

The Great Deception

*How To Keep From Falling Away in the Last Days
(Part 10)*

By Pastor Grant Williams



Ephesians 6:11-13 AMPC

11 Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

12 For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

13 Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].

Despotism defined:

noun, the exercise of absolute power, especially in a cruel and oppressive way: A country or political system where the ruler holds absolute power. Authority unlimited and uncontrolled by men, constitution or laws, and depending alone on the will of the prince;

Ephesians 6:11-13 KJV

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

*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**.*

*13 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.*

How do we **withstand**? Read the Word daily, believe (faith in) the Word, speak the Word and act on the Word. Faith is an action, obedience to God's Word and can't be separated.

James 2:17-24 AMPC

17 So also faith, if it does not have works (deeds and actions of obedience to back it up), by itself is destitute of power (inoperative, dead).

18 But someone will say [to you then], You [say you] have faith, and I have [good] works. Now you show me your [alleged] faith apart from any [good] works [if you can], and I by [good] works [of obedience] will show you my faith.

*19 You believe that God is one; you do well. **So do the demons believe and shudder [in terror and horror such as [a]make a man's hair stand on end and contract the surface of his skin]!***

20 Are you willing to be shown [proof], you foolish (unproductive, spiritually deficient) fellow, that faith apart from [good] works is inactive and ineffective and worthless?

21 Was not our forefather Abraham [shown to be] justified (made acceptable to God) by [his] works (**acts of obedience**) when he brought to the altar as an offering his [own] son Isaac?

22 You see that [his] faith was cooperating with his works, and [his] faith was completed and reached its supreme expression [when he implemented it] by [good] works.

23 And [so] the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed in (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on) God, and this was accounted to him as righteousness (as conformity to God's will in thought and deed), and he was called God's friend.

24 You see that a man is justified (pronounced righteous before God) through what he does and not alone through faith [through works of obedience as well as by what he believes].

26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

11 Now faith is the substance of **things** hoped for, the evidence of **things** not seen. ("Things" defined: God's Word, Promises in God's Word, Words that have already been spoken by God.)

Romans 10:17 AMPC

17 So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).

John 1:1 AMPC

1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.

We need to put on the whole armor of God which is our equipment that is needed to not only defend but to take ground against the enemy or giants in the land and to stop sinning. These giants (as we studied the first few parts of this series) prevented Israel from entering the promises of God because they wouldn't conquer them (representing: their own sin, fear of doing what is right and the repercussions, weary or embarrassment of the past, frustration with the present circumstance personally and externally). So what did they do?

They went in circles and Moses was content which in the Hebrew means he settled. He let his past and the frustration of what was currently happening stop him from doing God's Plan.

Exodus 2:21 AMPC

*21 **And Moses was content** to dwell with the man; and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.*

Other translations said he settled there. It was acceptable to him or willing to stop or willingly acceptable.

He knew at some point he had to push through, by faith, by taking action and responding to the burning bush. No more settling, no more living in the past and allowing the past to control him. He even named his son Gershom which meant this is temporary where and how I am living.

*22 **And she bore a son, and he called his name Gershom [expulsion, or a stranger there]; for he (Moses) said, I have been a stranger and a sojourner in a foreign land.***

It wasn't until he took action and turned, he finally made up his mind and said today is the day. He knew God had more for him to do and that is why he said, "I will now do it".

Exodus 3:1-3 AMPC

1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the back or west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb or Sinai, the mountain of God.

2 The Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, yet was not consumed.

*3 And Moses said, **I will** now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.*

Remember what Paul told the church...

Philippians 2:13 AMPC

*13 [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], **both to will and to work** for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.*

Exodus 3:4-11 AMPC

4 And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush and said, Moses, Moses! And he said, Here am I.

This armor is for the End Times battle we are in and not just for ourselves but for others who satan is trying to prevent from going to Heaven. Paul gives great detail on the purpose of the armor...

Ephesians 6:14-20 AMPC

14 Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God,

15 And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.

16 Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].

17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit [d]wields, which is the Word of God.

18 Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

19 And [pray] also for me, that [freedom of] utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news (the Gospel),

20 For which I am an ambassador in a coupling chain [in prison. Pray] that I may declare it boldly and courageously, as I ought to do.

