

One True Church Series
7 – The Stealth Of Deception
Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr.

Why did God allow His pure NT church of Acts go through intense persecution in which many lost their lives?

Job 23:10

10 But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

1 Peter 1:7

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Malachi 3:3

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Romans 5:3, 4

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Persecution, affliction, trial, and even death as a martyr is the fire that keeps God's ONE church and its members pure, undefiled from the corruption of the world.

God Is In Control of the Thermostat!

Even though Satan administers the persecution God is in control of the “thermostat”. Satan can only go as far as God will allow. If Satan had his way he would kill everybody! God allows some to be martyred, some to be tortured, some to be misrepresented, but He is in control of the temperature of the “fire.” The “fire” will not consume His people but purify them by burning off the things that bind them. The “fire” is allowed for testing and purification of His people only for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 There hath no temptation [trial or test] taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

Stadiums of Death

During the time when the Roman emperors were killing Christians by the thousands as sport in their massive football style stadiums to be torn by lions in front of thousands of spectators, those being killed thought it a privilege to die for Christ. Many were eager to go to the field as a witness of their faithfulness to the God of heaven. You can possibly imagine that some of the spectators were pricked by the Holy Spirit of the sacrifice of Christs' martyrs. Remember, the blood of a martyr is the seed that builds the ONE church of Christ. The more God's people

were killed the more they got bolder with the Word of God and the more people accepted the Truth.

WARNING: Giving the Bible TRUTH in preaching, teaching, and living will ALWAYS invite persecution! Can you handle it? Can you live it? Lord, please HELP us!

Satan, as a dragon, used persecution and execution to try to get rid of God's TRUE ONE CHURCH, BUT THE MORE HE PERSECUTED & KILLED THE MORE IT GREW AND THE BOLDER IT GOT! To stop the expansion and purity of God's New Testament ONE church Satan knew that he had to establish his own counterfeit "church" as an ATTRACTION to lure people from the true church of Christ. In the Old Testament, Satan was successful at alluring Israel from the true worship of God to worldly worship.

SAME NAME, BUT NEW ORGANIZATION Of Deception

Satan as a snake was the one behind empowering Israel to establish a NEW ORGANIZATION that separated from God's ONE church movement in the OT. Even though they still had the name, Israelites or Jews, they were a new established organization that split from the true church of God in action, but still professed to be God's people. They rejected the law and the testimonies. They mixed the worldly and the godly. They took the heathen pagan practices and mixed them with the ceremonies that point to Christ. They mixed truth and error. They trained their children in the ways of the heathen. This organization that Satan developed in the Old Testament later developed the Pharisees and Sadducees found in the New Testament. They had an outward appearance of holiness.

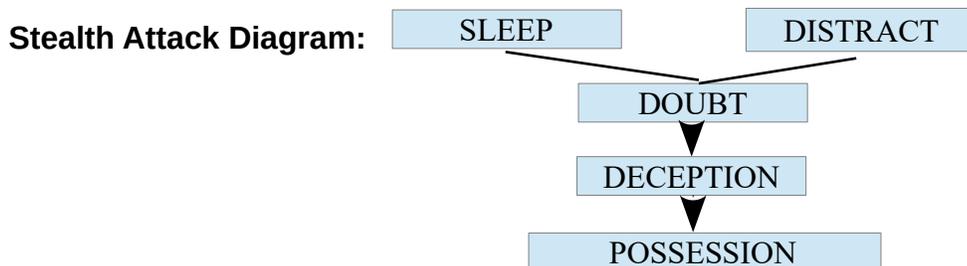
Stealth Attack Jets & Bombers

Stealth attack fighter jets are designed to go undetected by the enemy's radar systems in order to get close enough to the enemy for a successful attack and destruction!

Satan's NT Church Stealth Attack

Satan had experience in developing a counterfeit to God's TRUTH in the past why not employ the same tactics against the NT Church. This is exactly what he did. Especially during the times when the NT Church had periods of rest from persecution, Satan employed his stealth attack.

