



BETHLEHEM : THE PALACE OF HEROD

8	20-Feb	SABBATH 2	Isaiah 14: 12	Ezk 28	satan, our adversary & foe
9	21-Feb	Sunday	satan's FIRST TACTIC / REMOVE THE HEDGE		
10	22-Feb	Monday	satan's 2nd TACTIC / REMOVE health		
11	23-Feb	Tuesday	satan's 3rd TACTIC / use your spouse		
12	24-Feb	Wednesday	satan's 4th TACTIC / use your friends		
13	25-Feb	Thursday	satan's 5th TACTIC / use scripture		
14	26-Feb	Friday	satan's 6th TACTIC / set up a guilt trip		

Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 2

Devotional	your defence and offence: know your enemy		DAY 8 sat feb 20th
GOD "allows sifting"!	Ezk 28	Isaiah 14: 12	Sabbath 2
JESUS informs Peter that satan has asked to sift him as wheat!			
BUT, JESUS says, I have prayed for you!	Luke 22: 31		a day for fasting and prayer
WOW!	The BOSS talking to the BOSS !		
Sounds like the first chapter of Job, the "sifting part"!			Job 1: 12
Study the Chapters from Ezekiel and Isaiah above to know your enemy.			
<i>We wanted to come to you,even I Paul, time and again.... but satan hindered us.</i>			1 Thess 2: 18
<i>For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I sent to know your FAITH, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labour might be in vain.</i>			1 Thess 3: 5
<i>But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve, by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in CHRIST.</i>			2 Cor 11: 3
<i>JESUS said, satan was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the TRUTH, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it!</i>			John 8: 44
<i>BUT, the LORD is faithful who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.</i>			2 Thess 3:3
Illustration	CHRISTIAN: you are a HOLY PRIEST, so act like one!		1 Peter 2: 5 Rev 1: 6
The text was from 1Peter 2:5			
Mr Epp, the speaker from "Back to the Bible" was driving home the point that IF you wanted to offer sacrifices to GOD which were acceptable to HIM , you first needed to clean up your own house. He stated that in his opinion the drinking of alcohol was not acceptable to a servant of the LORD in this day and age where it is associated with so many evils. There was plenty of clean water to drink in North America, unlike biblical days.			
BOOM!			
right between the eyeballs!			
I had been questioning GOD about this constant tap on my shoulder about drinking an occasional beer. Was HE doing the tapping or was the adversary, putting the big guilt trip on me. I did not have an alcohol problem, and I seldom had a drink. None of my family had an alcohol problem. It was not frowned on in our mennonite family. BUT I had this constant nagging in my soul. IF IT WAS HIM, HE should be clear about it!			
YES!			
so I said yes to Mr Epp when he asked for abstinence as someone wanting to be " sold-out"			
But at 3am in the morning GOD woke me from my sleep. "You said YES today, but you're intentions are to live as before. I want you to stop!" NOW I WAS AWAKE. I got up and sat on the livingroom couch. Then I asked a question, WHY? HIS RESPONSE: "remember what you said to your son yesterday?"			
WOW!			
It took a while to focus. I had spanked our son for stealing. Then when he and I were discussing why I had spanked him, I responded, saying this wasn't for today....but for the future. I did not want this to become a habit, which he could not get out of.			
RESOLVED			
I STOPPED THAT VERY HOUR. And now 30 years later, I still do not consume alcohol.			
A few years later I spent 2 years overseas, working in Hong Kong and China. The lights of the Night Clubs were a beacon to many a weary traveller, but interestingly, not for me.			
GOD knows and cares!		GOD had my interests at heart. And also has yours!	
Thank you LORD for caring!			
The FEAR of The LORD ,	is the beginning of Knowledge, but fools despise instruction.		Prov 1: 7