You and I, the Priest and Kings that God's Word speaks about are to put on the whole armor. Paul also tells us it is going to be spiritually difficult to be a christian at the "Time of the End" or "Last Days"... we need the whole armor !

2 Timothy 3:1 KJV

1 This know also, that *in the last days perilous times (spiritually difficult times) shall come.*

2 Timothy 3:1 AMPC

1 But understand this, that *in the last days will come (set in) perilous (spiritually difficult) times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].*

These spiritually difficult times include what is happening in the Church, in government, education, media, sports, medicine and with our friends. This is the harvest time "shaking" and is the revelation of the "wheat and the tares" that Jesus said would happen at the Time of the End. These "things" are what is trying to deceive, tempt and destroy you and I. You and I as followers and imitators of Christ need to be obedient to God's Word regardless of what is going on around us.

There are many who have been strong in the faith but are now choosing to live in a lifestyle of sin, or live in fear, listen to false teaching, becoming weary, etc. We need to ***renew our mind*** on the Word and ***gather ourselves together*** as the time for Jesus to return is very soon.

Romans 12:2 AMPC

2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

Hebrews 10:22-27 AMPC

22 Let us all come forward and draw near with true (honest and sincere) hearts in unqualified assurance and absolute conviction engendered by faith (by that leaning of the entire human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness), having our hearts sprinkled and purified from a guilty (evil) conscience and our bodies cleansed with pure water.

23 So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.

24 And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities,

*25 Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, **but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.***

26 For if we go on deliberately and willingly sinning after once acquiring the knowledge of the Truth, there is no longer any sacrifice left to atone for [our] sins [no further offering to which to look forward].

27 [There is nothing left for us then] but a kind of awful and fearful prospect and expectation of divine judgment and the fury of burning wrath and indignation which will consume those who put themselves in opposition [to God].

As followers/imitators of Jesus Christ, we need to keep our guard up, not live in fear or worry, get rid of the sin, meet together and hear A WORD, a penetrating, life changing Word! We need the MEAT of the Word for “such a time as this” in order to withstand what is going on in our lives and in the world.

Matthew 10:16 AMPC

16 Behold, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; be wary and wise as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and [without falsity]) as doves.

Why would Jesus say this? Remember, Paul told us it would be spiritually difficult to be a Christian and Jesus tells us He needs us to be His witnesses and make disciples but know this, it will be difficult so you need to know the characteristics of the enemy and to put on the whole armor.

Being wise as serpents and innocent as doves - that’s what Jesus told us to be. Why? Why did Jesus say this? Because the enemy is crafty, subtle and at the End of Time, he is becoming more and more bold.

Satan is using people, laws and leaders in both the Church and government to deceive, lead people away from the truth and make them weary with no hope. How is Satan doing this? He is lying to you and I and is using the Church and government to spread the lie. Satan is a liar!

Matthew 10:16 wise as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and [without falsity]) as doves

The serpent is a very sharp sighted, cunning creature, and uses various strategies for its own preservation, and especially of its head; it is to be imitated by the followers of Christ, as to make use of all proper methods to preserve themselves from the insults and rage of men, and not expose themselves to unnecessary dangers: they should be careful to give no just occasion of offense, or irritate, to avoid all snares and traps that are laid for them; and, at the same time, maintain the innocence and harmlessness of the dove, being free from all wicked cunning and craftiness, without bitterness, hate and wrath; not meditating and seeking revenge, but meek and humble in their deportment, leading inoffensive lives, and proceeding in the course of their calling, though liable to many insults, and much oppression.

We went through the story of Jezebel, Ahab and Elijah and I want to go back to 2 Chronicles as we study God's Word tonight on this "End Time" **Lying Spirit** that is prevalent and see what God has to say about this. I'm not saying if someone lies that they are possessed by an evil spirit - no, but you are sinning. I'm talking about a lying spirit in the supernatural sphere and in high places that Paul referenced in Ephesians 6.

