul to his disciple, Timothy; and I want you to note certain important things. One of the



basic principles of prayer is prayer for the nation. In fact, he says, first of all. Paul is speaking to a body of Christians gathered together. So he says when you gather together, first of all, pray for the kings and those who are in authority - in other words - for the government of the land. It is the will of God for us to pray for those in government.

What should be the content of the prayer? That we should live a quiet and a peaceable life in all godliness, and in God's time and in God's will, He will establish an authority and a government in Nigeria that will enable us to live peacefully, honestly and enjoy good governance in Nigeria. Let us recognize this; God owns Nigeria, God loves Africa, very, very much indeed, and Nigeria is too good a godly land, too good an inheritance for us to sit down and allow satan to govern Nigeria.

So one of the greatest progress and events which we will record in the next few years in Christendom is that we will learn how to exercise authority over satan in our own lives, within our families, in our businesses and our occupations, in our villages and our people who are still in darkness. We will begin to demonstrate practically our authority over satan; we will bind him and stop him from keeping our people in darkness; we will attack his strongholds of evil and darkness and liberate the captives - that is our job. We will then go on to dictate to him and command him to take his hands off Nigeria, and

stop him from operating and causing wars and distress and killings and economic disasters in Nigeria. That power is waiting for us to exercise. That authority belongs to the people of God.

May God help us in the body to rise and realize that we are not merely commanded to cast out demons; we have been given authority over satan: *"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you"* (Luke 10:19). All the power of the enemy includes the government of the nations. We shall declare to the nation of Nigeria, the Lord reigns! The people will turn to us and look to us for a demonstration of what that good government should be. We are going to establish the government of righteousness and every child of God placed by God in government positions must recognize they are there to assert the standard of righteousness, that they are representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ in the place where God has given them.

Let us be careful we do not rush in where angels feared to tread. Let us be cautious in our approach. But let us be firm in our faith in the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has defeated satan completely. Jesus Christ has disarmed satan completely and satan is only being allowed to operate until the Lord Jesus Christ has got a body on earth that is just like Himself in manifesting His life and His character and His love, manifesting His power

in the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, manifesting His government and authority on the earth over all the powers of evil, that includes satan. The time is coming, very, very soon when Rev. 12:10 will be actually heard: And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven; the heavenly people will be shouting out:

*“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” - Rev. 12:10-11*

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- Our message is not merely a matter of *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved."* We have a much bigger message and commission: to dethrone satan, to cast him out, to establish the Kingdom of heaven on earth, and to establish the rule, the reign and the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ over all the nations.
- At this great crisis period in Nigeria's history, we are facing a national election in the coming year. And we have been worried and troubled as we have seen the various political parties manoeuvring together to gain power. They do not realise the real power behind the throne.
- When I come back again with Him, I anticipate that I will be allocated a responsible position of authority and government in Nigeria because I have been associated with Nigeria for forty-five years.
- No one single individual is responsible for Nigeria; it belongs to the body of God's people in Nigeria. And God will not allow any one Christian to exercise total authority in the nation; it must be a corporate body authority.

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