



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

1/3 rd – In the Beginning	2/7 th – Water Baptism
1/10 th – O.T. Pent. The Battle Begins: Part I	2/14 th RCB -Ordinances?
1/17 th RCB Prayer: Having the Conversation	2/21 st O – Hist./Wis Lt.?
1/24 th – O.T. The Battle	2/28 th I AM GONE AGAIN
1/31 st – RCB Prophetic	3/6 th RCB
	3/13 th O
	3/20 th O - I AM NOT GONE!
	3/27 th O
	(Easter is 3/31 st)

WILL THIS SERIES GO UNTIL MAY?

- **Chew On This Podcast**-drops Thur pm/Fri am-moving to our radio station **WAJC 91.7/88.1 FM** in February-Thursdays @8:30-9:30am



CUNNING

The Spiritual Battle from Genesis to Revelation

I am sending you out like sheep amongst wolves...Matthew 10:16

so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. NRSV

Luke 10:3 *Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.*

Romans 16:19 *For your obedience is known to all; therefore, I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and guileless in what is evil. NRSV*

Our Definition of CUNNING: ~~Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by deceit or evasion.~~
Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by:
Knowledge. Wisdom. Shrewdness. Skill. Resourcefulness. Cleverness. Practice.

CUNNING

The Spiritual Battle in:

WEEK 7: The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament

- Truth #1: We open things in the supernatural by our natural choices.
- Truth #2: There are supernatural and natural repercussions to these choices.
- Truth #3: We don't see it all clearly. We only partial know/understand.
- Truth #4: God is always in control. [Don't overreact]
- Truth #5: Knowing the TRUTH so well, you can identify the false when it appears.

1. **Judges 9:22–24: An Evil Spirit**

Abimelech's Punishment HCSB

²² When Abimelech had ruled over Israel three years, ²³ God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the lords of Shechem. They treated Abimelech deceitfully, ²⁴ so that the crime against the 70 sons of Jerubbaal might come to justice and their blood would be avenged on their brother Abimelech, who killed them, and on the lords of Shechem, who had helped him kill his brothers.

Will God ever use evil to accomplish His will?



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

BACKSTORY:

Judgment Cycle:

Judges 6:1-6

The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord **handed them over** to Midian seven years, ² and they oppressed Israel. Because of Midian, the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. ³ Whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites, Amalekites, and the Qedemites came and attacked them. ⁴ They encamped against them and destroyed the produce of the land, even as far as Gaza. They left nothing for Israel to eat, as well as no sheep, ox or donkey. ⁵ For the Midianites came with their cattle and their tents like a great swarm of locusts. They and their camels were without number, and they entered the land to waste it. ⁶ So Israel became poverty-stricken because of Midian, and the Israelites cried out to the Lord.

Judgment Cycle:

- God provides and instructs how to live inside His Kingdom principles (Supernatural Laws).
- Man does for a time and then gets wonky and invites other things into his kingdom (Kingdom of freewill).
- Man gets beat up within the Enemy's kingdom (earth life) because he has stepped outside of God's Laws and is now receiving the repercussions of living outside of God's principles.
- Man cries out to God for help.
- God answers.

Judges 6:7-10

⁷ When the Israelites cried out to Him because of Midian, ⁸ the Lord sent a prophet to them. He said to them, "This is what the Lord God of Israel says: 'I brought you out of Egypt and out of the place of slavery. ⁹ I delivered you from the power of Egypt and the power of all who oppressed you. I drove them out before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you: I am Yahweh your God. Do not fear the gods of the Amorites whose land you live in. But you did not obey Me.'"

- Strong leader was God's answer this time. Strong leader from an unusual place.

Judges 6:11-24 The Lord Calls Gideon

¹¹ The Angel^[a] of the Lord came, and He^[b] sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash, the Abiezrite. His son Gideon was threshing wheat in the wine vat in order to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² Then the Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said: "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

¹³ Gideon said to Him, "Please Sir,^[c] if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened?^[d] And where are all His wonders that our fathers told us about? They said, 'Hasn't the Lord brought us out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to Midian."

