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Israel, Satan, and the Bible

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ARTICLE FOUR

ISRAEL, SATAN, AND THE BIBLE

PART ONE: ISRAEL AND THE BIBLE

“ . . . the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen” (Rom. 9:4-5, NIV).

I. Moses and the Scriptures – In the book of Deuteronomy Israel’s great lawgiver writes the following concerning the Holy Scriptures:

- A. It was not to be added to or taken from (4:2).
- B. To obey God’s Word meant to live (4:1; 6:25; 11:13-15, 22-25; 28:1-14).
- C. To disobey God’s Word was to die (11:16-17, 28; 28:15-68).

II. Joshua

- A. God told him he would prosper if the Law was read and obeyed (Josh. 1:7-9).
- B. Joshua commanded the Law to be read from Mounts Gerizim and Ebal as Moses had instructed (8:33-34).

III. Samuel

- A. He taught the Scriptures throughout Israel (1 Sam. 3:19-21; 4:1; 7:15-17).
- B. He reviewed it to Saul, hoping (unsuccessfully) to keep Israel’s first king in the center of God’s will (1 Sam. 9:27; 15:1).

IV. David

- A. David testified concerning the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures (2 Sam. 23:2).
- B. He wrote Psalm 119, by far the Bible’s most lengthy chapter, a chapter given completely in describing the titles, functions, and importance of the Scriptures.

V. Solomon – Israel’s most fabulous king writes the following concerning the Scriptures:

- A. They will direct one’s feet (Prov. 3:6-7).
- B. They bring great peace (Prov. 3:24-26).

VI. Isaiah

- A. He wrote concerning the eternity of the Scriptures (40:6-8).
- B. He wrote concerning the effectiveness of the Scriptures (55:10-11).

VII. Jehoshaphat – This godly Judean king sent teachers throughout all Israel to instruct the people concerning the Scriptures (2 Chron. 17:9).

VIII. Josiah – During his reign a copy of the Law of Moses was found in the temple. Upon reading it the king led his people in a revival (2 Chron. 34:14).

IX. Ezekiel – This prophet was commanded to literally eat a portion of the Word (Ezek. 3:1-3). Later, John the apostle was given the same instructions (Rev. 10:9).

X. Daniel

- A. Daniel's reading of Jeremiah helped prepare him for the prophecy of the 70 weeks (Dan. 9:1-2, 24).
- B. Following this, an angel personally instructed Daniel from "the Scriptures of truth" (Dan. 10:21).

XI. Ezra – His faithful and fearless proclamation of the Scriptures produced a twofold reaction:

- A. The first occasion led to a great repentance among God's people (Ezra 10).
- B. The second occasion led to a great rejoicing among God's people (Neh. 8).

XII. Jesus – Our Lord said Israel had failed God "not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God" (Matt. 22:29).

XIII. Stephen – He totally condemned the Jewish leaders for their unforgivable sin of rejecting the Spirit of God, the Word of God, and the Son of God (Acts 7:51-53).

XIV. Paul

- A. He said Israel had understood the letter of the Law (its morality) but would not obey it (Rom. 2:17-23).
- B. He said Israel had not understood the spirit of the Law (its Messiah) and would not receive him (Acts 13:27; 2 Cor. 3:14-15).

PART TWO: SATAN AND THE BIBLE

I. Satan Twists the Word of God (Gen. 3:1).

II. He denies it (Gen. 3:4-5).

III. He takes it out of context (Matt. 4:6).

IV. He attempts to destroy it (Jer. 36:27-29).

V. He attempts to muzzle it.

- A. As experienced by Micaiah (2 Chron. 18:12-13)
- B. As experienced by Amos (Amos 7:10-13)
- C. As experienced by Peter and John (Acts 4:13-18; 5:28)

VI. He tries to add to it (Acts 15:1).

VII. He steals it from human hearts (Matt. 13:4, 19).

VIII. He ridicules it.

- A. As seen at Pentecost (Acts 2:4, 12-13)
- B. As seen at Athens (Acts 17:18-21, 32)
- C. As seen at Caesarea (Acts 26:24)

IX. He attempts to identify with it (Acts 16:16-18).

X. He will cause men to totally turn from it in the last days (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:1-4).