The model of Satan's Stealth Attack of destruction. The first goal is to have his target sleep or distract. Then he tempts the target to doubt the evidence of God's TRUTH, His explicit Word. Then Satan is able to deceive the target and then take total possession!



Satan wanted to allure God's people from the TRUTH and prevent others from getting the TRUTH. In order to allure people away from the NT Church of Acts to create a new counterfeit church, who did you think Satan attacked first? THE LEADERSHIP!

During the time of Paul's ministry before he was martyred, Satan was working with stealth among the leadership in the New Testament Church and God clearly revealed this to Paul.

What warning did Paul give to the church leadership in his day to expose Satan's stealth attack plan on the NT church?

Acts 20:29, 30

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to **draw away** disciples after them.

Draw away = apostasy (leave the truth, but keep the same name)

Remnant = to remain in the truth

Paul saw the handwriting on the wall. If the leadership was allured away from truth, they would be used by Satan to allure others in the New Testament church away from God's truth. God revealed that it was ALREADY at work in Paul's day. **That is the reason why Paul taught the importance for all those in God's church to know the Word of God for themselves so they can see the stealth attacks of Satan.**

Seven Churches, FIVE IN APOSTASY!

In the book of Revelation God had John write letters to the seven churches, five of the seven assemblies during that time had already compromised God's word. God calls for ALL who were in rebellion to repent. [Apostate – Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Laodiceans] [Remnant – Smyrna and Philadelphia] – Revelation chapters 2 and 3.

How does Paul describe this new counterfeit church that Satan would established after his death?

2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4

3 **Let no man deceive** you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a **falling away first [apostasy, shaking from the truth]**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Paul revealed that this counterfeit church would be known as the SON of perdition (destruction). In other words, the son of Satan, known as the man of sin. What clearly identifies this church is that it would oppose the truth of God and elevate himself to be a substitute of God and to be worshipped as GOD!

Peter also warned the NT church and the leadership of this counterfeit church that would allure many of God's people from the LAW and TESTIMONIES. From God's true Sabbath and evidence of the second coming of Christ. Peter also gives descriptions of this counterfeit.

2 Peter 2:1 – 3, 14, 15, 19, 20

- 1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- 2 And **many shall follow** their pernicious (destructive) ways; by reason of whom the **way of truth shall be evil spoken of.**
- 3 And through **covetousness** shall they with feigned words (crafty lies) make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

- 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling **unstable** souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:
- 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam *the son* of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

- 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.
- 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled therein**, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

As prophesied by Paul and Peter, decades after their death many from the New Testament Church split from its purity and established a new corrupt church known as Papal Roman. The leaders of this new organization did not MAKE an official decree that they had split from the truth of God's word. They deny that there was a split. They believed then and still believe now that they are the true church of the NT led by God. **They still call themselves “Christian”. Matter of fact they claim to be the “catholic” church, “catholic”, meaning “universal” church of God.**

How is Papal Rome characterized as the little horn in Daniel chapters 7 and 8?

Daniel 7:25

- 25 And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 8:11-12

- 11 Yea, he magnified *himself* even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily *sacrifice* was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

12 And an host was given *him* against the daily *sacrifice* by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.

Daniel 8:25

25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify *himself* in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Papal Rome is characterized as the stealthy leopard beast in Revelation 13

Revelation 13:2

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Papal Rome is stealthy as a leopard with spots to hide itself from detection of its corruption and deceptions.

How is Papal Rome characterized as the stealthy leopard beast in Revelation 13?

Revelation 13:3-7

- 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.
- 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, *Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*
- 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue *forty and two* months.
- 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.
- 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

How was Papal Rome able to gain power to grow into an empire monarch and ecclesiastical power over the people? What tactics and methods did they use that are still used today to deceive billions of people?

To be continued....