¹⁴ The Lord^[e] turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and deliver Israel from the power of Midian. Am I not sending you?"

¹⁵ **He said to Him, "Please, Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Look, my family is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house."**

¹⁶ "But I will be with you," the Lord said to him. "You will strike Midian down as if it were one man."

¹⁷ Then he said to Him, "If I have found favor in Your sight, give me a sign that You are speaking with me. ¹⁸ Please do not leave this place until I return to You. Let me bring my gift and set it before You."

And He said, "I will stay until you return."



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament 2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew Wednesday Night Church

¹⁹ So Gideon went and prepared a young goat and unleavened bread from a half bushel^[1] of flour. He placed the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot. He brought them out and offered them to Him under the oak.

²⁰ The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat with the unleavened bread, put it on this stone, and pour the broth on it." And he did so.

²¹ The Angel of the Lord extended the tip of the staff that was in His hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire came up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the Angel of the Lord vanished from his sight.

²² When Gideon realized that He was the Angel of the Lord, he said, "Oh no, Lord God! I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face!"

²³ But the Lord said to him, "Peace to you. Don't be afraid, for you will not die." ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it Yahweh Shalom.^[2] It is in Ophrah of the Abiezrites until today.

- Gideon does obedience afraid

Judges 6:25-40

Gideon Tears Down a Baal Altar

²⁵ On that very night the Lord said to him, "Take your father's young bull and a second bull seven years old. Then tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. ²⁶ Build a well-constructed altar to the Lord your God on the top of this rock. Take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down." ²⁷ So Gideon took 10 of his male servants and did as the Lord had told him. But because he was too afraid of his father's household and the men of the city to do it in the daytime, he did it at night.

²⁸ When the men of the city got up in the morning, they found Baal's altar torn down, the Asherah pole beside it cut down, and the second bull offered up on the altar that had been built. ²⁹ They said to each other, "Who did this?" After they made a thorough investigation, they said, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

³⁰ Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he tore down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it."

³¹ But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead Baal's case for him? Would you save him? Whoever pleads his case will be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead his own case because someone tore down his altar." ³² That day, Gideon's father called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead his case with him," because he tore down his altar.

- Gideon looks for reassurance & God answers as He sees Gideon's personality

The Sign of the Fleece

³³ All the Midianites, Amalekites, and Qdemites gathered together, crossed over the Jordan, and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.

³⁴ The Spirit of the Lord took control of^[3] Gideon, and he blew the ram's horn and the Abiezrites rallied behind him. ³⁵ He sent messengers throughout all of Manasseh, who rallied behind him. He also sent messengers throughout Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, who also came to meet him.

³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, "If You will deliver Israel by my hand, as You said, ³⁷ I will put a **fleece** of wool here on the threshing floor. If dew is only on the fleece, and all the ground is dry, I will know that You will deliver Israel by my strength, as You said." ³⁸ And that is what happened. When he got up early in the morning, he squeezed the fleece and wrung dew out of it, filling a bowl with water.

³⁹ Gideon then said to God, "Don't be angry with me; let me speak one more time. Please allow me to make one more test with the fleece. Let it remain dry, and the dew be all over the ground." ⁴⁰ That night God did as Gideon requested: only the fleece was dry, and dew was all over the ground.

Judges 7:1-8

God pars down an army of 32,000 to 300 so EVERYONE will know God has delivered Israel.

Reassurance again: Take your servant



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

⁹ That night the Lord said to him, “Get up and go into the camp, for I have given it into your hand. ¹⁰ **But if you are afraid to go to the camp, go with Purah your servant.** ¹¹ Listen to what they say, and then you will be strengthened to go to the camp.” So he went with Purah his servant to the outpost of the troops^[d] who were in the camp. ¹² Now the Midianites, Amalekites, and all the Qedemites had settled down in the valley like a swarm of locusts, and their camels were as innumerable as the sand on the seashore. ¹³ **When Gideon arrived, there was a man telling his friend about a dream. He said, “Listen, I had a dream: a loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp, struck a tent, and it fell. The loaf turned the tent upside down so that it collapsed.”**

¹⁴ **His friend answered: “This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has handed the entire Midianite camp over to him.”**

- Gideon was a called Judge who refused to be anointed as King (**Judges 8:22-23**).

