

**Faith-Rest Drill: Promises & Rationales Related to the Angelic Conflict: Protection against Demons; Compartments of Hades**

**III. Promises and Rationales Related to the Angelic Conflict:**

**Philippians 1:27 -** Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

**v 28 -** in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too from God.

**v 29 -** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

**v 30 -** experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear to be in me.

- 1) Victory over adversaries is guaranteed those who pursue truth and as a result discern evil and seek to avoid it. God protects such believers according to:

**1 John 5:4 -** Whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

- 2) The believer need never be concerned about demon possession because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He need not be concerned about demon influence when he is filled with the Holy Spirit and possesses the mentality of “godliness,” i.e., doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness.

When your body of truth has produced confidence and courage then your manner of life will be as God would have it. In such a status quo you are privileged to suffer for the Lord, whether the opposition is from your fellow man or fallen angels.

**Luke 10:19 -** “Behold I give you [ **the seventy** ] authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you.

**v 20 -** “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits [ **fallen angels** ] are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

- 1) The Seventy were those appointed along with the 12 disciples to take the message of the Kingdom, or Plan A, to the Jews. Their experiences give us guidance on divine protection in the Church Age.
- 2) In their case it is apparent that efforts to carry the Gospel to unbelievers were met by satanic and demonic opposition.
- 3) The illustration given is not to be taken literally. Serpents and scorpions do not care if you seek to convey the Gospel to unbelievers; they just want you to leave them alone.
- 4) Thus those who do not take into consideration the context of this passage reach the astonishing conclusion that it guarantees divine protection against snake strikes and scorpion stings even if you personally handle them.

- 5) But these are simply a couple of God's little creatures that should be respected for their venom, avoided where possible, and otherwise left alone.
- 6) The mention of serpents and scorpions has reference to Satan and demons that strongly oppose any believer who seeks to evangelize the lost or teach doctrine to the saved.
- 7) The Seventy were divinely protected from the demonic attacks that were directed toward them as they went out to deliver the message that "the kingdom of God has come near to you."
- 8) The reference to serpents and scorpions as symbolic of Satan and demons is substantiated in Scripture. First of all, Satan is often associated with the serpent who deceived Eve in Eden.

**Genesis 3:13** - The Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me and I ate."

**v 14** - And the Lord said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go and dust shall you eat all the days of your life."

**v 15** - [CTL] "And I will put hostility between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He [ **Christ, the Seed of the woman** ] shall crush your head [ **at the Second Advent** ], but you [ **Satan** ] shall crush His heel [ **the Crucifixion of the First Advent** ].

- 9) We see Satan identified with the serpent in:

**Revelation 12:9** - The great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth and his angels were thrown down with him.

- 10) Satan's "angels" are referred to in Scripture as "fallen angels," "demons," and "evil spirits." They are figuratively associated with locusts and scorpions in Revelation 9:1-11. In this passage we see the intensified terror of the last half of the Tribulation. This passage documents the torture imposed by a Demon Assault Army released from the Abyss by Satan himself.

See Diagram: CompartmentsOfHades.ppt