

Thou Shalt Be Brought Down to Hell

Isaiah 14:15 – 16:14

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~ Our Spiritual Safari concluded the last leg of our expedition through the entire Bible with the origin and evolution of evil; the creation of Satan himself. It was Satan who instigated evil and sin, friends; make no mistake about that. The age-old questions of exactly how sin originated, and what sin is, continues to confound the thinking of many Christians. Well, Satan didn't go out and get drunk, or steal God's gold; and he didn't kill a saint. No, Satan's sin can be summed up in a single word: *P-R-I-D-E*! To reduce pride to its lowest common denominator, God defines sin as anything contrary to His will as expressed in His Word. So, if we do not understand the Bible properly, correctly and completely, then we may be sure that we are sinning in total and complete ignorance of pride with every breath we take.

Satan was created an angel of light and, today, he can still transform himself into an angel of light. That's second Corinthians chapter eleven verse fourteen, by the way. Ezekiel tells us that Satan was "*full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*" Satan was given a free will that could choose whatever morality he desired. Well, when one is given those privileges and opportunities, pride is going to threaten to lift that person up and cause them to set their will against the will of God; it simply cannot be otherwise. In our last report, we concluded by examining the five "*I will's*" Lucifer declared. If you have not read our previous report, I suggest you go back and do so now. In this report, let me warn you up-front: it is not going to sit well with the average Christian.

Satan's plan and purpose is not to be *different* from God, friends; no, he wants to emulate God closely. In fact, the devil wants to *BE* God! Any creature that puts their will before the will of God puts themselves in the place of being their own god; and we have a whole lot of men roaming to and fro on the face of the earth today doing exactly that. That's the entire problem with the human family in a nutshell. All we like sheep have gone astray *FROM THE WILL OF GOD*. Every single one of us has turned to our

own way. That's mans way; and there are only two ways: God's way and man's way. There is no other way. That's exactly what Jesus meant when He said, *"I am the way..."* Because Jesus also added, *"...you are either for Me or you are against Me."* No man comes to the Father in Heaven but by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lost or saved – you are in God's universe, and living in the year of the Lord – A.D. - Anno Domini. You may be a rank atheist who refuses to even discuss the possibly of God, but you could no more escape those truths than you could fly to a distant galaxy and start your own universe. Frankly, even if you *COULD* fly to a distant planet, and start your own universe – God *IS ALREADY THERE*. We are subject to Him. He answers no one. We use His sunshine and breathe His air. He never sends us a bill for furnishing those basic needs. We are His creatures and we owe Him a whole lot, just for today; in fact, we owe Him everything. That, by de facto, mandates we obey Him if we desire any form of blessing in our lives. Jesus said, *"if you love Me, keep My commands."* If you don't love Him, forget it. Friends, it's simply not inherent in mankind to obey the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ and walk in obedience to Him! Willful rebellion, and a perpetually pious pride that leads away from God, are the default position of the character of natural man. Unless ye be born again, ye shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, friends....

XIV

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

~ So, God is going to judge sin, my beloved; and a severe judgment it shall be. Notice that Satan is a *MAN*. I have had more than one unhappy discussion with others regarding whether or not Satan was a man, or some

spiritual being. Well, Satan is a *MAN*, according to Isaiah in verse sixteen. Now, if you do not believe the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God, that's your prerogative – but don't tell me what the Bible teaches, when you don't believe it. Satan is a *MAN* who set his will against the will of God.

Now, wrapped up in all of this is a plan and purpose God is executing; a plan beyond the thinking of any person down here on earth – including this poor Bible teacher. Honestly, because I am always honest with you dear readers, it's not our place to question that plan; it is our place to trust Him and obey Him. God is prepared to extend mercy, grace, and love to all who will trust Him; but we'll have to accept salvation, or reject it. The choice is ours. If you choose not to decide, you still have made the choice; and indifference is rejection. That's the way it is; irrespective of whether you understand it, believe it, accept it, like it – or not....

18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house.

19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet.

20 Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.

21 Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.