What we are going to look at is how God set it up to cause a change in a political system in ancient Israel. In ancient Israel as God began to establish kings to rule, there would be times when a good king would come into power. When the good king took over, he began to destroy the idols and clean up the corruption. As a result of doing what was right or righteous, the nation would begin to turn and prosperity would return to the nation as well. Prosperity in all areas of your life to do His plan.

Often, when Israel got back into great prosperity however, they would turn away from God. Then, when they would turn away from God, an evil leader would come.

As we have studied God's Word in our Sunday night series, we know that one of the ways that God judges a nation as we've seen in the Old Testament is He gives the nations a bad leader. When He gives them a bad leader, the people blindly follow...

Matthew 15:14 KJV

14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Matthew 15:14 AMPC

14 Let them alone and disregard them; they are blind guides and teachers. And if a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a ditch.

So, what happens is a nation begins to have economic problems, natural disasters and all kinds of things that really don't make sense but they have a negative effect on the people in the nation.



This is what happened to Israel. There was a time in the history of Israel, in the land of Samaria, that a couple came to power that we have studied in the past. His name was Ahab and her name was Jezebel.

1 Kings 16:29-31 AMPC

29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri began his reign of twenty-two years over Israel in Samaria.

30 And Ahab son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all before him.

31 As if it had been a light thing for Ahab to walk in the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, he took for a wife Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and served Baal and worshiped him.

We have studied Jezebel and her characteristics that the Bible says to look out for both in the Old and New Testaments at the Time of the End. She went after and killed the prophets of God and so did her daughter... stop God's Word about judgement.

You and I still have to decide to sin or not. Are we going to give in, are we going to allow satan to deceive us into sinning, to twisting God's Word, to live in fear, to settle? You and I are born into sin but we don't have to stay there. Jesus became the sacrifice for you and I so we no longer have to walk or be slave to it. But when we do sin He is faithful and just to forgive us.

1 John 1:9 KJV

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In the story of King Ahab and Jezebel (remember she was a very dominant personality and manipulated people all the time) she knew her husband wanted some land. One of the things that Jezebel did was set up the man to be killed, signed papers in her husband's name to get this property under a false pretense. This innocent man was set up & killed just so they could own the property.

1 Kings 21:1-19 AMPC

1 Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, close beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria; and after these things,

2 Ahab said to Naboth, Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near my house. I will give you a better vineyard for it or, if you prefer, I will give you its worth in money.

3 Naboth said to Ahab, The Lord forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you.

4 And Ahab [already depressed by the Lord's message to him] came into his house [more] resentful and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him; for he had said, I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers. And he lay down on his bed, turned away his face, and would eat no food.

5 But Jezebel his wife came and said to him, Why is your spirit so troubled that you eat no food?

6 And he said to her, Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, Give me your vineyard for money; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard for it. And he answered, I will not give you my vineyard.

7 Jezebel his wife said to him, Do you not govern Israel? Arise, eat food, and let your heart be happy. I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal and sent them to the elders and nobles who dwelt with Naboth in his city.

9 And in the letters she said, Proclaim a fast and set Naboth up high among the people.

10 And set two men, base fellows, before him, and let them bear witness against him, saying, You cursed and renounced God and the king. Then carry him out and stone him to death.

11 And the men of his city, the elders and the nobles who dwelt there, did as Jezebel had directed in the letters sent them.

12 They proclaimed a fast and set Naboth on high among the people.

13 Two base fellows came in and sat opposite him and they charged Naboth before the people, saying, Naboth cursed and renounced God and the king. Then he was carried out of the city and stoned to death.

14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth has been stoned and is dead.

15 Then Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite which he refused to sell you, for Naboth is not alive, but dead.

16 When Ahab heard that, he arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite to take possession of it.

17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel in Samaria. He is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to possess it.

19 Say to him, Thus says the Lord: Have you killed and also taken possession? Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your blood, even yours.

Remember, Jezebel was an idol worshipper (holding things of higher importance than God), and she was also into the occult (of, involving, or relating to supernatural, mystical, or magical powers or phenomena).

John is telling us in Revelation to watch out for the Spirit of Jezebel in the Church at the Time of the End and Paul tells the Church this about Satan in 2 Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 AMPC

13 For such men are false apostles [spurious, counterfeits], deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles (special messengers) of Christ (the Messiah).

