

# **Discernment of Enemies:**

{Part Four of the **Presence-Powered Warfare** Series }

*[This is not meant to be an exhaustive study, but rather a brief  
introduction into the Biblical theology of the  
Discernment of Enemies.]*

*Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11*

[All Scriptures NKJV unless otherwise noted]

# I. Introduction to Discernment of Enemies

## ***A. Defined***

## ***B. Necessity of***

### **1. Hebrews 5:12-14**

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. [13] For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. [14] But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

### **2. 2 Cor. 2:11**

lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

## ***C. Call to***

### **1. Acts 20:28-31**

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. [29] For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. [30] Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. [31] Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

### **2. 1 Cor. 16:13**

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

### **3. Ephes. 6:18**

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

### **4. 1 Peter 5:8**

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

## II. Natural Discernment

### A. Visibly Seen

#### 1. Joshua 11:1-5

And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph, [2] and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, [3] to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah. [4] So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots. [5] And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

#### 2. 1 Samuel 30:1-6

Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, [2] and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way. [3] So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. [4] Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. [5] And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. [6] Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

#### 3. 2 Samuel 5:22

Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

#### 4. 2 Samuel 18:27

So the watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man, and comes with good news."

#### 5. 1 Kings 20:26-27

So it was, in the spring of the year, that Ben-Hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel. [27] And the children of Israel were mustered and given provisions, and they went against them. Now the children of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, while the Syrians filled the countryside.

## **B. Verbally Told**

### **1. 1 Samuel 23:1**

Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."

### **2. 1 Samuel 30:9-16**

So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the Brook Besor, where those stayed who were left behind. [10] But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so weary that they could not cross the Brook Besor. [11] Then they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David; and they gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water. [12] And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights. [13] Then David said to him, "To whom do you belong, and where are you from?" And he said, "I am a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick. [14] We made an invasion of the southern area of the Cherethites, in the territory which belongs to Judah, and of the southern area of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire." [15] And David said to him, "Can you take me down to this troop?" So he said, "Swear to me by God that you will neither kill me nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this troop."

[16] And when he had brought him down, there they were, spread out over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil which they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.

### **3. 2 Samuel 5:17-18**

Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. [18] The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

### **4. 1 Kings 20:1-3**

Now Ben-Hadad the king of Syria gathered all his forces together; thirty-two kings were with him, with horses and chariots. And he went up and besieged Samaria, and made war against it. [2] Then he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, "Thus says Ben-Hadad: [3] 'Your silver and your gold are mine; your loveliest wives and children are mine.' "

### **III. Spiritual Discernment Given to God's People**

#### ***A. "Prophetic" Discernment***

##### **1. Deut. 12:2-4**

You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. [3] And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. [4] You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things.

##### **2. Deut. 20:16-18**

But of the cities of these peoples which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, [17] but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the Lord your God has commanded you, [18] lest they teach you to do according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods, and you sin against the Lord your God.

#### ***B. Present Discernment***

##### **1. From the Lord**

###### **a) Matthew 16:21-23**

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. [22] Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" [23] But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

###### **b) Acts 18:9-11**

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; [10] for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." [11] And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

##### **2. From the Holy Spirit**

###### **a) Acts 16:6-10**

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. [7] After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. [8] So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. [9] And a vision appeared to Paul in

the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." [10] Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

**b) 1 Cor. 12:7, 10**

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: [10] to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

### **3. Of spirits**

**a) Acts 16:16-18**

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. [17] This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." [18] And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

**b) 1 Cor. 15:32**

If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

**c) 1 Thes. 2:18**

Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but Satan hindered us.

## ***C. "Prophetic" Discernment with Promise***

**1. Deut. 1:27-30**

and you complained in your tents, and said, ' Because the Lord hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. [28] Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there." ' [29] Then I said to you, ' Do not be terrified, or afraid of them. [30] The Lord your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,

**2. Deut. 9:1-6**

"Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, [2] a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you

heard it said, ' Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?' [3] Therefore understand today that the Lord your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the Lord has said to you. [4] Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, ' Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land' ; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you. [5] It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. [6] Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.

### **3. Deut. 11:22-25**

"For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do--to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him-- [23] then the Lord will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. [24] Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. [25] No man shall be able to stand against you; the Lord your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.

### **4. Deut. 20:1-4**

"When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. [2] So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. [3] And he shall say to them, ' Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; [4] for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'

### **5. Deut. 31:3-6**

The Lord your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the Lord has said. [4] And the Lord will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites and their land, when He destroyed them. [5] The Lord will give them over to you, that you may do to them according to every commandment which I have commanded you. [6] Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

## **6. Joshua 3:10**

And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:

### ***D. "Prophetic" Discernment with Warning***

#### **1. Deut. 4:15-19**

"Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, [16] lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, [17] the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, [18] the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. [19] And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

#### **2. Deut. 4:23-29**

Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the Lord your God has forbidden you. [24] For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. [25] "When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the Lord your God to provoke Him to anger, [26] I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. [27] And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you. [28] And there you will serve gods, the work of men' s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. [29] But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

#### **3. Deut. 6:14**

You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you

#### **4. Deut. 7:25-26**

You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. [26] Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.

