

# Kingdom Report

Week of 20 October 2018

## The Strongholds of Zion

The Church is the Israel of God, the army of God. Israel in the Old Testament was our example. If we are to possess our inheritance in Christ we will need to pull down the strongholds of Zion...and build the temple of God in their place.

Years ago when I still preached Dispensational Pre-Trib rapture I had a bad feeling in my spirit. And was basically this...it was a theology of the defeat of the Church. It was a theology that predicted the victory of the Antichrist and the retreat and escape of the Church. It was a theology that said the Church is incapable of bringing in the Kingdom of God...this must rather be left to Jesus and the Jews to finish the job. We can come back to earth when the battle is over, when we will be safe from Satan's attacks.

How does that sit in your spirit? Is there something in side of you that says, No! I was endued with power from on high to destroy the works of Satan and deliver the captives. Why pray for revival? Why pray for an outpouring of the Spirit if defeat and retreat are what we prophetically face?

I don't believe it...that is why I started all over again to research the scriptures and to discover the gospel of the Kingdom....and the triumph of the Church over time!

In my studies I found that you cannot have a proper understanding of the plans and purposes of God without carefully studying the blueprint of God's plan for the ages in the Old Testament. There you will find the patterns for prophetic interpretation. That is why I referred you to the life of David and his battle to take a kingdom, possess the citadel of Zion outside Jerusalem, take the city of Jerusalem and then make preparations for the building of the Temple, which God commissioned the next generation, Solomon to do. And here is the defining point of the story, of the pattern....when the temple was finished, the Lord came down in a cloud and filled the Temple with His presence so much that the priests had to run out as they could not stand in that Holy Presence.

If you want a prophetic roadmap to the coming of the Lord, that is your roadmap...that is how Jesus returns in a cloud! Read it in 1 Kings 8...

***When the temple was finished building "...and they brought up the ark of the Lord and the tabernacle of congregation (the tent of David from Zion) and all the holy vessels...even those did the priests and the Levites bring up...and it came to pass that when the priests came out of the holy place that a cloud filled the house of the Lord so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord."***

This is what Jesus was talking about when He said to His disciples I give you gifts, use those to OCCUPY till I come....till He comes back in a cloud of glory to fill His Temple....and do I really need to tell you at this point what or who the Temple of the

Lord is? If you have any question as to who the temple is or where the Lord is coming back to...Paul read this Old Testament story and knew the answer, he told it to the Thessalonians (2 Thes. 1:10) "**...when He shall come to be glorified in His saints.**"

But I want to go back to Mount Zion because you need to know we are in a spiritual battle. Gesenius the great semitic language scholar looked into the original language to find the original meaning of Zion and the best he could come up with was "ridge of a mountain" or "citadel". Best I can come with looking at the usages in scripture is "stronghold".

We are not David with a sword in hand fighting the Jebusites for Jerusalem. Again Paul tells us what we are up against he again having read the script from David... 2 Cor. 10:4 "***For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.***"

Now here is an important point I want to make from my study of spiritual warfare in scripture. There are special places on earth where there are what scripture calls "gates" and "strong holds". Jesus knew about this and knew what we have to do. In speaking about defeating Satan and demonic activities He said this...

***"If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God then the kingdom of God is come unto you. For how else can one enter into a strong man's house and spoil him of his goods except he first bind the strong man and then he will spoil his house."*** (Mat. 12:28-29)

Binding satanic forces and casting out demons from their strong holds is Kingdom agenda! That is the Kingdom army of God on the offensive.

I believe in every nation and every power center of the world has strong holds from where satanic strong holds or citadels or Zions are squatting on our inheritance. Every time that we take that territory and expel demonic forces and deliver the people from darkness into light,, that is where the Kingdom of God has come and that place is filled with the glory of God...until all the earth is filled with His glory!

But scripture shows us there have been places where in times past the Lord's glory was in a place but later demonic forces took it over after the people abandoned the Lord.

Solomon was a prime example. He built a wonderful temple for the Lord and God honoured the place with His presence...and then years later Solomon turned apostate and built temples to foreign gods for his wives.