22 For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.

23 I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.

24 The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

25 That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.

~ God is pronouncing judgment upon Satan and the nations of the earth in this section of Scripture. Babylon and Assyria were both being controlled by Satan; but with the overruling dominion of God Almighty! That's a paradox that is almost *IMPOSSIBLE* for even the reasonable, thinking man to accept. But it's not impossible. Remember, Satan offered the Lord Jesus the kingdoms of the earth during the temptation — if Jesus would simply bow down to him. So, we can know very definitely that the kingdoms of the earth were, in fact, Satan's to offer. Jesus didn't rebuke the devil on that basis. No, friends, behind the workings of every single kingdom, country and nation of this present world is Satan and his forces of evil. Oh, I *KNOW* this is not an easy truth to read; but it is one tremendous revelation — at least, to me it is. Frighteningly, if you have ever been to the ruins of Babylon, or seen pictures of it, then you'll know exactly how literally these last seven verses have been fulfilled. Terrifyingly, there is coming another Babylon and another Tower of Babel to this earth in the future — which represents an organized and concerted rebellion against God Almighty — and God will, once again, come down and Personally render His final judgment *IN THAT DAY*, just as He did in the Book of Genesis. Turn all of this over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with....

26 This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

27 For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

28 In the year that king Ahaz died was this burden.

~ When Ahaz died, it actually brought about the second burden in this section of burdens. Remember, Ahaz had reigned for sixteen years and was

a wicked king who had offered his son as a human sacrifice. Naturally, although they were delighted to get rid of old Ahaz, the children of Israel were also worried that another — even more evil king — would succeed him. Of course, there was a remote chance of getting a good king — and they *did* get a good one — King Hezekiah; and Hezekiah was likely the *BEST* king Judah had next to David. Unfortunately, things did not get better during the reign of Hezekiah — with the exception of a Godly revival in the land; but the *WORST* kings in the southern kingdom of Judah were yet to follow. See, we need to understand that the mere rule of man can never bring about any improvement in this world whatsoever. In the United States, we gullibly exchange presidents and parties every four or eight years naïvely thinking we are going to make an improvement. Well, no improvement has been made at all throughout our short existence; it's been downhill all the way to the bottom that we have reached today — but I digress — somewhat....

29 Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.

30 And the firstborn of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety: and I will kill thy root with famine, and he shall slay thy remnant.

~ Before the Kingdom blessings come, there will be severe judgment by God Almighty. This section of Isaiah looks down into the future, when the antichrist comes, during the Great Tribulation period. Now, for the sake of a complete Bible study, I recognize there are many Bible teachers who do not believe this is a burden at all — but it *IS* that — because God just told us it is that in verse twenty-eight. Furthermore, the name “*Palestina*” is quite interesting; because it refers to those who named the land that we currently know as Israel. The ones who named the land were the Philistines. They had come up the coast out of Egypt, and had slipped into the land in the early days. Remember, they were the ones occupying the land when Israel arrived after their own exodus from Egypt. Well, we know they were not there in the days of Abraham, because it was called Canaan; it was the *Canaanites* in that day. So, four hundred years later, the Philistines had come into the land and taken over. When we get to

Zephaniah and Zechariah, we'll discover specific prophecies against the Philistine country. Those prophets declare that Escalon and Ashdod - and all of the seacoast towns - were to be destroyed; and that was literally fulfilled. So, this seemingly benign judgment was actually the fiercest judgment of them all....

31 Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and none shall be alone in his appointed times.

32 What shall one then answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it.

XV

1 The burden of Moab. Because in the night Ar of Moab is laid waste, and brought to silence; because in the night Kir of Moab is laid waste, and brought to silence;

~ That brings us to the third judgment; which is that of Moab. Although this is a brief chapter, we have three subsequent chapters to follow that all deal with Moab. That has always seemed very strange to me because we only have two chapters regarding Babylon — which was the first great world empire — and only a partial chapter concerning Assyria. In contrast, Moab seems like small potatoes. I don't think anyone regards Moab as having ever been very important. Well, from the time as far back as Joshua and David, and up until Isaiah's day, this was a tremendous kingdom; an extremely formidable foe to the nation Israel. Moab was an inveterate and persistent enemy of Israel for centuries. You may recall that the history of Moab goes back to the time of Lot. Moab was the offspring of Lot, through the incestuous relationship with his eldest daughter, which produced an illegitimate son. Moab was the nation whose king, Balak, hired Baalim to curse Israel because Balak was desperately afraid when they passed through his land.

Of course, a very lovely story comes from a Moabite named Ruth. This little maiden of Moab was definitely a wonderful person and outstanding

Bible character. I think every Christian loves Ruth! Of course, this means David was part-Moabite! Further, when Saul was chasing David, David took Jesse, his father, back to the land of Moab to remove him from harm. I'm sure they had relatives in Moab that could help them. I don't think most people realize the fact that these Moabites, who ultimately became the enemies of the children of God, reveal the Bible has some sordid stories within.