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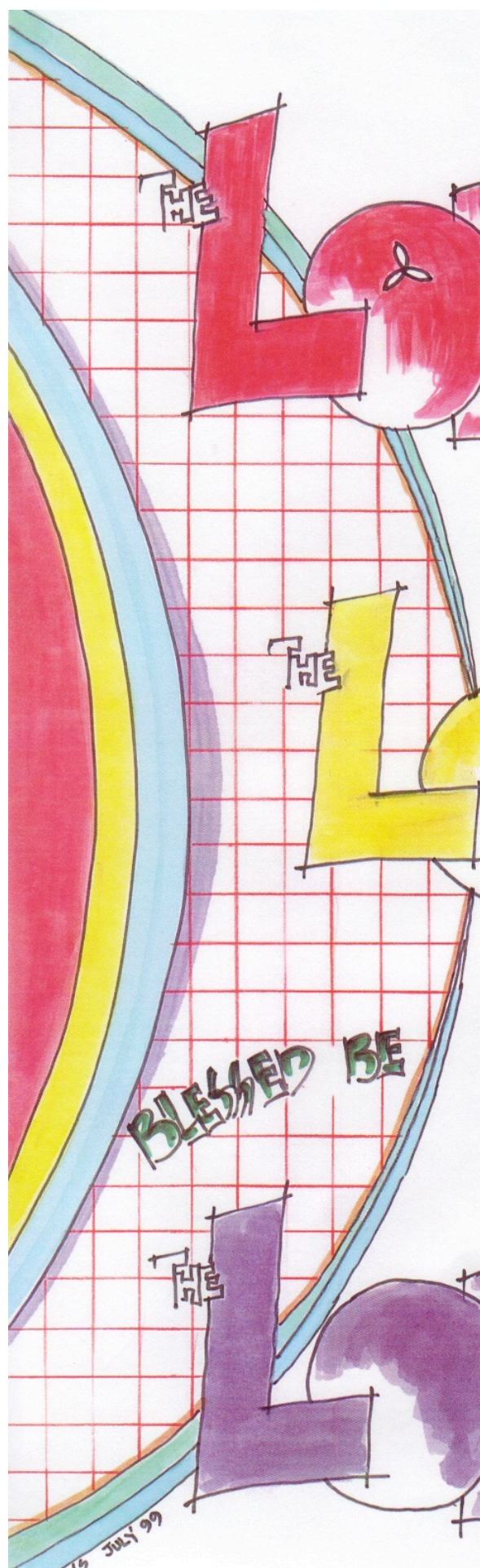
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THE LORD HAS GIVEN

THE LORD HAS TAKEN

BLESSED BE THE NAME OF

THE LORD



July 99

Job 1:21

Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 2

Devotional	satan's 1st tactic / remove the hedge			DAY 9 feb 21st
	GOD is your Shield!		Ps 35: 2	Sunday
	satan can not attack Job, because in his own words, there is a shield (hedge) all around Job, his family, (on every side) and his possessions.			
	satan cannot penetrate that shield without permission!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!			Job 1: 10
	<i>Above all, taking the shield of FAITH, with which you will be able to quench the firey darts of the wicked one.</i>			Eph 6:16
	NOTICE	your personal shield has no value		
	<i>See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always persue what is good, both for you and for all. Rejoice always, Pray without ceasing In everything give thanks, for this is the "will of CHRIST JESUS for you Do not quench THE SPIRIT!</i>			1 Thess 5: 15
		GOD is a shield to those who put their trust in HIM!		Prov 30: 5
Illustration	Changing seats!			
	just catching a flight from Hong Kong into China is another experience, especially in 1985			
	but			
	I had my assigned ticket. Yet there was a lot of commotion in the lounge. People desperate to get on.			
	Walking down the aisle, the stewardess, asked whether I would switch seats. I said yes!			
	I was by myself, and the one hour flight, I had done may times, so there was no need for a window seat.			
	"Sold-out"	besides, as the LORD's servant I was willing to submit as required.		
	Then I was asked if I could move again, and again my answer was yes. I had asked the LORD to use me and wherever I sat would be HIS choosing not mine. I was one of two non chinese, so the chances of speaking to someone were very slim.			
	As we taxied down the runway for take-off, the young girl next to me asked a question. Are you a Christian? She had seen the book I was reading and assumed I was a Christian. Then began an hour long discussion. She was pleased we could speak english, as none of her family would hear.			
		She had been begging the LORD for an answer, but had not heard one.		
		She also did not want to give satan, even the smallest foothold into her faith		
	She was flying into Gulin, for the yearly ancestral worship pilgrimage, and she had asked GOD not to go. Her parents were buddist and were agast that she would not come. Starting with the commandment "to honour our Father and Mother"! And saying she had done a good thing.			
	then to 2 Kings 5, where Naaman asks Elisha for forgiveness. A good read!			2 Kings 5:18
	The hour slipped by, and she was grateful to GOD for hearing her prayer.			
		GOD hears and cares for your every cry and has ambassadors waiting to answer no matter where you are.		
	The FEAR of The LORD , is to hate evil, pride, arrogance, the perverse mouth and the evil way.			Prov 8: 13

