

## Divine Weapons to Demolish Strongholds

We all have baggage in our lives — iniquities inherited from our parents, and other trash accumulated in childhood, and from peer pressure. Ex 20:5-6 talks about how it passes on from the third and fourth generation of your fathers; so it accumulates as the generations go on, with the many different types of things that the evil one puts into people. Our Master came to undo the works of the evil one in our lives.

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Messiah. (2 Cor 10:4–5)*

An iniquity that we have inherited is a stronghold. For example, yesterday when we went to farm, I was sure that this brother really wanted to see me. When he saw me, though, he ran and hid. I don't know why he did it, because he likes me, but for some reason, his emotions carried him away, because his emotions control him and he doesn't control them. I know that he is going to grow and increase and his emotions will come into normality. He ends up saying sometimes, out of his emotions, "I am going to leave."

He has emotional problems and so does everyone else to a certain degree. Other people have mental problems. These are strongholds. Other people have certain types of deviant behavior, abnormalities, and perversions where they go off in certain ways. We are not talking about sexual perversions, like homosexuality, when we say *perversions* here, but being twisted in certain ways from the way our Father intended us to be. Here we are living in community, struggling to be the way our Father wants us to be.

We are to grow up not bent, but straight. All of our problems — social, mental, emotional, and spiritual — will be corrected. That is what we are here in the community for. It can't be done in the world. You can go to headshrinkers and people of that nature, but it really does not fix the problems that people have. Our Father knew that, and that is why He put us here in the community before we go to the Kingdom of God. (We read

2 Cor 10:4-5 again and added verse 6...) “*And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.*”

Have you ever had bad thoughts? Just some crazy thought? I think we all do. They are so bad, and we have to say, “That’s not me; I don’t want to think that way. I don’t do things like that. Help me, Abba, cast out these bad thoughts.”

We take every thought captive to make it obedient to Messiah. And then, at the very end of this age, when we grow up and become like Messiah, giving ourselves to the purification process of 1 Jn 3:1-3, then we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, Paul said, when our obedience is complete.

What did Paul mean by that? Who is the “we” in that verse? Once we are obedient, we will punish all disobedience – is that “we” the corporate “we” of the whole Body? Did he see some people in Corinth not doing it, not putting His enemies under their feet? His enemies are those things in our lives that keep us from excelling in every aspect of our personalities. They hold us back from reaching our fullest potential.

In 2 Cor 10:4 it says “demolish strongholds.”<sup>1</sup> What is a *stronghold* anyway? It is something that has gotten hold of us. It is some bent way in us. It can only be demolished if we *want* it to be. But if we don’t, we are the foolish virgins. We want to be the wise virgins that He is coming back for, instead.

### **Dismantling the Strongholds**

Do you know what *dismantled* means? It means to take something apart, to dissect it and find out what is going on. You destroy it just by taking it apart. Sometimes you can’t do it by yourself. They have tried to dismantle Iraq, but Saddam Hussein hasn’t let them. He has acted like he is disarming, but he has only given up his old guns. Obviously, it possibly will mean his destruction now, since he won’t surrender.

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<sup>1</sup> *Demolish* is #2506, meaning demolition; figuratively, extinction; destruction, pulling down. *Stronghold* is #3794, meaning a castle, stronghold, fortress, and a fastness.

Heb 10:13 — He waits for His enemies to be made a footstool for His feet – and all the wise virgins will do it. The foolish virgins will not do it, although they have the same power available to them as the wise. Sometimes I don't go to the throne of grace, and then I wonder why He is not keeping me in perfect peace (Isa 26:3). When you don't go to the throne of grace, the enemy comes in and you get carnal, foolish.

The foolish virgins will not do it, although they have the same power available to them as the wise do. That is what 2 Cor 10:4 is saying. It is divine power to demolish strongholds. It is just that we don't use that divine power. We try to do it on our own, try to figure it out ourselves, instead of letting Him dismantle it.

These strongholds in our lives – we have to battle them continually. But once we start putting them under our Master's feet and know how to take care of that thing and not let it get to us, then we start to have dominion over it. Certainly, Satan can set up his command post in our lives, and then the things in us, like pride, start to hurt our brothers.

It doesn't matter how smart we are, how clever a brain we have, we can't do these things on our own. Foolish virgins won't deal with them by the power of the Holy Spirit. We have to call on our Master Yahshua to do it for us. If you want to be set free from strongholds, you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

*Then Yahshua said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (Jn 8:31-32)*

We have to abide in His word, which is what gives us the proper information. What does it say in Heb 4:12? The word does something between the bone and the marrow, separating the spirit and the soul.

### **Victim or Victor**

*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb 4:12)*

We can look back thirty years in the Body at people who had, or who still have a victim spirit. People are either victims or victors. They see all the problems, all the people's faults, and all the things that are wrong. They are moaning and groaning and complaining, because they are not the victors. They never did overcome. They didn't seek our Master while He could be found. Sometimes we don't seek Him while He can be found.