²² *Then the Israelites said to Gideon, “Rule over us, you as well as your sons and your grandsons, for you delivered us from the power of Midian.”*

²³ *But Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the Lord will rule over you.”*

Judges 8:28-33

²⁸ So Midian was subdued before the Israelites, and they were no longer a threat.^[b] The land was peaceful 40 years during the days of Gideon. ²⁹ Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) son of Joash went back to live at his house. ³⁰ **Gideon had 70 sons, his own offspring, since he had many wives. ³¹ His concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech.** ³² Then Gideon son of Joash died at a ripe old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

³³ **When Gideon died, the Israelites turned and prostituted themselves with the Baals and made Baal-berith^[c] their god. ³⁴ The Israelites did not remember the Lord their God who had delivered them from the power of the enemies around them. ³⁵ They did not show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) for all the good he had done for Israel.**

Judges 9:1-2

Abimelech son of Jerubbaal went to his mother’s brothers at Shechem and spoke to them and to all his maternal grandfather’s clan, saying, ² “Please speak in the presence of all the lords of Shechem, ‘Is it better for you that 70 men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, rule over you or that one man rule over you?’ Remember that I am your own flesh and blood.”

³ His mother’s relatives spoke all these words about him in the presence of all the lords of Shechem, and they were favorable to Abimelech, for they said, “He is our brother.” ⁴ So they gave him 70 pieces of silver from the temple of Baal-berith.^[b] Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men with this money, and they followed him. ⁵ **He went to his father’s house in Ophrah and killed his 70 brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal, on top of a large stone.** But Jotham, the youngest son of Jerubbaal, survived, because he hid himself. ⁶ Then all the lords of Shechem and of Beth-millo gathered together and proceeded to make Abimelech king at the oak of the pillar in Shechem.

(1)Judges 9:22–24: An Evil Spirit

Abimelech’s Punishment HCSB



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

²² When Abimelech had ruled over Israel three years, ²³ God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the lords of Shechem. They treated Abimelech deceitfully, ²⁴ so that the crime against the 70 sons of Jerubbaal might come to justice and their blood would be avenged on their brother Abimelech, who killed them, and on the lords of Shechem, who had helped him kill his brothers.

NIV:

²³ God stirred up animosity^(a) between Abimelek and the citizens of Shechem so that they acted treacherously against Abimelek.

Shechem Rebels against Abimelech NLT

²² After Abimelech had ruled over Israel for three years, ²³ God sent a spirit **that stirred up trouble** between Abimelech and the leading citizens of Shechem, and they revolted. ²⁴ God was punishing Abimelech for murdering Gideon’s seventy sons, and the citizens of Shechem for supporting him in this treachery of murdering his brothers.

NKJV

²² After Abimelech had reigned over Israel three years, ²³ ^(a)God sent a ^(b)spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem ^(c)dealt treacherously with Abimelech, ²⁴ ^(d)that the crime done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might be settled and their ^(e)blood be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who aided him in the killing of his brothers.

[1 Samuel 16:14 NIV](#)

Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.

[1 Samuel 16:23 NIV](#)

Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief...

[1 Samuel 18:10 NIV](#)

The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house...

[1 Samuel 19:9 NIV](#)

But an evil spirit from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in...

[1 Kings 22:22 NIV](#)

“By what means?” the Lord asked. “I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all...

Will God ever use evil to accomplish His will?

Truth #1: We open things in the supernatural by our natural choices.

