

Strongholds of Sin & Satan

2Corinthians 10:4

(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

In this life are many strongholds set against the follower of Jesus Christ and the Lost; Built by the sin of the fall of Adam; layer upon layer these strongholds are built by Lucifer held together and strengthened by his spirit. But there is Hope for the follower of Jesus Christ; yea the seemingly foolish things of God can take down any stronghold set before His Children.

The Strongholds of Sin and Lucifer

Appetite, taste, and philosophy, or the love of wisdom, are the great motives in the human breast which fancy assumes this tree will gratify. Other trees please the taste and the sight. But this one has the pre-eminent charm of administering not only to the sense, but also to the reason. - *Barnes*

Genesis 3:1-6

1Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Ah, if Eve had only trusted and believed God instead of Lucifer (Satan, the adversary). God (YHVH, JESUS) loves His creation and gave us free will; and a choice was made; the wrong choice to the ruin of mankind. The body of man was cursed with physical death and the creation was cursed as well. But also the consciousness and reason of man was infected with a 'virus' of unbelief and doubt in God. (Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? Ye shall not surely die :) And this virus of unbelief and doubt runs through the consciousness today. Lucifer maintains these strongholds to separate the creation from the creator.

Pride

Pride is the footing upon which Lucifer builds strongholds to separate mankind from their Creator. A prideful man seeks not after God. Pride is of the world and not of the Father; it is the condemnation of the devil. Flee pride! And humble thy heart before God. God loves the humble; but is not destruction before the prideful. After all pride was the downfall of Lucifer, shall we escape it if we allow it to take root in our lives? No.

Psalms 10:4

The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

1John 2:16

For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Unbelief

A lack of Faith and Unbelief are powerful strongholds; and they separate us from God and limit His work in our lives. It is pride that a lack of Faith and a spirit of Unbelief flourish; Lucifer well knows this and uses it to his advantage and our detriment.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Mathew 13:58

And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Hebrews 3:12

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Hebrews 3:19

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Lucifer the devil, that old serpent, Satan the adversary wants nothing more but to construct a spiritual stronghold between us a God. Spiritual stone by spiritual stone with the slime of pride as mortar he lays a foundation upon doubt and unbelief to separate us from God. Then when we don't see the blessings of God we continue building upon the stronghold that the devil began. We do very well to remember.

James 1:5-8

5If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

Hardness of Heart

The heart of stone is a great stronghold indeed. For with the heart of stone we cannot abide in the blessing of the LORD, indeed we cannot even see them. The hardened heart is a fortress of pride and unbelief. It is a heart ripe for the workings of Satan; and it blinds us to the blessings and will of the LORD.

Mark 16:14

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Ephesians 4:18

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Mark 6:51-52

51And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

52For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

The stronghold of a hardened heart is a heart that is void of the love of God and in no way can it fulfill the greatest of Gods commandments

1John 3:17

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of *compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Mark 12:30-31

30And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: *this is the first commandment.*

31And the second *is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

The Tearing down of Stronghold's

1Corinthians 1:25

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Through the ages man has built strongholds to protect their cities from enemies. Great walls with towers surrounded the city that it was to protect. Also sin and the devil have built strongholds around the heart of man. A stronghold that grips the heart of believers can wall off the heart to the joy of the LORD; also blinding them to His blessings and instruction. It will make them unfruitful servants; ruin their testimony; put them in bondage to the things of this world and the devil. A stronghold upon the heart of the lost will keep them separated from the Salvation of the LORD; and leave them in darkness.

Let us examine one such stronghold built by man, it has much to teach us about how the LORD works to bring about His perfect will and using obedience to that will to bring down a mighty stronghold. There is also much we can learn and apply to the bringing down of the spiritual strongholds built around the heart of man by Lucifer, the old devil-Satan.

Joshua 6:1

Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

As the stronghold of Jericho is shut up and no one can go in or out; so it is with the heart whose strongholds of this world have closed it off to the LORD. His salvation cannot enter; nor can the joy and peace with the fruits of salvation spring froth from it.

Joshua 6:2-5

And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, *and* the mighty men of valour.

God has given us the victory. He has told us we have already won before the battle has started. We just have to trust Him and be obedient to His will. *1 Corinthians 15:15 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* We've already been given the victory we just have to claim it through the LORD Jesus Christ.

3And ye shall compass the city, all *ye* men of war, *and* go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

4And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

5And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long *blast* with the ram's horn, *and* when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

Dear reader God's plan is always best even when we don't understand it and it may seem foolish; we must trust the LORD. God would demonstrate His mighty power in bringing down the wall of Jericho. God's power with the obedience of His people would gain the victory. The LORD is glorified by His display of power and by the obedience of His people to do His will. The LORD is glorified and Israel's faith is exercised. Let us not doubt God. We all do well to remember *Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

God's Way Confounds the World

Let us take note **2Corinthians 10:4** (*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;*) The Wisdom of God is as foolishness to the world. The seemingly wisdom of the world is but vanity and will come to naught.

1Corinthians 1:19

For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

1Corinthians 1:21

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1Corinthians 1:22-25

22For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

25Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Corinthians 1:27-28

27But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

The central truth here is that spiritual victories are won by means and upon principles utterly foolish and inadequate in the view of human wisdom. – *Scofield*

Yes the walls will be brought down without one stone being thrown against it. How foolish the Israelites must have looked marching in circles around the great city. How foolish they looked blowing their trumpets. But never look or take note dear ones what the world may think of you; but trust God and the walls will come tumbling down. God will see to it. God's power and our obedience.

Pulling Down of Strongholds.

Joshua 6:14-17

14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

15And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

16And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

17And the city shall be accursed, *even* it, and all that *are* therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that *are* with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

Joshua 6:20-23

20So the people shouted when *the priests* blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

21And they utterly destroyed all that *was* in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

22But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her.

23And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.

Oh how wonderful an example of the salvation of Jesus is given here. God had indeed dealt kindly with Rahab and her house as promised by the men *Joshua 2:14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.* God was faithful and saved her and her father's house from the surrounding utter destruction of the city around her. So too is the fate of all believers in Jesus, we are saved from destruction. But to the unbeliever shall utter destruction come upon them as it did Jericho to "both man and woman, young and old, and ox and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword". God's judgment is sure.

Revelation 20:12-15 12And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Beloved there is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun.

The stronghold of Jericho is brought to naught. The City of Jericho was the gateway to the promise land for the Israelites. It was a stronghold that prevented Israel from entering Canaan. Jericho had to fall to permit the passage of Israel into their inheritance. Walls built with stone. The spiritual strongholds that surround the heart are built through Pride, Covetousness, Unbelief, Hardness of heart, Hate, and Worldliness. They prevent the believer from growing in God and being fruitful and prevent the unbeliever from accepting the salvation of God. They prevent the blessings of God from entering in and the fruits of those blessings from going out. They hold us in bondage. But strongholds are meant to be conquered and indeed they will be if we trust in God and submit to His will. With God we cannot be defeated and the spiritual strongholds of sin and Satan can hold us no more. Submit to God and not your stronghold.

JESUS SAVES – To God be the Glory

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