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Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 2

Devotional	satan's 2nd tactic / remove our health		DAY 10 Feb 22nd
	GOD is your HEALER!	2 Chron 7: 14	Monday
	Failing on his first try, satan comes back with a vengeance.		
	When you have your health, you are truly blessed. Without your health, you fumble on every corner. Without your health, your attitude is greatly tested.		Job 2: 4
	HOWEVER in your testing others see your FAITH in action!		
	<i>Put on the whole armour of GOD! that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places therefore, take up the whole armour of GOD that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to STAND.</i>		Eph 6: 11
Illustration	Lillian: MOTHER THERESA of India		
	When Lillian retired at 65 from serving the Mukte Mission in India, HE again asked her to take another assignment. She was surprized but her response is classical. I will quote how she explained it to me. " LORD , I will assist YOU in whatever way YOU need, but now that I am retired, YOU will do all the work!		
	so why deaf children? because they have les than zero value. orphan kids can at least be buried alive under a bldg, so that the gods will bless the project but a deaf child can not be....it has a blemish!!!!		
	The daily miracles that Lillian was a witness to is written in her book "A Light to India" Ruth and I were fortunate enough to serve on the canadian mission board.		
	an example: She was given a piece of land by a hindu governor for her work for the deaf. Unheard of! The piece of land was solid rock, with 4 conditions the first being impossible		
	1 The property must have it's own water as none would be provided by the city of Pune		
	Lil just said that the good LORD knew what HE was doing, and that though it was solid rock HE would have provided water, if this were a condition. No one believed her. She prayed to Yahweh Jireh" the LORD who provides" The book goes into a lot of detail: Water was found.		
	like Job, set your heart on the LORD and though clouds come, do not change your focus		Job 13: 15 Hab 3: 17
			Prov 14: 26/27
He who walks in his uprightness, FEARS The LORD.			Prov 14: 2

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Meditations during LENT

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Week 2

Devotional	satan's 3rd tactic / use your spouse		DAY 11 Feb 23rd
	GOD, your Maker is your spouse.	Isaiah 54: 5	Tuesday
	The disease of Job is a multiple of diseases somewhat like elephantitis and leprosy combined very itchy, huge puss filled sores, disfiguring etc	a study on it's own	
	YET, he has not lost touch with his inner heart though his wife asks him to curse GOD for example, he refuses this is exactly what the evil one wants him to do, so he can win the game		
	She says <i>Do you still hold on to your integrity?</i>		Job 2: 9
	interesting that she uses a phrase that GOD has said, in that Job was "righteous and blameless" <i>Curse GOD and die!</i> her comment informs you about the state of Job's health she appears to have no fear of the LORD		
	Listen to Job's words to his spouse. <i>Shall we indeed accept good from GOD, and shall we not accept adversity.</i>		Job 2: 10
			Job 27: 5
	Our hardest task is to bring your attitude to the throne of GOD for cleansing and replenishment! How does one encourage others when health issues are number one in your life? Can we believe that everything occurs for our good by the hand of the ALMIGHTY ? it is so easy to hang onto resentments and unforgiveness when we are sick!		2 Cor 2: 10/11
Illustration	My spouse went to Manitoba!		
	Ruth flew to Manitoba to spend time with her Mom, and her brothers.		
	On her last night in Manitoba, the discussion drifted from Kazakhstan to the Ukraine. Glen, her brother had spent the last few years selling tractors, combines and implements into Kaz, and Ruth had gone to the Ukraine to work with orphans and widows in an outreach of our local church, to a local church in Ukraine.		
	Suddenly she remembered the plight of her new friend Olga, Ruth's instructor in the russian language Olga's car had a major break down with the transmission the day Ruth left for Manitoba.		
	So Ruth began to explain the reality of a single mom's problem. She began to explain about Olga's twin boys getting them to school first thing in the morning so she could go to class, laundry, preparing meals, homework, and as a single mom with zero income.		
	Her brother calmly picked up the phone and called Tim. Ruth kept on explaining the plight to those around the table, when Glen stopped her for a moment. Glen told her a car would be driven to Vancouver next week. She gave her head a shake..... for what she heard made no sense. Glen said it made a lot of sense. There was a group in Winkler that helped people in tough spots, and as this lady was in a very tough spot, the problem would be easily solved. Your church picks up the tab for insurance and an airfare back for Tim, and we will get you a first class car in Vancouver next week. The car arrived a week later, and the first thing Tim did was wash and vacuum the car before Olga saw it.		
	GOD at work!		Psalm 34:15
	Tim's slogan: if you are a christian, GOD says " you are blessed and highly favoured!"		Lk 1: 28
	A woman who FEARS The LORD , she shall be praised.		Prov 31: 30