2. **1 Samuel 16:14–16, 23; 18:10; 19:9: A Tormenting Spirit**

The Hebrew phrase in Judges 9:23 is identical to **1 Sam 16:14**



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul, and an **evil** spirit sent from the Lord began to torment him, HCSB

¹⁴ ^(a) But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and ^(b) a **distressing** spirit from the Lord troubled him. **NKJV**

NIV

¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed ^(a) from Saul, and an evil ^(b) spirit ^(c) from the Lord tormented him. ^(c)

Footnotes

- a. [1 Samuel 16:14](#) Or *and a harmful*; similarly in verses 15, 16 and 23

Two Opinions on “Evil Spirit”

- **Notes. 23** *An evil spirit* was used by God to judge Abimelech. **God is not evil, but evil powers are subject to his control (cf. 1 Sa. 16:14; Jb. 1:12).** ¹

Webb, B. G. (1994). [Judges](#). In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., pp. 275–276). Inter-Varsity Press.

- **9:23 God sent a spirit that stirred up trouble.** In contrast to the legitimate saviors of Israel, who were possessed by the Spirit of Yahweh, Abimelech the usurper received a kind of charisma of his own, lit. “God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the lords of Shechem.” **The term “evil” (ra’ [7451, 8273]) embraces the entire semantic domain of trouble, calamity, mischief, and moral evil from the point of view of the person involved. It does not denote objective evil. For example, Joshua challenged his people, “If it is ra’ in your eyes to serve Yahweh” (Josh 24:15).** Clearly serving Yahweh is not a bad thing, but someone conceivably could perceive it as such. Thus God put a spirit between Abimelech and the Shechemites that caused bad feelings. The authenticating, loyalty-inspiring charisma of the divinely chosen leader had its dark counterpart. God had taken up the challenge implicit in Abimelech’s repudiation of Gideon.²

Stone, L. G. (2012). [Judges](#). In P. W. Comfort (Ed.), *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary: Joshua, Judges, Ruth* (p. 316). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

The Hebrew term *ra’*, translated as “evil” in the CSB, has a wide range of possible meanings ranging from misery to morally evil. The thought here could be something akin to Saul having a distressing or injurious spirit or disposition. Also, the Hebrew term *b’t*, rendered “torment,” could be used to refer to an emotion of extreme fear.³

Cook, W. F., III, & Lawless, C. (2019). [Spiritual warfare in the storyline of scripture](#) (pp. 21–22). B&H Academic.

Will God ever use evil to accomplish His will?

¹ Webb, B. G. (1994). [Judges](#). In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., pp. 275–276). Inter-Varsity Press.

² Stone, L. G. (2012). [Judges](#). In P. W. Comfort (Ed.), *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary: Joshua, Judges, Ruth* (p. 316). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

³ Cook, W. F., III, & Lawless, C. (2019). [Spiritual warfare in the storyline of scripture](#) (pp. 21–22). B&H Academic.



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

An Example in:

- **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 The Great Apostasy**

2 Now, brethren, ^(A)concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ^(B)and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² ^(C)not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of ^(D)Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come ^(E)unless the falling away comes first, and ^(F)the man of ^(G)sin is revealed, ^(H)the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and ^(I)exalts himself ^(J)above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits ^(K)as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For ^(L)the ^(M)mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only ^(N)**He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.** ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, ^(O)whom the Lord will consume ^(P)with the breath of His mouth and destroy ^(Q)with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is ^(R)according to the working of Satan, with all power, ^(S)signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among ^(T)those who perish, because they did not receive ^(U)the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ **And ^(V)for this reason God will send them strong delusion, ^(W)that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but ^(X)had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

THE THREE KINGDOMS (review final night of April 24th)

- We chose whom we yield to.
- The first step is ours.
- When we bind ourselves to evil, delusions of evil are a result of our directional choice.

There are supernatural laws that govern this.

Galatians 6:7-8

⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for ^(A)whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap ^(B)everlasting life.

Truth #1: We open things in the supernatural by our natural choices.

Truth #2: There are supernatural and natural repercussions to these choices.

3. 1 Kings 22:19–23 (2 Chronicles 18:18–22): A Lying Spirit

1 Kings 22:19-23 (2 Chronicles 18:18-22)



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

¹⁹ Then *Micaiah* said, “Therefore hear the word of the Lord: [Ⓜ]I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, [Ⓝ]and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. ²⁰ And the Lord said, ‘Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?’ So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. ²¹ Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, ‘I will persuade him.’ ²² The Lord said to him, ‘In what way?’ So he said, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And the Lord said, [Ⓞ]‘You shall persuade *him*, and also prevail. Go out and do so.’ ²³ [Ⓞ]Therefore look! The Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the Lord has declared disaster against you.”