14 And it is no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light;

15 So it is not surprising if his servants also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. [But] their end will correspond with their deeds.

1 Kings 16:31-34 AMPC

31 As if it had been a light thing for Ahab to walk in the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, he took for a wife Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and served Baal and worshiped him.

32 He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria.

33 And Ahab made an Asherah [idolatrous symbol of the goddess Asherah]. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel before him.

King Ahab was very strange. One moment he is hanging around false prophets and the next minute he was hanging around prophets of God. King Ahab wanted to do the right thing one minute and then he does the wrong thing the next.

1 Kings 16:33 AMPC

*33 And Ahab made an Asherah [idolatrous symbol of the goddess Asherah]. **Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel before him.***

1 Kings 16:33 GNT

*33 He also put up an image of the goddess Asherah. **He did more to arouse the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than all the kings of Israel before him.***

He did more to provoke God or make Him angry because of the evilness and wickedness that they were involved in than any other king.

This is where the story becomes very interesting...we, you and I, think that sometimes when nations elect or appoint leaders (it doesn't matter if it's Israel, Canada or the United States) we think it's by luck that they get into position.

In Daniel chapter 2, this is what God says..

Daniel 2:21 AMPC

21 He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding!

Daniel 2:21 GNT

21 He controls the times and the seasons; he makes and unmakes kings; it is he who gives wisdom and understanding.

God's Word says that He has control over everything and even motivates the hearts of some people towards a specific direction in certain cases for His will to be done. How do I know that?

We have studied “End Times” and have identified the 10 nations and 7 kingdoms from Revelation and the book of Daniel. In Revelation 17 God tells us something about this...

Revelation 17:1-18 AMPC

1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls then came and spoke to me, saying, Come with me! I will show you the doom (sentence, judgment) of the great harlot (idolatress) who is seated on many waters,

2 [She] with whom the rulers of the earth have joined in prostitution (idolatry) and with the wine of whose immorality (idolatry) the inhabitants of the earth have become intoxicated.

3 And [the angel] bore me away [rapt] in the Spirit into a desert (wilderness), and I saw a woman seated on a scarlet beast that was all covered with blasphemous titles (names), and he had seven heads and ten horns.

4 The woman was robed in purple and scarlet and bedecked with gold, precious stones, and pearls, [and she was] holding in her hand a golden cup full of the accursed offenses and the filth of her lewdness and vice.

5 And on her forehead there was inscribed a name of mystery [with a secret symbolic meaning]: Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes (idolatresses) and of the filth and atrocities and abominations of the earth.

6 I also saw that the woman was drunk, [drunk] with the blood of the saints (God’s people) and the blood of the martyrs [who witnessed] for Jesus. And when I saw her, I was utterly amazed and wondered greatly.

7 But the angel said to me, *Why do you wonder? I will explain to you the [secret symbolic meaning of the] mystery of the woman, as well as of the beast having the seven heads and ten horns that carries her.*

8 *The beast that you saw [once] was, but [now] is no more, and he is going to come up out of the Abyss (the bottomless pit) and proceed to go to perdition. And the inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been recorded in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world will be astonished when they look at the beast, because he [once] was, but [now] is no more, and he is [yet] to come.*

9 *This calls for a mind [to consider that is packed] with wisdom and intelligence [it is something for a particular mode of thinking and judging of thoughts, feelings, and purposes]. The seven heads are seven hills upon which the woman is sitting;*

10 *And they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one still exists [and is reigning]; the other [the seventh] has not yet appeared, and when he does arrive, he must stay [but] a brief time.*

11 *And as for the beast that [once] was, but now is no more, he [himself] is an eighth ruler (king, head), but he is of the seven and belongs to them, and he goes to perdition.*

12 *Also the ten horns that you observed are ten rulers (kings) who have as yet received no royal dominion, but together they are to receive power and authority as rulers for a single hour, along with the beast.*

13 *These have one common policy (opinion, purpose), and they deliver their power and authority to the beast.*

14 *They will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will triumph over them; for He is Lord of lords and King of kings—*

and those with Him and on His side are chosen and called [elected] and loyal and faithful followers.