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Meditations during LENT

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Week 2

Devotional	satan's 4th tactic / use your friends	DAY 12 Feb 24th Wednesday
GOD is your support network!		
The traditional custom of the middle east was to sit quietly with your friend 7 days during his time of mourning, before you spoke.		
when satan didn't get Job to bite and "curse", with his wife's comment, satan worked overtime and got 3 friends to show up. They dress properly in sack cloth and ashes, but they are wolves in sheep's clothing. When you struggle, just watch all the comments from do gooders. They also tear their clothes and weep, so they blend in better.		Job 2: 11
<i>They sat on the ground with Job, seven days and nights and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great</i>		Job 2: 13
People read horoscopes to determine what to do: we are to go to GOD alone! People go to advisors for advice: we are to lay our requests before GOD!		
<i>Come to ME, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.</i>		Mt 11: 28
Illustration	We are broke: I have \$20.00 in the bank, and zero in my pocket.	
I shared this with our pastor and my friend Ken at our early morning Church meeting.		
	At 10am Harry burst into my office, and grabbed me by my shirt collar. You are so stubborn, he said. We as friends have been deeply concerned about you, but you have chosen to clam up. So if you'll get off your horse for a second, and let us help, perhaps we can dance to the same tune.	
He stuffed \$200 in my shirt pocket. Then he made it clear more cash would be given in an envelope on Sunday at Church and a second envelope one month later with the same amount as the first, and that if I rejected these funds, he would be very angry with me forever!		
The next day, as we sat down for supper, Jack knocked on our kitchen door. He had brought some food. There were six large boxes of meat. Chicken, steaks, chops, hamburger. I and our son carried them down into the freezer.		
On Sunday after church, I opened the envelope on the table for my children to see and count. There was almost \$2,000.		
How does anyone express gratitude for friends who care?		
	Job says of his friends <i>Miserable comforters you are all! Shall the words of wind have and end!</i>	Job 16: 2
	Job says of himself <i>but I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief!</i>	Job 16: 5
	Better is a little with the FEAR of The LORD , than great treasure with trouble.	Prov 15: 16

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Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 2

Devotional	satan's 5th tactic / use scripture		DAY 13 Feb 25th Thursday
	GOD's WORD is your weapon of offence!	Heb 4: 12 & 13 Eph 6: 17	
	Eliphaz begins the offence with a quote from an old proverb subtle, cunning, divisive, hurtful, twisted		
	<i>Remember now, whoever perished being innocent?</i>		Job 4: 7
	Notice the twist in the next statement to Job. <i>If HE no trust in HIS SERVANTS, if HE charges HIS ANGELS with error, can a mortal be more righteous than GOD?</i>		Job 4: 17/18
	What does Eliphaz know about Angels charged with wrong doing? Who said GOD does not trust Job? the opening verses of chapter 1 and 2 declare that GOD loves and trusts HIS SERVANT, Job		
	Who said Job was more righteous than GOD ?		
	Eliphaz attacks Job in his most hurtful moment: the first step in grief is despair Job wishes he had never been born / the natural stage one of grief		Job 3: 16
	If you never spend time in your Bible, how will you handle warfare <i>If you have run with footmen, and they have wearied you then how will you contend with horses? and If in a land of peace (Canada) in which you trusted, they wearied you, how will you contend with the flooding of the Jordan</i>		Jer 12: 5
		the Day of the LORD is coming	Isaiah 27: 1
Illustration	STOP< your prayers will not be heard!		
	I had just knelt at my prayer bench, when GOD spoke! Your prayers are a zero! Dazed Then I remembered.		
	We had guests coming over, and it was imperative to fix the toilet in the Guest Bathroom. Which I had done, but! The short metal tube from the wall shut off to the tank had been leaking, and when I tightened it it broke. I went to the Hardware store 3 times and each time when I went to tighten the plastic nut it snapped! so on the fourth purchase, a man next to me explained my problem. You need a rubber washer between the nut and the tank's spout to absorb the force of the turn, and you can tighten without it breaking. None of the packages had these washers, the size I needed, and there were none to buy on the racks, so.....I had slipped a washer out of another type of faucet, and it fit perfectly. Therefore I purchased my fourth package, but put the washer in my pocket. GOD WAS LIVID! (and of course HE was watching as Job 31: 4 says) I went back to the Hardware store and purchased the package from which I had slipped the small washer, and asked GOD if this was sufficient. HE said nothing, but I felt HIS anger was subsiding. Where the other packages were about \$8.00 this one was \$33.00 as it had a brass fitting. The cost was nothing, but the lesson was unforgettable. I still have the brass fitting on my shelf to remind me that the good LORD , knows everything, cares about me in detail, and still loves me enough to correct me.		
	by humility and the FEAR of The LORD , are riches, honour and LIFE!		Prov 22: 4