### **5. Deut. 8:19**

Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

### **6. Deut. 11:16**

Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,

### **7. Deut. 12:2-4**

You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. [3] And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. [4] You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things.

### **8. Deut. 12:29-31**

"When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, [30] take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ' How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' [31] You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

### **9. Deut. 18:9-14**

"When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. [10] There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, [11] or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. [12] For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. [13] You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. [14] For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.

## ***E. "Prophetic" Discernment with Promise and Warning***

### **1. Deut. 7:1-6**

"When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, [2] and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant

with them nor show mercy to them. [3] Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. [4] For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. [5] But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. [6] "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

## **2. Deut. 7:16-19**

And you shall destroy all the peoples whom the Lord your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you. [17] "If you should say in your heart, ' These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?'-- [18] you shall not be afraid of them, but you shall remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: [19] the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

## **3. Joshua 23:5-13**

And the Lord your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. So you shall possess their land, as the Lord your God promised you. [6] Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, [7] and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them, [8] but you shall hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day. [9] For the Lord has driven out from before you great and strong nations; but as for you, no one has been able to stand against you to this day. [10] One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the Lord your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you. [11] Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God. [12] Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations--these that remain among you--and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you, [13] know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the Lord your God has given you.

## ***F. Present Discernment with Warning***

### **1. Joshua 24:14-23**

"Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! [15] And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as

for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." [16] So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; [17] for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. [18] And the Lord drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God." [19] But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. [20] If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good." [21] And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord!" [22] So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord for yourselves, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!" [23] "Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord God of Israel."

## ***G. Present Discernment with Consequence***

### **1. Judges 2:2-3**

And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? [3] Therefore I also said, ' I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.' "

### **2. Judges 2:10-17**

When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. [11] Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals; [12] and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger. [13] They forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. [14] And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. [15] Wherever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for calamity, as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed. [16] Nevertheless, the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. [17] Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the Lord; they did not do so.

### **3. Judges 2:20-23**

Then the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, [21] I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which

Joshua left when he died, [22] so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not." [23] Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

#### **4. Judges 3:5-8**

Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. [6] And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods. [7] So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs. [8] Therefore the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan-Rishathaim eight years.

#### **5. Judges 3:12-13**

And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord. [13] Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms.

#### **6. Judges 10:6-7**

Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him. [7] So the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon.

#### **7. Judges 10:10-16**

And the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, saying, "We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!" [11] So the Lord said to the children of Israel, "Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites and from the people of Ammon and from the Philistines? [12] Also the Sidonians and Amalekites and Maonites oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand. [13] Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore I will deliver you no more. [14] Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress." [15] And the children of Israel said to the Lord, "We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray." [16] So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord. And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel.

### ***H. Present Discernment with Warning and Consequence***

#### **1. Joshua 7:10-13**

So the Lord said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? [11] Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For

they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. [12] Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you. [13] Get up, sanctify the people, and say, ' Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."

## **IV. Spiritual Discernment Given to God's Peoples' Enemies**

### ***A. Present Discernment***

#### **1. Numbers 22:22-35**

Then God' s anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the Lord took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. [23] Now the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. [24] Then the Angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. [25] And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam' s foot against the wall; so he struck her again. [26] Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. [27] And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam' s anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. [28] Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" [29] And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" [30] So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."

[31] Then the Lord opened Balaam' s eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. [32] And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. [33] The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live." [34] And Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back." [35] Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

## ***B. Present Discernment with Consequence***

### **1. Genesis 12:10-20**

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land. [11] And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. [12] Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, ' This is his wife' ; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. [13] Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you." [14] So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful. [15] The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh' s house. [16] He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels. [17] But the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram' s wife. [18] And Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? [19] Why did you say, ' She is my sister' ? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way." [20] So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.

### **2. Genesis 20:1-7**

And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. [2] Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. [3] But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man' s wife." [4] But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also? [5] Did he not say to me, ' She is my sister' ? And she, even she herself said, ' He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this." [6] And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. [7] Now therefore, restore the man' s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

## ***C. Present Discernment with Warning and Consequence***

### **1. 2 Chron. 35:20-24**

After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him. [21] But he sent messengers to him, saying, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you." [22] Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but

disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo. [23] And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded." [24] His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

**NOTES:**