15 And [the angel further] said to me, The waters that you observed, where the harlot is seated, are races and multitudes and nations and dialects (languages).

16 And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will [be the very ones to] hate the harlot (the idolatrous woman); they will make her cheerless (bereaved, desolate), and they will strip her and eat up her flesh and utterly consume her with fire.

17 For God has put it into their hearts to carry out His own purpose by acting in harmony in surrendering their royal power and authority to the beast, until the prophetic words (intentions and promises) of God shall be fulfilled.

18 And the woman that you saw is herself the great city which dominates and controls the rulers and the leaders of the earth.

Wait, God has put it in their hearts to carry out His will? The 10 Kings of Bible prophecy, the ones who will be led by the antichrist? God will get them to fulfill His purpose or will?

Nothing happens by accident when you are speaking about these prophetic events, judgements or anything regarding God's Word or Promises. Sometimes, God allows someone to come into a position to allow certain "things" to happen to provoke the people to respond in a different way to change things.

God decided to bring Ahab down. One of the most amazing spiritual warfare passages you will find is in 2 Chronicles Chapter 18. King Ahab is going to battle and King Jehoshaphat, the King of Judah is with him.

2 Chronicles 18:1-5 AMPC

1 Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor, but was allied [by marriage] with Ahab.

2 After some years he went down to Ahab in Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance and for the people with him and persuaded him to go up with him against Ramoth-gilead. 3 Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead? He answered, I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will be with you in the war.

4 And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, Inquire first, I pray you, for the word of the Lord today.

5 So King [Ahab] of Israel gathered together the prophets, 400 men, and said to them, Shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear and they said, Go up, for God will deliver it into the king's hand.

King Ahab gathers 400 prophets, they were on the payroll. When King Ahab wanted assurance if he should go to battle he would ask and they responded, “you’re going to win!” But, King Jehoshaphat had something to say about the paid prophetic words spoken to please the King.

2 Chronicles 18:6-8 AMPC

6 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not another prophet of the Lord here by whom we may inquire?

*7 King [Ahab] of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, There is another man, Micaiah son of Imla, by whom we may inquire of the Lord, **but I hate him, for he never has prophesied good for me, but always evil.** and Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.*

8 And King [Ahab] of Israel called for one of his officers and said, Bring quickly Micaiah son of Imla.

2 Chronicles 18:6-8 GNT

6 But Jehoshaphat asked, “Isn't there another prophet through whom we can consult the Lord?”

*7 Ahab answered, “There is one more, Micaiah son of Imlah. **But I hate him because he never prophesies anything good for me; it's always something bad.**” “You shouldn't say that!” Jehoshaphat replied.*

8 So King Ahab called in a court official and told him to go and get Micaiah at once.

So, the King that was ruling God’s people, locked up the only prophet in the kingdom at that time, Micaiah. Why did he have him locked up in a dungeon? Why didn’t he want everyone to hear the Prophet or mouth piece of God? Because he was giving him a bad report, a reproof, Godly counsel, being negative to what the King wanted to do... don’t tell people about sin or judgment.

What I’m talking about is not just political, having to do with a one world government, but a one world religion that is shutting down the men and women of God from speaking the truth.

So they took him out of the dungeon and said, “you speak good to the King - you tickle his ears”. So King Ahab asked him what do you see? He responded “go to battle and you will win”. King Jehoshaphat said, no, what did you see...

2 Chronicles 18:12-15 AMPC

12 The messenger who went to call Micaiah said to him, Behold, the words of the prophets foretell good to the king with one accord. So let your word be like one of them, and speak favorably.

13 But Micaiah said, As the Lord lives, what my God says, that will I speak.

14 And when he had come to the king, King [Ahab] said to him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go up and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand.

15 And the king said to him, How many times shall I warn you to tell nothing but the truth to me in the name of the Lord?

The prophet says ok, this is what God showed me...

2 Chronicles 18:18-19 AMPC

18 [Micaiah] said, Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host (angels) of heaven standing at His right hand and His left.

