

The Church Part 2

Mathew 16:18 the gates of hell shall not prevail.

- Gates denote a kingdom.
 - o Satan has a kingdom which is backed up in scripture by Jesus (Mat 12:26).
- Kingdom denotes a system of government.
 - o Satan has a kingdom of delegated authority in which he is commander and chief.
 - o Ephesians 6:12 talks about demons being princes and rulers.
 - We know that Paul is speaking of demons because he starts off by saying we wrestle not against flesh and blood. So, these are not physical princes and rulers. These are demonic princes and rulers in the kingdom of Satan.
 - o Mark 5:8-9 Here we see a demon calling himself Legion which was a term used to describe a roman general who commanded anywhere from 2,000 to 3,000 foot soldiers.
 - So, this was a general demon that was probably over 2,000 to 3,000 demons in this country.
 - o Daniel 10:13 In this verse we see that the messenger angel was sent to Daniel to give him an interpretation of his vision but was held up by the prince of Persia for 21 days. Michael, a warring angel had to come and help the messenger angel to get through. But this prince of Persia was describing a demon, not a man. We know this couldn't be a man because what man can withstand an angel. So here we see again a demon in scripture described as a prince or a ruler in the area of Persia.
 - o So, we have scriptural basis to say that Satan does have a kingdom of delegated authority in which he is commander and chief.
- Kingdom comes from two words that mean king's domain.
 - o Therefore, if there is a kingdom then there must be a domain that is being ruled over.
 - o Satan's domain that his government rules over is areas of darkness.
 - Darkness always refers to ignorance of the truth.
 - Eph 6:12 rulers of darkness
 - Acts 26:18 the power of Satan is compared to darkness.
 - Col 1:13 When you got saved, you were translated or moved from the power or authority of darkness (Satan) to the kingdom of Jesus.
 - So, in all of these places we see that Satan and his demons are only rulers and authorities in darkness.
 - o Darkness is the only domain that Satan and his demons can rule in because they rule with deception.
- Depending on where that darkness is will determine how much territory Satan's kingdom can rule over.

- If that darkness is in a natural government, then Satan can rule over whatever that government is ruling over.
- In Daniel 10:13, one demon was known as the prince of Persia. Or the ruler of Persia. He was ruling through the king of Persia.
- If there is enough darkness in a city or country, especially in the leadership, Satan's kingdom can rule that city or country.
- The gates shall not prevail against the church.
 - So, the picture we have here is one of an offensive church or a church on the offense who is attacking Satan's kingdom.
 - I know that we have read this before and just thought of it as Satan attacking us but not prevailing.
 - But I've never seen gates attack anybody. I've only seen gates being attacked.
 - This is a picture of the church on offense attacking Satan's domain and the promise is that Satan will not prevail against an offensive church. He will have to give up his territory.
- What does an offensive church look like?
 - If Satan's domain is darkness and ignorance of the truth, then the only way to take his domain is with the light of the truth.
 - An offensive church is a church who is not ashamed of the truth of Jesus Christ.
 - Romans 1:16, 2 Timothy 1:8-12,
 - An offensive church that will push against the gates of hell is a church that is not ashamed to preach the truth, live the truth, speak the truth, and talk about the truth everywhere they go.
 - The gates of hell will not be able to prevail against the truth that is preached and lived.
- So, if hell has gates, they have a defense against our offense.
 - Hell's defense or gates is persecution.
 - 2 Corinthians 12:7 Look at Satan's government at work. Satan is sending a demon everywhere Paul goes to buffet him, or slap him around, or treat with violence.
 - Paul was shipwrecked, stoned, and left for dead, beat, thrown in prison, whipped and so on.
 - But did the gates of hell prevail against Paul's ministry? 2 Timothy 4:7 says no!!
- 2 Corinthians 12:8 Paul wanted God to take down the gates.
 - The fact that he prayed this three times means that God didn't take them down and God's not going to.
 - The one thing that God is not going to stop in your life is the persecution of the enemy.
 - But he did promise that those gates won't prevail against you.
 - In other words, God's not going to take the gates down, you are.

- 1 Corinthians 12:9 God's answer
 - o My grace is enough.
 - o You have been given enough grace to push through the gates and not be overtaken by the persecution of the enemy.
 - o Grace = strength.
 - o God's strength working in you is grace because grace is undeserved favor. When God is giving you His strength to overcome what's trying to overcome you, that is the undeserved favor of God.
- My strength is made perfect or complete in your weakness.
 - o Understand that persecution, the defense of Satan, can get one of two results:
 - One, which is what the devil is hoping for, is that you will get discouraged and give up and die.
 - Two, which is what the devil doesn't want, is that the persecution will bring you to a place of realizing your weakness which will cause you to turn to God and rely on His strength.
 - The gates of hell cannot prevail against a church that will realize in the middle of persecution that I can't handle this and began to pray and put their faith in a God who will then give them His strength to stand.
 - Persecution made me look to God and learn to trust God. Through that trust He gave me his strength, and in His strength, I overcame every defense of Satan and the gates could not prevail.