[Judges 9:23 NKJV](#)

God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem...

[1 Samuel 16:14 NKJV](#)

But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.

[1 Samuel 18:10 NKJV](#)

And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he...

[1 Samuel 19:9 NKJV](#)

Now the distressing spirit from the Lord came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in...

[Job 12:16 NKJV](#)

With Him *are* strength and prudence. The deceived and the deceiver *are* His.

[Ezekiel 14:9 NKJV](#)

“And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I the Lord have induced that prophet, and I...

[2 Thessalonians 2:11 NKJV](#)

And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

1 Kings 22:19–23 and 2 Chronicles 18:18–22: A Lying Spirit

The context for these passages is twofold—a meeting in heaven between Yahweh and “the whole heavenly army” and a meeting on earth between Ahab, Micaiah, and Ahab’s false prophets. Micaiah reported to Ahab that he had a vision of a “lying spirit” that would entice the king into battle, where he would be killed. Ahab’s prophets encouraged him to go into battle with assurance that he would be victorious.

The plot is Ahab, the king of Israel, attempting to form an alliance with Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, to attack Ramoth-gilead and seize it from Aramean control. Ahab, in response to Jehoshaphat’s desire to seek the Lord before attacking Ramoth-gilead, summoned 400 of his pagan prophets, who predicted his victory. Jehoshaphat desired that they hear from a prophet of Yahweh. Ahab capitulated and sought Micaiah.

Micaiah described a vision in which he saw a heavenly gathering comparable to the one described in Job 1:6–12 and 2:1–6. In the divine council, Yahweh asked who would go and entice Ahab into battle, where he would be killed (1 Kgs 22:10). A spirit volunteered to go and become “a lying spirit” in the mouths of Ahab’s prophets that would entice him into battle (v. 22). The lying spirit in Micaiah’s vision was clearly understood to be an angelic being, for the setting is a heavenly assembly.



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

It does not appear that the angelic being should be understood as Satan, for he is not specifically mentioned in the passage. The angelic figure, however, did have a conversation comparable to the one Satan had with God in Job 1–2. While the spirit is not specifically identified as an evil spirit, the main reason for understanding the angel/spirit to be evil is because of its evil function—it prompted Ahab’s prophets to speak a false prophecy and deceive him into going into battle. Deception is commonly associated with Satan and his demons. The use of deception and the parallel to Job 1–2 suggest strongly that the spirit is evil.

Ahab was told the truth by a true prophet of God; **however, when presented with the truth, Ahab chose the lie.** The most troubling thought for many Christians is God’s use of a lying spirit. Remember that God himself does not do evil, but he sometimes uses evil agents to accomplish his purposes.[????? NOT SURE I AGREE WITH THIS]

Ahab, not God, was responsible for rejecting the word of a true prophet and accepting the prophecy of false prophets. One of Ahab’s own prophets taunted Micaiah, indicating that they could not both be right: “Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up, hit Micaiah on the cheek, and demanded, ‘Did the Spirit of the LORD leave me to speak to you?’ ” (1 Kgs 22:24; cf. 2 Chr 18:23). **The passage asserts both the sovereignty of God over the affairs of earth and humanity’s culpability for their sinful decisions.**⁴

- HOW WOULD YOU DIFFERENTIATE WHO IS TELLING THE TRUTH?

Truth #1: We open things in the supernatural by our natural choices.

Truth #2: There are supernatural and natural repercussions to these choices.

Truth #3: We don’t see it all clearly. We only partial know/understand.

1 Corinthians 13:12

¹² For [Ⓜ]now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then [Ⓜ]face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. NKJV

4. 1 Chronicles 21: Satan Incites David

In Chronicles, Satan is depicted as inciting David to call for a census.

