

THE SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

- I. Tug of War
 - A. School
 - B. Back and forth struggle
 - 1. Pulling and tugging
 - 2. Exertion of strength
 - 3. Gritting your teeth & digging in your heels
 - a) Eventually one would win and one would lose
- II. What is described here?
 - A. There is a battle
 - 1. Two contestants
 - a) Michael the Archangel - God's highest angel
 - b) Satan - the chiefest of the fallen angels
 - 2. A battle between good and evil
 - a) What is this battle waged over?
 - b) A battle that is waged over mankind
 - B. Michael
 - 1. As the Archangel, probably took the position vacated by Satan
 - 2. Daniel -

3. Descend with Jesus at the day of the Rapture
4. Will ultimately cast down Satan Rev.12:7
 - a) Has a past filled with victory over Satan
 - b) Has a future filled with victory over Satan

C. Satan

1. Used to be the Archangel
 - a) Tried to exalt himself to God's level
 - b) Was cast down out of Heaven
 - c) Was the cause of Man's fall from grace
 - d) Will eventually be destroyed by God

D. The Battle

1. How do they fight?
 - a) They contend, they struggle, back and forth like a tug of war
 - (1) But Michael does not bring an accusation.
 - (2) This means that he does not rely on his own strength to beat Satan
 - (3) He calls on the Lord to rebuke Satan
 - (a) Satan was never humble and that's what got him tossed out of Heaven

E. The Body of Moses

1. Literal body - Moses burial site is unknown
 - a) God took him up Mount Nebo to die. God had other plans for Moses body
 - (1) He appears with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration

(2) He appears in the book of Revelation as one of the two witnesses

(3) The Devil was trying to disrupt God's plan

(4) Perhaps he was trying to set Moses up as an idol

2. Figurative Body - the Jewish Nation

a) God's chosen people

b) The Devil was always trying to pervert that nation

c) They would do good, then fall out with God, then repent and be restored,

3. Figurative Body - the Church

a) We are God's chosen people

b) The devil is constantly trying to disrupt the body of Christ

c) He would love to sow discord among us, or cause us to stop reaching our world

4. Figurative Body - Mankind

a) The Devil's ultimate goal is to enslave as much of mankind as he can in a web of sin

b) He wants to destroy as many souls as he can in Hell.

III. Today

A. The Battle

1. Even though we can't see it, there are spiritual struggles taking place.

Ephesians 6:12 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.

- a) There are spiritual forces at work in our city, state, country, and world.
- b) Daniel - Guy that threw himself into the water - Herd of Swine -
- c) We cannot overcome them by our own power. We must call on the name of the Lord.

(1) We must rebuke them in Jesus name

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

(2) Prayer and fasting

B. Individuals

- 1. The devil wants to destroy God's plan for your life
 - a) God has a ministry for you
- 2. The devil wants to stop your victory
- 3. The devil wants to steal you away and destroy your soul in hell
- 4. You cannot stand up to him on your own

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

- 5. You must humble yourself and call on the name of Jesus

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord

- a) That's why Satan was cast out and can never win
- b) He was unwilling to humble himself and call out to God
- c) Are you willing to humble yourself today?

d) Do you want to win your spiritual struggle?

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.