

Born to Win

Demonic Warfare

by Ronald L. Dart

When the survivors of the Holocaust speak, the rest of us would do well to listen. Telling the story of their liberation, one of the survivors told of how their ss guards changed into civilian clothes before the camps were liberated by the Americans, tried to hide among the general population (I think some of them even tried to hide *among the inmates of the camp*), and the gis had the survivors pointing them out so they could be dealt with. And then this gentleman, survivor of the Holocaust, said something I will never forget as long as I live. He said, “These men were not human. Human beings don’t do what they did.”

And I wondered how literally we should take that. Was he speaking figuratively—saying that the men responsible for the camps were lacking in pity and kindness or mercy? Or was he speaking literally, suggesting a *non-human class of beings*? And the question then arises, naturally: *Are there non-human beings*? Oh, I know there are dog and cats, but we don’t describe them as inhuman. (Sometimes they are more human than we are.)

I realize, in raising this question, I’m stepping out into metaphysics, and I’ll take the change. Understand, though, I’m not going into flying saucers and visitors from another galaxy. I’m simply going to the Bible and the spirit world. Jesus himself, you know, had an encounter with a non-human being. Immediately after he was baptized, Matthew tells us that:

Matthew 4

AKJV

¹ Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

The way this is worded, it sounds like it’s a *deliberate choice* that has been made—that the Spirit would lead him up here and expose him to his archenemy.

Matthew 4

AKJV

² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.

³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If you be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. [*After all, you’re hungry, you can handle that.*]

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Now, I realize that it’s not sophisticated to speak of a real, personal devil. There are people who say they are Christian who don’t believe the devil exists as a *real* person. I suppose they explain this particular encounter as a metaphor of some kind. But let’s agree that Auschwitz, Dachau, and Buchenwald were not metaphors. Hitler and the SS were not metaphors; they were *quite literal* to the very literal people who died in their camps. But this event with Jesus is not presented to us as a parable

or a metaphor. It is a deliberate act to expose Jesus to the tempter, in order that he might dominate him. What we are dealing with here is reality, not metaphor. And yes, Virginia, there really is a *real devil*. Now, just how big a deal is this real devil the Bible talks about. Well, continuing with the temptation:

Matthew 4

KJ2000

- ⁵ Then the devil took him up into the holy city, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple,
⁶ And said unto him, If you are the Son of God, cast yourself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning you: and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest at any time you dash your foot against a stone.
⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, You shall not test the Lord your God.
⁸ Again, the devil took him up into an exceedingly high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
⁹ And said unto him, All these things will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me.
¹⁰ Then said Jesus unto him, Begone, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.

I can't help wondering *what exactly* the devil showed him. Was it what you and I would see as the kingdoms of this world? Or was it the kingdoms of the spirit world? For although the spirit world is never described in any kind of detail, here and there in the Bible there are these little hints that drop on us—that tell us that there is something considerably more out there than you and I can see. It even has some level of organization and some level of territoriality. Now, we have no way to know, but one wonders. Paul had something interesting to say on this. He said, writing to the Corinthians—his second letter:

2 Corinthians 4

AKJV

- ³ But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:
⁴ In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine to them.

Now, Paul can't be talking about anything except the devil, whom he calls "the god of this world", and whom he describes as an actor on the scene. He is here; he is doing things. Well, after the temptation:

Matthew 4

KJ2000

- ⁵ Then the devil left him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

I have no doubt that this was an *exhausting* experience for the Savior. What happened here was a case of bearding the lion in his den. Jesus faced the devil, he defeated him, and he left that mountain in a dominating position relative to *all* the devil's kingdoms. So, yes, when the survivors of the Holocaust speak, the rest of us would do well to listen. There's a *real devil* out there. And when the Holocaust *deniers* speak, we should realize we are hearing *liars*. There is this incident; it is described in John, the 8th chapter, where:

John 8

AKJV

- ³⁹ They answered and said to him, Abraham is our father. Jesus said to them, If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.
⁴⁰ But now you seek to kill me, a man that has told you the truth, which I have heard of God:

this did not Abraham. [*I don't think Abraham ever did that. No.*]

⁴¹ You do the deeds of your father. [...]

Now, this was a real challenge to them, and they responded rather badly.

John 8

AKJV

⁴¹ [...] Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

⁴² Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

⁴³ Why do you not understand my speech? even because you cannot hear my word.

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and stayed not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

What you are hearing in the Holocaust deniers is the father of lies, that old murderer, *denying* what he has done. Jesus minced no words. He called these men what they were *to their face*. They looked like men, but their father was the devil. And this particular cadre of opposition to Jesus were also murderers.