Jerusalem was the center of Godly worship with Melchizedek was High Priest there at the time of Abraham. But afterwards the people sinned and the Jebusites possessed it and turned it into a heathen place...until David liberated it for the Lord to build a temple there for His presence.

Jacob went to sleep at place where the Lord came down and opened a gate to heaven with angels ascending and descending....he called it Bethel and erected an altar to the

Lord there. But many years later when Israel rebelled against the Lord the king of Israel, Jeroboam built a temple to Baal at Bethel.

The fascinating thing about the Israelites were that wherever the Lord sent them He used them to bring down the false gods. He sent Abraham and Jacob into Egypt and they gave testimony to the Lord....and eventually used Moses to destroy all the gods of Egypt.

He sent the Jews into Babylon and ended up demonstrating that the gods of Babylon were powerless against the God of Israel...the same for the gods of Persia, for the gods of the Philistines, for the gods of Ninevah, for the gods of Greece and Rome.

There is a war in the heavenlies going on. Throughout history there have been false gods, fallen angels deceiving people and making themselves out to be gods. These fallen angels cannot just enter this world on their own. This earth has been given to man. When God wanted to come and redeem mankind He had to enter this world as a man.

The purpose of all occult practices in its many different variations is that Satanic forces gather at a particular point and then set up rituals to create followers who will through their faith, worship and assent ask for the fallen angels to enter into this world. Where these things happen is where you have a stronghold of Satan....a Zion, a citadel. There a gate or opening has been created to allow demonic forces to enter the world.

Just to give you one example of many that I can demonstrate and will do so in future blogs as we study this further. Look at the photo below of the Pyramid of Gizeh with the Sphinx before it, next to it is a "sphinx" from ancient Babylon:



This is what is going on here:

The "sphinx" is a representative of a "Cherubim". On the right is a Babylonian "Cherubim". You remember that when Adam was expelled from the garden of God the Lord placed a Cherubim at the entrance to stop anyone from entering.

Well Satan is described in scripture as a Cherubim. The Bible tells us that Cherubim are very powerful angelic beings. We do not know what they look like. But in

scripture they are describes as being winged creatures with the face of a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle.

The Cherubim of Egypt the Sphinx was the guardian to the entrance of the Pyramid. The Pyramid was built as a gateway to the gods. It energized the powers of the earth and directed them to the person in the inner chamber to create an "out of body experience" to see the gods. Napoleon spent a night in the Pyramid in 1798 and came out ashen and shaken the next morning. He had spirit guide thereafter who directed him in battles....until it led him to destruction.

The Pyramid was a gate for the gods of Egypt. The word Babylon" in Akkadian meant "gate of the gods". These "Cherubim" by their descriptions show us they are the principalities and powers of the air...that is they have powers and abilities over the realm of men, animals, flying things etc. They are shape shifters. They can appear as apostles of light or angels of bright beauty. They have abilities over matter and materials. That is why they were created by the Lord...to build worlds. But they desired their own worlds to rule over, their own worshippers.

We are facing an occult barrage in the world today. The word has gotten out to all those who seek power for their career and financial advancement...there is supernatural help available for your career. It is shocking the extent to which in the highest levels of political and economic power people are turning to occult forces.

In television, the media, films...young people are being inundated with occult themes. Vampires, witches, wizards, X-men, zombies, werewolves, elves, faeries, aliens...every blockbuster film or show geared to the young must have some theme of super natural powers.

Into such a world we are being sent to cast down strongholds and bind the strongmen of the earth so that we can liberate their captives. If we are to have world revival and win nations for Christ we will have to follow David's example:

- Learn to sing and praise the Lord with psalms and praise and worship.
- Be not afraid of the giants in the land for the Lord is with us.
- Rally the people of God and strengthen those who are feeble and turn them into an army for the Lord.
- Take strongholds of the enemy and convert them into Zion the city and citadel of the Lord.
- Gather workers and wealth for building the temple of the Lord that the presence of the Lord may fill the earth.