- Satan is not mentioned often in the Old Testament.
- When he does appear, he is the adversary of someone devoted to God (Job 1:6; 2:7; Zech 3:1–2; 1 Chr 21:1).
- The term “satan” is used often without the article in Hebrew (*śāṭān*) and usually refers to a human adversary or opponent (e.g., Num 22:22; Ps 109:6).
- When the Hebrew term appears with the article (*haśśāṭān*), as it does in Job 1–2 and Zech 3:1–2, it is used as a title (e.g., *the Accuser*).
- **The word *śāṭān* occurs in only three passages in the Old Testament as a specific reference to the devil: Job 1–2, Zech 3:1–2, and 1 Chr 21:1.**

⁴ Cook, W. F., III, & Lawless, C. (2019). [Spiritual warfare in the storyline of scripture](#) (pp. 22–26). B&H Academic.



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

- In Job and Zechariah, this individual is identified as “the Accuser” (NLT), and “satan” is not technically a proper name.

Zechariah 3:1-2

Then he showed me ^(A)Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and ^(B)Satan^[a] [ADVERSARY] standing at his right hand to oppose him. ²And the Lord said to Satan, ^(C)“The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who ^(D)has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! ^(E)Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?” NKJV

- The word is used as a proper name (without the article) **for the first time in 1 Chr 21:1**, where David is incited by Satan to order a census of Israel. In Job 1–2 and Zech 3:1–2, the word refers to a member of the divine council. While *śātān* is not at this point a proper name in the biblical narrative, from a canonical perspective he can be understood as Satan or the devil (cf. Rev 12:9). The title later developed into a proper name just as the title Christ became a proper name for Jesus.⁵

1 Chronicles 21:1

Now ^(a)Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to ^(b)number Israel. NKJV

2 Samuel 24:1

Again ^(a)the anger of the Lord ^(b)was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, ^(c)“Go, ^(d)number Israel and Judah.” NKJV

- God’s anger does what? It moves things in the natural world. How? Not sure.

[???Allow = Do not stand in front of? Moving my hand away?]

It is best to understand 2 Samuel 24 to explain David’s actions in terms of a primary cause (God’s anger), while the 1 Chronicles passage explains David’s actions in terms of a secondary cause, Satan. The term *śātān*, translated “Satan” in 1 Chr 21:1, is used without the article; thus, it is a personal name and not just the title. In the Old Testament, a census was common (Num 1:2–47; 4:2–49; 26:2–65; 2 Chr 17:13–18; 25:5; 26:11–13). Those related to the monarchy normally have to do with military matters. Joab was opposed to David taking the census. David came to understand that he had sinned against God (1 Chr 21:8). In an unusual move, God allowed David a choice in the form of punishment that would befall Israel and David (vv. 10–14).

The passage indicates that Satan “incited” (swt) David, but he did not force David to take the census. David was culpable for his own sinful choice. The census was not against God’s law, but his motive for the census—pride in his military prowess—may have been wrong. David forgot that his real strength came from God. Even Joab, not known for his godliness, recognized that it was a terrible decision. **David’s example teaches that an action in itself may not be wrong, but the action may be motivated by sin, such as pride, greed, or selfishness.** Satan is depicted here as the tempter seeking to incite David to act in a way that demonstrated a lack of trust in God. Self-sufficiency pulls a person away from God. **The parallel passage in 2 Sam 24:1 makes it clear that Satan would not have been able to cause trouble for David if God had not let him.**⁶

⁵ Cook, W. F., III, & Lawless, C. (2019). [Spiritual warfare in the storyline of scripture](#) (pp. 22–26). B&H Academic.

⁶ Cook, W. F., III, & Lawless, C. (2019). [Spiritual warfare in the storyline of scripture](#) (pp. 22–26). B&H Academic.



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

Truth #1: We open things in the supernatural by our natural choices.

Truth #2: There are supernatural and natural repercussions to these choices.

Truth #3: We don't see it all clearly. We only partial know/understand.

Truth #4: God is always in control. [Don't overreact]

5. Job 1–2: Satan and God's Servant

Oldest book in scripture.

Will always challenge **our** definition/expectations of God.

God is only truly understood in relationship.