19 And the Lord said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said this thing, and another that.

2 Chronicles 18:18-19 GNT

18 Micaiah went on: "Now listen to what the Lord says! I saw the Lord sitting on his throne in heaven, with all his angels standing beside him.

19 The Lord asked, 'Who will deceive Ahab so that he will go and get killed at Ramoth?' Some of the angels said one thing, and others said something else,

God is asking His angels who is going to go out and entice Ahab so he will die...

We are getting insight into decisions made in a heavenly counsel room - this is a meeting with God and the angels that are going to affect earth.

2 Chronicles 18:20-21 AMPC

20 Then there came a spirit and stood before the Lord and said, I will entice him. The Lord said to him, By what means?

21 And he said, I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets. And the Lord said, You shall entice him and also succeed. Go forth and do so.

This is what the prophet then says to King Ahab and the 400 false prophets...

2 Chronicles 18:22 AMPC

22 Now, you see, the Lord put a lying spirit in the mouths of your prophets; and the Lord has spoken evil concerning you.

Then in verse 23 you have a false prophet coming up to Micaiah

2 Chronicles 18:23 AMPC

23 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and smote Micaiah upon the cheek and said, Which way went the Spirit of the Lord from me to speak to you?

This false prophet (representing 400 false prophets) didn't want to hear the one true prophet. This is what God had to say - He was calling out the false prophets. False religion leaders (and government leaders). You and I may feel outnumbered, we may think what is going on can't change and we are in the minority but...

In order to bring about the fall of King Ahab, God allowed a lying spirit in the administration. The lying spirit that came to them made them think that they were going to win but they weren't.

From governmental leaders, business leaders, church leaders ... they have fallen because of lies. So, is it possible that certain individuals like Ahab and Jezebel who have their own ideas, thinking they are going to win battles, but God sets up a lying spirit so that there is a trail of lying and it is the lie that brings them down? Yes.

Once again, you and I may feel outnumbered, we may think what is going on can't change and we are in the minority but... from work situations, people speaking against you and lying, from government to Church - God is in control and He is working His plan. He is for you and not against you!

1 John 4:4 KJV

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

2 Kings 6:17 KJV

17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Proverbs 28:1 KJV

28 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

So, what did Jesus do after the death of John the Baptist? what did He do when He needed to get back to God's plan? He went off into a solitary place, a wilderness place... not to get alone with his plans for avoiding God's plan but to hear God's voice or His Plan. Getting alone to go over your plans allows the enemy to speak to your weakness, that is not what the wilderness is for. It is where God ministers to you and strengthens you for His Plan.

Jesus got away to spend time with the Father. It was to renew His strength. Jesus had taken time, 40 days in preparation for His ministry or God's plan. He was taking time off to get strength for the next step in His walk with God, to fulfill God's plan, to do God's will.

It is the will of the Father to always minister to people. So Jesus, Who was full of compassion or full of the Holy Spirit, first began to minister to their weaknesses or infirmities. Then, a hunger came upon them. While in the wilderness, spending time with Jesus who will meet all your needs, they became hungry.

When you get away with God in the wilderness you become hungry, and His Word says ***“taste and see that the Lord is good.”*** Jesus said sit back, relax and let me feed you or minister to you.

Remember, something happened to Jesus’ friend John...he was killed. The Holy Spirit then led Jesus alone in the wilderness because something different now had to happen, something was going to change. As Jesus was alone with the Father, He came out of that time of fasting and prayer with compassion or driven by compassion, and then He ministered to everyone.

This power, this anointing on Jesus, His willingness to do God’s plan and not His, led him on a great adventure. The miracles kept getting greater and greater, He instructed others to do the same. He walked in His anointing and trained the disciples to do what He did. They worked together in the anointing.

This great adventure that Jesus was on is the same for you and I. All power and all authority is now given to us to do that which Jesus did, even greater things. When we fast and pray, we come out of that season of wilderness with His power, full of His strength, because it’s not me doing the work, it’s the Father within - He’s doing the Work. I’m just a willing person doing His will....**I will, we will, now go and see, and do, by Faith!**

Luke 1:37 AMPC

37 For with God (following His plan and not mine) *nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment.*

