

THE GREAT WAR

(BETWEEN GOD AND SATAN)

1Cor. 2:6f-8...6 *However, in the presence of mature believers, we do impart true wisdom—not the phony wisdom typical of this rebellious age or of the hostile powers who rule this age. Despite what you may think, these ruling spirits are losing their grip on this world. 7 But we do impart God’s mysterious and hidden wisdom. Before the ages began, God graciously decided to use His wisdom for our glory. 8 The ruling powers of this age were ignorant of this wisdom; if they had understood, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.*

IGNORANT...not understanding...unwilling to be convinced or convicted of Jesus’ deity.

GOD’S WISE PLAN...creation >>>>our free choice>>>>sin>>>>restoration thru Jesus.

SATAN IS SMART....eons of observation, supernatural insight, trial and error, and catalogued experience. He always comes at us with a strategy...either long term or short term...."Generational curses"

"Learned behavior"

"Unhealed psychological wounds"...Carl Jung, "Neurosis is always a substitute for legitimate suffering."

SATAN'S STRATEGY WITH ME...is based upon all this as well as knowing me AND my ancestors...both my learned behavior and inherited tendencies.

Taking all the above into consideration...think about Satan's strategy with you.
VERY SCARY THOUGHT!

HOWEVER...SATAN IS NOT INFINITE !! THEREFORE HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT GOD KNOWS....GOD HAS THE ABILITY TO KNOW SATAN'S PLAN, INCORPORATE SATAN'S PLAN INTO HIS OWN, AND TO TURN SATAN'S PLAN INTO SOMETHING GOOD (ROM. 8:28).

Examples:

Moses, Esther, Naaman's slave girl, Lazarus' death (Jn. 11:4), **the man born blind**... Jn. 9:1f...*As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him....*

Our pain has a purpose...when I am hurting, I look for God's plan in the situation.

Examples:

Deaths of:

John the Baptist vs. Herod Antipas...suffered tremendous defeat in war. Was accused of treason by Caligula, all property was confiscated, and he and Herodias were exiled until their deaths.

Herod Agrippa...eaten by worms.

Paul vs. Nero...the Roman Senate had declared Nero a public enemy and it was their intention to execute him by beating him to death. Armed horsemen had been sent to apprehend him for the act to take place in the Forum. Hearing this, Nero prepared himself for suicide. Losing his nerve, he first begged for one of his companions to set an example by first killing himself. At last, the sound of approaching horsemen drove Nero to face the end. However, he still could not bring himself to take his own life but instead he forced his private secretary, Epaphroditos, to perform the task. Nero's famous dying words were "Qualis artifex pereo", which translates into English as "What an artist dies in me!" (Entitlement to the end!)

Peter vs. Judas...hanged himself

Jesus vs. Pilate... Jn. 19:10... "Do you refuse to speak to me??" Pilate said, "Don't you know that I have power to either free you or to crucify you?" Eusebius quotes some early apocryphal accounts that relate that Pilate fell under misfortunes in the reign of Caligula, was exiled to Gaul and eventually committed suicide there.