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Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 2

Devotional	satan's 6th tactic / set up a guilt trip			DAY 14 Feb 26th
	GOD is your ROCK!		Psalm 18: 2	Friday Job 8: 6
	Bildad plays a mind game with Job, suggesting Job is a very sinful man. and suggests that GOD is sleeping. this is what Elijah says to the 450 prophets of Baal, that their god is having a nap or perhaps in the bathroom.			1 Kings 18: 27
	Chapter 8 of Job is Bildad's guilt trip on Job.			
	Job counters with humility <i>Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me, though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse.</i>			Job 9: 20
	and then comments about HIS FRIEND , with great respect in the following <i>For GOD is not as a man like I am, that I may answer HIM and that we should go to court together!</i>			
	it's because Job has spent time with HIS MAKER and knows HIS CHARACTER .			
	NOTICE	WHAT PRIORITY DO YOU GIVE TO KNOWING HIM ?		
Illustration	Beijing: The night watchman!			
	I had promised GOD , that I would say grace at every meal , regardless!!!!			Ps 37: 23
	My meeting was in Beijing, with a very wealthy business lady. She ordered a large cocktail, and I had a coke. Then I remembered my promise, and thought how I could get her attention before the meal came, so that I could say the table grace over the food. She ordered appetizers. She knew everyone, and spoke to waiters and servers alike, and other customers who were walking by. I could not slip a word in edgewise. She dominated the discussion. Even if she asked a question of me, she answered it. In between english, german she also spoke chinese to everyone who would walk by and take the time to listen.			
	Then the meal came, and she dug in, while chatting to the person at the next table.			
	My resolve was deflated. My promise in shambles! All I had was guilt!			
	The meeting concluded on cordial terms, but she intended to stay on and enjoy the night. I had the papers that were needed to be signed, and the waiter called for a taxi.			
	My hotel was a "Foreign Chinese Hotel", chosen by our security person. I was the only non chinese in the whole bldg, as I was told when I checked in the night before. I began to cry in the taxi, and explained how sorry I was to the KING. My intentions were huge, but I had left no trace of my faith with the lady.			
	It was going to be a long night.			
	The elevators took forever, so I took the stairs. As I rounded the corner at my floor, the night watchman caught my eye. He had the key to my room. You had to leave it at the desk on your floor. Then I realized he was British. Curious I asked what he was doing? Oh I am relieving the watchman, who wanted to go for a smoke. I saw him reading a BIBLE, so I popped him my question; what would GOD say if you did not keep your promise to say table grace. He chuckled, and then opened his bible and led me through a series of proverbs like 3: 4 & 5			
	I realized he was GOD's Angel sent to help me get over my issue!			
	How long were you here at the desk before I came? Not long he said, I could not sleep, and the only place they have a light is here at the desk, so I chose to get up and come out here. As I come here once a month the night watchman knew me, and thought he would take a break.			
	Nothing is coincidence with GOD ! It's all perfect timing!			
	by the FEAR of The LORD , one departs from evil. .			Prov 16: 6

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