Now, if we can't get our mind around the existence of the devil, we are *never* going to understand the presence of evil in the world. Consider the reality of what Jesus did and what he said. In Matthew, not long after his temptation on the mount:

Matthew 4

AKJV

²³ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

²⁴ And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought to him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Now, there appear to be two categories of people here that can be confused. There are the lunatic (literally, in the Greek, “moonstruck” [*seléniazomai*, σεληνιάζομαι, Strong's G4583]—what we would call mentally-ill people) and the demon-possessed. In the Greek this is one word; not “demon-possessed”, but *daimonizomai* [δαίμονιζομαι, Strong's G1139], which means literally “to be exorcised by a demon”. Or, in the modern style of words, they would have said they brought to them who “had been *demonized*”. There appears to be a difference between demon possession and mental illness.

Now, what does the Bible reveal about these poor demonized people? In the 8th chapter of Matthew, verse 16:

Matthew 8

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¹⁶ When the evening came, they brought unto him many that were possessed with demons [*demonized*]: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick[.]

Demons, then, are spirits. So what are these spirits like? And what can they actually do? Well, on one occasion (you'll find it in Mark the 5th chapter), Jesus and his disciples:

Mark 5

AKJV

- ¹ [...] came over to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.
² And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,
³ Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:
⁴ Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, [...]

My word, I guess like the Incredible Hulk, who could take these things off.

Mark 5

AKJV

- ⁴ [...] and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

Matthew tells us there were *two* men like that. They were *so fierce* that no man might even pass that way lest he get hurt.

Mark 5

KJ2000

- ⁶ But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshiped him [*kneeled in front of him*],
⁷ And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with you, Jesus, you Son of the most high God? I adjure you by God, that you torment me not.
⁸ For he had said unto him, Come out of the man, you unclean spirit.
⁹ And he asked him, What is your name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.
¹⁰ And he begged him much that he would not send them away out of the country.
¹¹ Now there was there near unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.
¹² And all the demons begged him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.
¹³ And Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (there were about two thousand;) and were drowned in the sea.

Now, these spirits were dangerous, they were violent, they were bent on harm. They destroyed that herd of pigs even though it meant that they would once again be disembodied and have no place to go. Well, the people of the town came out to see Jesus:

Mark 5

KJ2000

- ¹⁵ And they came to Jesus, and saw him that was possessed with the demon, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

What a strange response from them. They saw what had happened and they began to beg Jesus to leave the country. Now, these scriptures only give us a glimpse—a fleeting glimpse—of that world that exists in parallel with our own. We have only seen it on those rare occasions when the worlds intersect for some reason. And yet, it seems to be a *profound influence* on our world. Now, again and again in the gospel, Jesus encounters these poor, demonized souls. But then, he knows them and they recognize him, so it would be common enough for him. But there's something Jesus said on another occasion that bears consideration. It's in Matthew, chapter 12.

Matthew 12

AKJV

³⁸ Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from you. [*We want to know some sign of who you are.*]

³⁹ But he answered and said to them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

⁴⁰ For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

⁴¹ The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

And then Jesus said something truly profound. He said:

Matthew 12

AKJV

⁴³ When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walks through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.

It kind of harkens back to the pigs and the legion.

Matthew 12

AKJV

⁴⁴ Then he [*the unclean spirit*] said, I will return into my house from where I came out; and when he is come, he finds it empty, swept, and garnished.

⁴⁵ Then goes he, and takes with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also to this wicked generation.

You know, Jesus almost seems to be suggesting that there was time when this generation was cleaned up, but they have gone back. They have not replaced that empty space with God and, as a result, they're going to end up worse than they ever were before.

Now, all the examples we read in the New Testament seem to involve only a few people; these are mostly individual. How do we get from that manifestation of evil to the evil of the German concentration camps? To a Hitler or a Joseph Stalin? What we see in demonic people is a murderous, lying, destructive spirit. And it's not hard to see that when that spirit gets into a position of power it can do *great harm*. When it has the power of *the state*, it can do unimaginable harm. Hitler, in his last days, knew that the war was lost. In those days, *he was determined to see Germany destroyed in total*. It's kind of hard to get your mind around that. You would think that it would come to the time he'd say "Well, the war is lost; there's nothing we can do now. Let's surrender." The German people, the German army, the Hitler Youth could have been mostly saved if, when the war was plainly lost, Hitler had ordered a general surrender. He could still have ended his own life while he saved Germany. That's not what he did. What he did was the act of *a destroyer*. He wanted to see Germany completely *destroyed* at the end. And, apart from murder, the defining characteristic of Hitler's regime was the lie. Ron Rosenbaum, in his book *Explaining Hitler*, makes it clear enough that it was the *big lie* that made the *big murder* possible.

And so we have the odd metaphor: We defeated Germany and Japan—two societies that had become the chief repositories of evil in the world—and, figuratively, we left them sitting clothed and in their right mind. The question, though, is what happened to the spirit that moved those two empires? It echoes back to what Jesus said: "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walks through dry

places looking for rest and finding none.” And he does say that “the last state of that man is worse than the first, even so it will be.” I think it’s clear that it was not possible for us to destroy the evil demons that motivated these men. All we did was to drive them out and into the swine. Merely casting out a demon, or destroying the body in which it dwells, *does not destroy the demon*. Tanks and airplanes cannot touch them. Paul acknowledges this in his letter to the Ephesians. Ephesians 6, verse 10:

Ephesians 6

AKJV

¹⁰ Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
[*Because understand this:*]

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

¹³ [So you’d better] take to you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

One psychologist observed that demon possession and mental illness are not the same thing, but that demon possession often falls on one who is mentally ill. And it’s *hard* to make the distinction, because those demons *are insane*, and when they manage to find manifestation through human beings, the manifestation is insane. We can fight men like Hitler, then Saddam Hussein (and there are times when we must) but if we do not stay spiritually strong as a people, we will succumb here at home. The denial of God in the public squares and in our schools *disarms us*.

