



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Leader Can Fight When Necessary!

OCTOBER 12, 2011

Dave DePue / (785) 249 7604 / www.capitolcom.org / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

This study/devotional is prepared for government leaders in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Kansas government. We trust that these summary notes are inspiring and encouraging.

INTRODUCTION

How many times have you “lost” in a struggle and could not understand why? You may have lost a key partner, a contract, a proposal, a campaign, or other initiative. It helps to know your competition, even your enemy! God’s Word identifies some adversaries and introduces some defensive and offensive tactics.

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

Joshua sent two men out to view the land, spying on the city of Jericho in preparation to take the territory. (Joshua 2:1). This saved many lives! Over 3000 years later, Israel’s military intelligence head, Aharon Yariv, sent spies into the surrounding nations that were threatening his country’s very existence. In a dramatic six day war, Israel crippled the large military forces surrounding their tiny nation. What do you know about the people, forces, and powers that are opposing you?

YOUR OPPOSITION

Ephesians 6:12 This is not a wrestling match against a human opponent. We are wrestling with rulers, authorities, the powers who govern this world of darkness, and spiritual forces that control evil in the heavenly world.¹

Lucifer, one of God’s chief angels, attempted a rebellion and was expelled to the world below (Isaiah 14:12-15). Banished with him were other angels who were in the conspiracy. Satan and his evil followers oppose the redemptive plan of God and the work of His Son, the Christ. (Luke 10:18). While not sovereign, Satan and his spirit beings work as terrorists in the land while their day of sentencing is pending (Revelation, Chapter 20). What are the weapons of these evil beings who rule over territories (and people) here on earth?

WEAPONS

Some of our readers may express doubt over spiritual forces that they cannot see. Neither can we see the weapons used against us! However we have all felt the impact of such direct attacks as discouragement, envy, greed, hate, jealousy, and pride.² Our most effective defense against these weapons is simply to stand! Evil is a direct attack on God and His followers. This relationship with God is your “armor”. You can block or deflect the attackers “arrows” with truth, the Word of God. Scripture will give you faith, wisdom, even an appropriate response to hostility (2Corinthians 10:3-5). Righteousness is another of our defensive weapons. We strive to give people no room to accuse us (1Peter 3:13-17). Adversity, deception and division are indirect attacks on our lives and our work or service. This hinders, delays or frustrates our activities. Bible study, Christian fellowship, and listening to hymns will buffer these spiritual attacks. Our chief offensive weapon is prayer! Need greater power? Jesus told His followers to fast and pray (Matthew 17:21). We humans are no match for Satan, his spiritual forces or powers. But God is Sovereign (1John 4:4)! Satan is on a “short leash” and has limits to his authority (Job, Chapters 1 & 2).

CONCLUSION

Avoid focusing on a person or a group when you are attacked for your service. Pray against the envy, pride, even fear that is behind the bad treatment that you receive. Turn your problem over to our Sovereign God.

A Prayer:

Sovereign God, help me to be wise in the ways of the world yet strong in dependence on You. Hold me close when You do give the adversary permission to thrash me. Please surround me with Your heavenly hosts as well as those referred to as Your saints here on earth. Thank You for being my mighty fortress! I make this bold request in the Name of Jesus, my Savior.

¹ The Holy Bible. God’s Word Translation. (Baker Publishing). 1995.

² Robert Jeffress. The Divine Defense. (Waterbrook Press). 2006. p35.

DEVOTIONAL DISCUSSION

LEADERSHIP/STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12 NOON, GOVERNOR’S CONFERENCE ROOM: 264 WEST