Job 1:1-12

There was a man ^(A)in the land of Uz, whose name was ^(B)Job; and that man was ^(C)blameless and upright, and one who ^(D)feared God and ^(a)shunned evil. ² And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the ^(b)people of the East.

⁴ And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and ^(c)sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning ^(E)and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and ^(F)cursed^(d) God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

Satan Attacks Job's Character

⁶ Now ^(G)there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and ^(g)THE Satan also came among them. ⁷ And the Lord said to ⁽ⁱ⁾THE Satan, "From where do you come?"

So ^{THE}Satan answered the Lord and said, "From ^(h)going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

⁸ Then the Lord said to ^{THE}Satan, "Have you ^(a)considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and ^(h)shuns evil?"

⁹ So ^{THE}Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ ⁽ⁱ⁾Have You not ⁽ⁱ⁾made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? ^(j)You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ ^(k)But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely ^(l)curse^(j) You to Your face!"

¹² And the Lord said to ^{THE}Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your ^(k)power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So ^{THE}Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. NKJV



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

Facts revealed about the Enemy:

- Satan is not a son of God.
- Satan is a real supernatural being.
- Satan does roam the earth.
- Satan is accountable to God. [Angelic beings give an account of themselves to God.]
- Satan can only be in one place at one time (not omnipresent).
- Satan is not all knowing (omniscient). He cannot read our minds nor know our future.
- Satan cannot act outside of God's sovereign permission.
- The supernatural world and the natural world do collide.
- WHY does God allow this testing?
- God never explains to Job the question of WHY Job suffered. God chooses to answer with His presence.

Job 38 The Lord Reveals His Omnipotence to Job (A)

38 Then the Lord answered Job (B) out of the whirlwind, and said:

2 "Who (C) is this who darkens counsel
By (D) words without knowledge?

3 (E) Now (F) prepare yourself like a man;
I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

4 "Where (G) were you when I laid the foundations
of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements?
Surely you know!

Or who stretched the (H) line upon it?

6 To what were its foundations fastened?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

7 When the morning stars sang together,

And all (I) the sons of God shouted for joy?

8 "Or (J) who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb; 9 When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band; 10 When (K) I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors; 11 When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves (L) must stop!'

12 "Have you (M) commanded the morning since
your days began,

And caused the dawn to know its place,

13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And (N) the wicked be shaken out of it? 14 It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment. 15 From the wicked their (O) light is withheld, And (P) the (Q) upraised arm is broken.

16 "Have you (R) entered the springs of the sea?

Or have you walked in search of the depths?

17 Have (S) the gates of death been (T) revealed
to you? Or have you seen the doors of the
shadow of death?

18 Have you comprehended the breadth of the
earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.

19 "Where is the way to the dwelling of light?
And darkness, where is its place,

20 That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths to its home?

21 Do you know it, because you were born
then, Or because the number of your
days is great?

22 "Have you entered (U) the treasury of snow,
Or have you seen the treasury of hail,

23 (V) Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war?

24 By what way is light (W) diffused,
Or the east wind scattered over the earth?

25 "Who (X) has divided a channel for the overflowing water, Or a path for the thunderbolt, 26 To cause it to rain on a land where there is no one,
A wilderness in which there is no man; 27 (Y) To satisfy the desolate waste,
And cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass?

28 (Z) Has the rain a father?

Or who has begotten the drops of dew?

29 From whose womb comes the ice?

And the (AA) frost of heaven, who gives it birth? 30 The waters harden like stone, And the surface of the deep is (AB) frozen. 31 "Can you bind the cluster of the (AC) Pleiades, (AD) Or loose the belt of Orion?

32 Can you bring out (AE) Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide (AF) the Great Bear with its cubs?

33 Do you know (AG) the ordinances of the
heavens?

Can you set their dominion over the earth?

34 "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
That an abundance of water may cover you?

35 Can you send out lightnings, that they may
go, And say to you, 'Here we are!'

36 (AH) Who has put wisdom in (AI) the mind?

Or who has given understanding to the heart?

