

The Snares of Satan Conclusion

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 3rd

It's God's nature and desire to Bless us! (*Luke 12:31,32*) Most of His blessings are designed as "cause and effect"; in that they are the "**biproductions**" of our relationship with Him! (*Dt. 7:11-14; 11:26-28*) Anything that strains the relationship (aka: Sin) Affects either the "blessings" themselves, or our appreciation for or enjoyment of them. **It's Satan's nature to Curse us.** (*Jn. 8:44-45; 10:10*) Satan "lies" and convinces us that we can "bypass" God's conditions (relationship) and "bless ourselves" by pursuing the *"lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..."* 1 *Jn. 2:16* (*2 Cor. 2:11*) We've considered the snares of: Pride and its relation to bitterness and rebellion; (*He. 12:15; 1 Sam 15:23*) Covetousness and its relation to "Idolatry"; (*Eph. 5:5; 1 Tim. 6:10; Col. 3:5,6*) and Sensuality and how it numbs us to God's voice and prompting. (*1 Thes. 5:1-7; 1 Pt. 2:11; Heb. 3:5*) **I'd like to conclude this series by examining how Satan used all three "snares" to trap the "wisest man".** 2 *Samuel 12:24*

1. The Preparation. God provides warnings about how to avoid Satan's traps.

A. God's Guidelines for Kings (Deut 17:15-20) included:

- 1) Avoiding the personal accumulation of horses from Egypt. Vs 16
- 2) Avoiding the accumulation of women. Vs 17
- 3) Avoiding the personal accumulation of excessive wealth. Vs 17
- 4) Personally, copying God's Law for him to read.

So that God could bless/ guide him and *"his heart be not lifted up above his brethren"* Vs 20

B. David's warning to Solomon. 1 Kings 2:2-4 *"Keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, ... that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest"*

2. The Dedication: 1 Kg. 3:3-14 (Solomon started strong)

A. He initially Sought God. *"Solomon loved the LORD...sacrifice"* Vs. 3,4

- 1) Solomon sought God's blessing of Wisdom. Vs 5-14
- 2) This Blessing was conditional (1 Kings 3:14)

B. He began to Serve God's purposes. 1 Kings 5:4-5 *"the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David... , saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name."*

- 1) It took him 7 years and 6 months to finish God's Temple! 1 Kings 6:27,38

3. The Deterioration Since God's blessings were conditional on maintaining a relationship with Him; Solomon began "blessing" himself.

In doing so, he violated God's clear warnings and became entrapped in Satan's Snares.

A. The Pride of life. Dt. 17:16, 19 *"he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt... That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, that he turn not aside from the commandment"*

- 1) 1 Kings 4:26 *"And Solomon had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots..."*
- 2) 7 years building God's house but 13 years building his own! (1 Kings 7:1)

Ecc 2:4,9 *"I made me great works; I builded me houses So I was great, and increased more than all..."*

Where did this prideful pursuit take him? Ecc 2:11 *"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do: and, behold, all was vanity (heb'el: unsatisfying) and vexation of spirit."* (re'ût: grasping, feeding on emptiness)

B. The Lust of the eyes. Deut. 17:17 *“neither shall he multiply to himself silver and gold.”*

- 1) Eccl 2:8,10 *“I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and provinces: whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy;”*
 - a) He gathered > 25 tons of gold each year! (for 40 years) 1 Kings 10:14
- 2) He forgot the lessons of his father. Ps 62:10-11 *“if riches increase, set not your heart on them.”*

Where did this “striving for stuff” leave him? *Eccl 5:10-11 “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.”*

C. Lust of the flesh. Dt. 17:17 *“Neither shall he multiply wives . . . , that his heart turn not away:”*

- 1) 1 Kings 11:1-7 *“But Solomon loved many strange women. . . Of the nations concerning which the LORD said. . . , Ye shall not go in to them, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.”* **“ dābaq’ : pursued and adhered to. (Gen. 2:24)**
“And he had seven hundred wives, . . . and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. . . And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.”
- 2) Solomon initiated devil worship and child sacrifice in Israel that lasted for hundreds of years until King Josiah destroyed their altars. (2 Kings 23:10)

How did the pursuit of Pleasure work out?

Eccl 2:1 *“I will prove thee . . . enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.”*

What did Solomon discover by pursuing these paths of “self blessing” independent of God?

Eccl 12:8 *“Vanity of vanities. . . all is vanity.”* (under the sun)

Conclusion: Solomon started strong, but got distracted and deceived by the Snares of Satan; leaving him trapped in disappointment and disillusionment. Are we really that different?

This tendency to seek the “blessings of God” without cultivating an intimate relationship with the “God of the Blessings” is universal! He learned (*as will each eventually*) that spending our time and energy investing in the wrong “kingdom” is the height of folly. Jesus addressed this tendency in Mt. 6:19-22 *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth. . . But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good (tob: precious, valuable: aka the “gold, silver, precious stones” of 1 Cor. 3:12) or whether it be evil.” (ra’ : evil, harmful, distressing: the “wood, hay, stubble” of 1 Cor. 3:12)

Application: Ph 3:18-20 *“many walk, . . . that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction (ruin, loss) whose God is their belly (sensuality), and whose glory is in their shame, (pride of life) who mind earthly things.) For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Lord Jesus Christ”*

Which “Kingdom” are you focused on and investing in. (Mt. 6:33)