

THE LURE OF WORLD KINGDOMS

Jesus confronted two temptations from the devil, one over bread and the other one on the temple peak. So far the score is Jesus 2 and the devil 0. The enemy then took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world with their splendor. He offered them to Jesus if he would bow down and worship him. Jesus ordered him to go away, quoted scripture and told him that we must only worship and serve God. The final score in this episode is Jesus 3 and the devil 0. But there would be other encounters as Jesus continued his public ministry. Jesus knew the Scriptures and the plans the Father had for him. Yes, one day he would rule the world, but this was not yet the time.

The kingdoms of this world are under the influence of Satan. St. Paul called him 'the god of this world and its systems' - 2 Corinthians 4:4. He has blinded the minds of most people from the glory of Christ. Satan is also called the 'prince of the power of the air' as he operates in the realm of thoughts and through the airwaves of various forms of communication today.

One of his prime tactics down through history has been to seduce people through the lure of the world with a desire for power and success at the expense of one's eternal destiny. It is sad to see how many famous musicians have seemingly been on top of the world only to come crashing down due to their wayward habits and lifestyles. They were attracted by the splendors of the world but later realized that it was not the place of true fulfillment. People in all areas of society have literally given their souls to the devil either consciously or even unknowingly in order that they might achieve worldly success. The most popular singer in the world today is only in her mid-thirties but is worth one billion dollars. Who knows what compromises she has made to get there. Some of her recent music contains anti-christian lyrics and even blasphemy against God.

Jesus reminded us of the true reality with these words.

"What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Our Savior overcame the devil in the desert. He stood firm on the Word of God and would not succumb to the half-truths and lies of the adversary. Throughout his public ministry, Jesus had a broad appeal to the masses, but he never veered from the narrow road that would lead him to the cross. God was with him in the desert and sent angels to minister to him at the end of the ordeal. God is able to reach us wherever we are and knows exactly what we need and when.

My original mandate in 2014 from the amazing prayer meetings came in three words. **Write.....Encourage.....Disciple.** That equals W.E.D. and so our goal is to prepare the bride of Christ for the wedding day when Jesus comes to take her to the marriage supper of the Lamb. It will be a glorious day for the bride, but most of all, it will be a glorious day when Jesus receives the reward for his suffering. The Father's ultimate plan will be fulfilled - to have a great family that can know his love and enjoy him forever. **What a wonderful thought, behind this whole universe and even midst this chaotic world, there is a Father.....a loving Father, the God of all comfort.**

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort....." 2 Cor. 1:3