There can come a time when we can't find Him. But if we seek Him with all of our heart, He will let us find Him. But if we go on in our victimized spirit, what happened to us here, what happened there, then we become the foolish virgins. They are the ones who do not forgive, and so they are not forgiven. They are the people who see everything wrong. We have to seek Him while He might be found. We have to destroy the strongholds that are in our lives.

### **The Male Child – Those who have Dealt with the Iniquities**

So, I just said that in order to see the really amazing things that Revelations 7 could actually teach us. Here are the Twelve Tribes of Israel and the 12,000 that can come forth from every tribe. They are people who have dealt with the iniquities in their lives. The perceptive first-generation parents have passed on what they saw, and the last generation produced the Male Child. You can see the multitude in white robes in verse Rev 7:9,

*After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands...*

One of the elders asked him, in verse 13, whom these are, and John didn't know.

The elder told him:

*These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Rev 7:14)*

You can see what they went through in Mt 25:35-40 — all the hardships, having their clothes ripped off of them, going hungry, being burned in the sunshine, thrown in jail and killed. Then in Rev 6:9-11, you can see them before the throne crying out for vengeance. Never again will they hunger or thirst, and never again will they be scorched. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. These are the part of the holy people, and the people of the nations will go through the same thing in the eternal age (Rev 21:4).

In Heb 2:13 our Master identifies with these people. He is not ashamed to call them His brothers because they went through the purifying process. Rev 14:6-13 and Rev 20:4-6 — They put their enemies under their feet. They defeated the strongholds in life. Those strongholds were destroyed.

*And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Yahshua and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Messiah, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

They will reign with Him on earth for a thousand years. This is talking about us, and the Male Child in Rev 20:4. It is not just the Male Child there. You can see the woman plus the Male Child. These are the children who have grown up in the Body, destroying the strongholds, not having the victim spirit.

*(Addressing the BOY young men, who have been working very long hours lately...)*

Yes, they died from working too hard, night and day, but where will they be? They will be before the throne. It won't be like that all the time, but sometimes we have pushes. Right now we have a great and pressing need and I hope that someday soon we will be the heads and not the tails. I guess we are going through Dt 8:2 right now and

our Father is seeing what is in our hearts. Sometimes things come out of us, but we can grow and learn from those things.

Still, we are going to do it. We are going to go through it, for we must go through comfort and ease to enter the Kingdom, right? (Acts 14:22). But who is going to rule over the universe except those who have been tested and approved? Otherwise there would be accusations against our Father, for the people of the nations are tested... but no one goes through the opposition of Satan night and day like we do, always trying to make us fall.

Yedidiah – The worst thing about being natural minded is that you miss what His Spirit is trying to say to you. You don't have to do anything special for those iniquities and perversions to come. All you have to do is wake up, and they will be coming along sooner or later that day. But if I am able to hear from the Spirit that sanctifies us, I won't have to remain in the iniquity that I have inherited. Our Master really knows that the Spirit was given to keep Him separate, and sanctified, and He didn't give in to the things that would make Him ordinary. I am so thankful for the Body, where we have opportunities to be purified. I am so thankful we can keep our eyes fixed on him so that when we see Him we will be like Him.

Shemuel ben Sehyah – Iniquities that are inherited in us are like a port up against the cliffs that the military cannot attack. It just spoke to me what we heard about in Heb 4:12, how the Spirit is sharp enough to separate us from the iniquities that would otherwise keep us trapped. Community works if we are obeying what it takes to live in community, being submissive to one another out of reverence from Messiah and being open with our lives so that our brothers can come into our lives and help us.

Shemiyah – If a land is to be taken, every stronghold has to be dealt with. The situations and circumstances bring out where our strongholds are, which the enemy has possession of, where he has set up a camp. If we can see that, we should be thankful and even have joy for the circumstances that expose where the enemy is in our lives.

Benyamin – I have seen iniquities so clearly in my life, like a big mountain, almost too big to deal with. But I was so thankful to hear about dismantling, that if we trust and surrender, our Father will take them down or our brothers will. That is the hardest thing for me, to trust that is what my brothers are doing, and not taking me down.

It is a difficult thing not to do, but it is one thing we can't do – take identity with our enemies. They are not us. If we are humble our Father will dismantle those things in our lives and make us into what He wants us to be.

Jeremiah – I want to be a wise virgin. I want to do it. We work all these long hours and do all these things, but more important is our heart before our Father. Our work can be a testing to us. We have to seek Him for grace to overcome our enemies. I want the things that need to go on in the spiritual realm to be happening and not just the work of our hands. I want to be working with our Father and putting down the strongholds.

It is wonderful that we can admit and talk about our iniquities and come out of it. How else can our children come out of it? They see the things in our lives, their parents, but when we confess it, it just smoothes it out. It smoothes the way for them overcome those iniquities.