Today, there are no Moabites running around; they and their nation has completely disappeared. The Moabites spiritually speak of people who are very close to being Christians, friends. They were *ALMOST* persuaded; just as Felix and Festus told Paul after they had heard the Gospel, "*ALMOST didst though persuade me.*" Almost – but not quite. That is the Moabite man and woman. They weren't far from the kingdom; in fact, they were as close as neighbors could get – but they didn't make it in. All they wanted to do was fight against Israel. The land Moab possessed is the modern Hashemite kingdom of Jordan; and Jerusalem was in that kingdom, prior to the six day war, when the borders were restored to their original places concerning the Jordan River.

The modern-day Moabite likely sits next to you in your church. They parade in all the pomp and circumstance of a so-called Christian. They are the one who Paul wrote about when he said, "*... they have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof.*" Further, Jude describes them as apostates. While they pretend to be Godly, they are as ungodly as one can possibly be. They are rank sinners, and always murmurers – and the gossip they spew is more deadly than any poison known to mankind. Modern Moabites are complainers who walk after their own lusts. Their mouths speak great swelling words of self-righteousness and sickening self-serving religious philosophies. They love the admiration and advantage of flattering men; but they only flatter when they need something in return. However, the moment they realize you aren't playing their game, they turn on you like a rabid dog.

Moab was an extremely dangerous friend to have. They could never be trusted in any way, shape or form. They have no inclination of turning to the Lord Jesus Christ as the sinners they are. I, Andrew C. Hunt, advise you

dear readers, as Paul did: turn away *fast* from such a one; because the judgment and destruction of Moab came as quickly as a lightning strike in the night. Assyria wiped them from the face of the earth in an instant. In fact, what happened to Moab was so terrifying that Isaiah's heart actually cried out in *sympathy* for them in verse five. See, in spite of people's sin today, God still loves them, and He offers to extend mercy to them. All they have to do is turn to Him. I suggest you all read this report and the remainder of chapter fifteen and sixteen - and the details thereof - very, very, very carefully; because it has all been literally fulfilled – and it just may be *YOUR* life that is at stake....

2 He is gone up to Bajith, and to Dibon, the high places, to weep: Moab shall howl over Nebo, and over Medeba: on all their heads shall be baldness, and every beard cut off.

3 In their streets they shall gird themselves with sackcloth: on the tops of their houses, and in their streets, every one shall howl, weeping abundantly.

4 And Heshbon shall cry, and Elealeh: their voice shall be heard even unto Jahaz: therefore the armed soldiers of Moab shall cry out; his life shall be grievous unto him.

5 My heart shall cry out for Moab; his fugitives shall flee unto Zoar, an heifer of three years old: for by the mounting up of Luhith with weeping shall they go it up; for in the way of Horonaim they shall raise up a cry of destruction.

6 For the waters of Nimrim shall be desolate: for the hay is withered away, the grass faileth, there is no green thing.

7 Therefore the abundance they have gotten, and that which they have laid up, shall they carry away to the brook of the willows.

8 For the cry is gone round about the borders of Moab; the howling thereof unto Eglaim, and the howling thereof unto Beerelim.

9 For the waters of Dimon shall be full of blood: for I will bring more upon Dimon, lions upon him that escapeth of Moab, and upon the remnant of the land.

XVI

1 Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.

2 For it shall be, that, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon.

3 Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth.

4 Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.

5 And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.

6 We have heard of the pride of Moab; he is very proud: even of his haughtiness, and his pride, and his wrath: but his lies shall not beso.

7 Therefore shall Moab howl for Moab, every one shall howl: for the foundations of Kirhareseth shall ye mourn; surely they are stricken.

8 For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vine of Sibmah: the lords of the heathen have broken down the principal plants thereof, they are come even unto Jazer, they wandered through the wilderness: her branches are stretched out, they are gone over the sea.

9 Therefore I will bewail with the weeping of Jazer the vine of Sibmah: I will water thee with my tears, O Heshbon, and Elealeh: for the shouting for thy summer fruits and for thy harvest is fallen.

10 And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the plentiful field; and in the vineyards there shall be no singing, neither shall there be shouting: the treaders shall tread out no wine in their presses; I have made their vintage shouting to cease.

11 Wherefore my bowels shall sound like an harp for Moab, and mine inward parts for Kirharesh.

12 And it shall come to pass, when it is seen that Moab is weary on the high place, that he shall come to his sanctuary to pray; but he shall not prevail.

13 This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning Moab since that time.

14 But now the LORD hath spoken, saying, Within three years, as the years of an hireling, and the glory of Moab shall be contemned, with all that great multitude; and the remnant shall be very small and feeble ~

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