In the Book of Revelation there are seven great trumpets that are blown that usher in the last days of mankind on this earth. Where we’re going to go from there, well, that’s another matter entirely. But as we listen through those seven trumpets, we come to the fifth one; and it’s the fifth one I want to call your attention to.

Revelation 9

AKJV

¹ And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven to the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

² And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

³ And there came out of the smoke locusts on the earth: and to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Now what’s this all about? Well, there is an angel who has a key that opens a bottomless pit—the abyss, as it’s called—a great, deep, bottomless hole in the ground. The locusts that come up out of these seem highly likely to be demonic beings—destructive beings—who are coming to *hurt* men. It says of these, in verse 11:

Revelation 9

AKJV

¹¹ And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue has his name Apollyon.

¹² One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Apollyon in the Greek [Ἀπολλύων, Strong’s G623] is a word that means to *destroy completely*. It’s almost as though we get another devil. We’ve already had the regular devil—that old serpent—

wandering around. Now, finally, someone comes down and unlocks a hole in the ground and lets out of it *another* great destroyer. Describing this time—Matthew 24—Jesus said:

Matthew 24

AKJV

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

²² And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Now, it will come as a surprise to many that there is something like this bottomless pit that exists in Islam. There's an interesting article in the website, *The Persian Journal*, on the Hidden Imam.

[...] and when Hasan al-Askari, the Eleventh Imam, died in 874 AD / 260 AH, the seven year old boy declared himself to be the Twelfth Imam and went into hiding. The Shi'ites believed that he hid himself in a cave below a mosque in Samarra; this cave is blocked by a gate which the Shi'ites call *Bab-al Ghayba*, or the "Gate of Occultation." This is one of the most sacred sites in Shi'a Islam, and the faithful gather here to pray for the return of the Twelfth Imam. [This is since this 9th century AD. -Ron] [...] Hidden since birth, he reappeared at age of 6 to assert his claim to the Imamate, only to then disappear down a well to avoid the sad fate of his father and grandfather.

Bahman Aghai Diba - The Role of Hidden Imam in the History and the Politics of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The website lists several signs of the Hidden Imam's eventual appearance. They call him the *Mahdi*. There's also an Islamic version of the anti-Christ who will show up during this time. And the author of this particular article says:

At the moment, Ahmadinejad and his ministers claim that they get instructions from the Hidden Imam directly [...] in the first session of the Council of the Ministers, Ahmadinejad and his ministers signed a treaty with the Hidden Imam and they asked Sadr Harandi, the then Minister of Culture, to hand over the treaty to the Hidden Imam by throwing a copy of the Treaty down the well in Jamkaran. In the second session of the Council of Ministers, Rahmati, the Minister of Roads and Transportation said: "due to the high amount of donations to Jamkaran, we do not need to set aside a governmental budget for construction of the Tehran-Jamkaran railway." Ahmadinejad answered him with anger: "we have not come [to power] for democracy. We are here to prepare the way for the emergence of the Hidden Imam."

Bahman Aghai Diba - The Role of Hidden Imam in the History and the Politics of the Islamic Republic of Iran

And I can't help but draw the comparison that, when Jesus departed *into the heavens*, an angel appeared and told his disciples:

Acts 1

AKJV

¹¹ You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven [*with your mouths open*]? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven.

He will come in the clouds of heaven with great glory. The Twelfth Imam will come from *a hole in a ground*. By now it should be clear that the military defeat of a demonic super power will not put and end to the evil it represents. You can utterly destroy a nation, as we've done more than once, and we will only have to do it again. There's *another* kind of warfare that will have to be fought, and the weapons of that war are not physical. They are spiritual.

In writing to the Ephesians, Paul talked about taking on the whole armor of God and realizing what kind of a battle we fight—that it's a battle of the spiritual powers in *high places*. Make no mistake, this evil will have to be fought with tanks and planes and soldiers on the ground, but it cannot be ended that way. As it happens, the salvation of our country lies in two groups of people. (And this is going to be very difficult for some people to get their minds around.) Those two groups of people are: One, observant Jews, and two, observant Christians—with *heavy emphasis* on “observant”.

We are in a war to end all wars and we would do well to arm ourselves and our children. Because, in fact, the great father of liars is working hard to do his dead-level best to disarm us—morally, spiritually, and in every other way that he can. What concerns me is, sometimes I think Christians are unwittingly *cooperating* with him.

Until next time.

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