37 Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven, 38 When



CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Wisdom of the Old Testament 2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew Wednesday Night Church

the dust hardens in clumps, And the clods cling together? ³⁹ "Can^(A) you hunt the prey for the lion, Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, ⁴⁰ When they crouch in *their* dens, Or lurk in their

lair to lie in wait? ⁴¹ Who provides food for the raven, When its young ones cry to God, And wander about for lack of food?

Job 40

God's Power and Wisdom

40 Moreover the Lord ^(A) answered Job, and said: **2** "Shall ^(B) the one who contends with the Almighty correct *Him*? He who ^(C) rebukes God, let him answer it."

Job's Response to God

3 Then Job answered the Lord and said:

4 "Behold, ^(D) I am vile; What shall I answer You? ^(E) I lay my hand over my mouth. ⁵ Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."

God's Challenge to Job

6 ^(F) Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

7 "Now ^(G) ^(a) prepare yourself like a man; ^(H) I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

8 "Would ^(I) you indeed ^(b) annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

9 Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with ^(J) a voice like His?

10 ^(K) Then adorn yourself *with* majesty and splendor, And array yourself with glory and beauty.

11 Disperse the rage of your wrath; Look on everyone *who* is proud, and humble him. **12** Look on everyone *who*

is ^(L) proud, *and* bring him low; Tread down the wicked in their place.

13 Hide them in the dust together, Bind their faces in hidden *darkness*.

14 Then I will also confess to you That your own right hand can save you.

¹⁵ "Look now at the ^(M) behemoth, which I made *along* with you; He eats grass like an ox. ¹⁶ See now, his strength *is* in his hips, And his power *is* in his stomach muscles. ¹⁷ He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. ¹⁸ His bones *are like* beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron. ¹⁹ He *is* the first of the ^(N) ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword. ²⁰ Surely the mountains ^(O) yield food for him, And all the beasts of the field play there. ²¹ He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh.

²² The lotus trees cover him *with* their shade; The willows by the brook surround him. ²³ Indeed the river may rage, *Yet* he is not disturbed; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth, ²⁴ *Though* he takes it in his eyes, Or one pierces *his* nose with a snare.

Job 42:1-6

Then Job answered the Lord and said:

2 "I know that You ^(A) can do everything, And that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld from You.

3 *You asked*, ^(B) 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?'

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,

^(C) Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

4 Listen, please, and let me speak;

You said, ^(D) 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'

5 "I have ^(E) heard of You by the hearing of the ear,

But now my eye sees You.

6 Therefore I ^(F) abhor^(a) *myself*,

And repent in dust and ashes."

GOD answered Job with RELATIONSHIP

CUNNING

Week 7: In The History and Poetry of the Old Testament
2024 WINTER SERIES January – March Wednesday Night Crew
Wednesday Night Church

Relationship Example: 2 Kings 6:15-17

¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

¹⁶ So he answered, ^(A) "Do not fear, for ^(B) those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord ^(C) opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of ^(D) horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Relationship Example: Luke 22:31-32

³¹ ^(A) And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, ^(B) Satan has asked for you, that he may ^(C) sift you as wheat. ³² **But ^(D) I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, ^(E) strengthen your brethren."**

- Why didn't Jesus just ask that Peter not go through the trial? Protect him?

CLOSING

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-16

¹⁴ Remind them of these things, ^(A) charging them before the Lord not to ^(B) strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵ ^(B) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.** ¹⁶ But shun profane and ^(B) idle babblings, for they will ^(B) increase to more ungodliness.

Warning:

Assigning intent to people in scripture and to God and to Christ...NO NO!
[God did this because...They respond this way because...Jesus felt this...WHEN WE DO THIS WE TEND TO RESHAPE FACTS TO FIT OUR THEOLOGY OF GOD]

We will not understand God fully here on earth.

Does God allow testing? [Yes? No? ha. Define testing...]

Truth #1: We open/close things in the supernatural by our natural choices.

Truth #2: There are supernatural and natural repercussions to these choices.

Truth #3: We don't see it all clearly. We only partial know/understand.

Truth #4: God is always in control. [Don't overreact]

Truth #5: Knowing the TRUTH so well, you can identify the false when it appears.