

DARKNESS THAT CAN BE FELT

(No. 1256 – 10/28/24 – Sermon Online Zoom)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. God called the ninth plague He sent on Egypt “darkness that can be felt”:
1. **Ex. 10:21-23:** ²¹*Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt—**darkness that can be felt** [“so thick you can feel it” NLT].”* ²²*So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days.* ²³*No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. **Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.***
 2. Darkness is the absence of light, something normally perceived through *vision*—but this was something so thick that God said you will be able to *feel* it.
 3. There is a spiritual darkness coming in these last days that is so dark and powerful that we will be able to sense it in the air—we will feel it! But God’s people will have light in their dwellings! [Testimony (July 2024): “This is the power of darkness!”]
- B. There has been a battle between light and darkness since the beginning, but light ALWAYS WINS!
1. **Gen. 1:1-3:** ¹*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ²*Now the earth was formless and empty, **darkness was over the surface of the deep**, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.* ³*And **God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.***
 2. **2 Cor. 4:3-6:** ³*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.* ⁴*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that **they cannot see the light of the gospel** of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* ⁵*For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.* ⁶*For **God**, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” **made His light shine in our hearts** to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

3. **John 1:4-5** (AMP): *⁴In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men. ⁵And the **Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has NEVER overpowered it [put it out or absorbed it or appropriated it, and is unreceptive to it].***

II. SPIRITUAL DARKNESS

A. Rulers and dominion of darkness

1. **Luke 22:52-53** (NKJV): *⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But **this is your hour, and the power of darkness** [“when the power of darkness reigns” NLT].”*
2. **Acts 26:17-18**: [Paul’s call to ministry]: *¹⁷I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸to **open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.***
3. **1 Pet. 2:9-10**: *⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of **Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.** ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*
4. **Col. 1:12-14** (NKJV): *¹²Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the **saints in the light.** ¹³**He has delivered us from the power** [“dominion” NIV] **of darkness** and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*
5. **Eph. 6:10-18** (NKJV): *¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles of the devil.** ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the **rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to withstand in***

Satanic powers and strong demonic forces blind and imprison the unsaved.

*the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the **fiery darts of the wicked one.** ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.*

B. Wickedness and darkness will increase in the last days

1. **Mat. 24:4-13:** ⁴Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵For **many** will come in My name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will **deceive many.** ⁶You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. **SUCH THINGS MUST HAPPEN,** but the end is still to come. ⁷Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of Me. ¹⁰At that time **many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,** ¹¹and **many false prophets** will appear and **deceive many people.** ¹²Because of the **increase of wickedness,** the love of **most** will grow cold, ¹³but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”
2. **2 Tim. 3:1-5, 12-13:** ¹But mark this: **There will be terrible times in the last days.** ²**People** will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵**having a form of godliness** but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them... ¹²In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while **evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse,** deceiving and being deceived.
3. **1 Tim. 4:1-2:** ¹The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and **follow deceiving spirits and things** [“doctrines” NAS] **taught by demons.** ²Such

teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

4. This is where the world is headed—demonic evil and wickedness will climax during the Great Tribulation:
 - a) **Rev. 9:20-21** (NLT): ²⁰*But the people who did not die in these plagues still refused to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God. **They continued to worship demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that can neither see nor hear nor walk!** ²¹**And they did not repent of their murders or their witchcraft or their sexual immorality or their thefts.***
 - b) **Rev. 16:12-14**: ¹²*The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. ¹³Then I saw **three evil spirits that looked like frogs**; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴They are **spirits of demons performing miraculous signs**, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.*
 - c) **Rev. 18:1-2**: ¹*After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. ²With a mighty voice he shouted: “Fallen! Fallen is **Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit**, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.*

C. Good news for God’s people

1. **1 Thess. 5:3-5, 9**: ³*While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴**But you, brothers, are not in darkness** so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness... ⁹**For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.***
2. Egypt was under a curse of darkness so thick that it could be felt; YET all the Israelites had light in their dwellings (Ex. 10:23). Hallelujah!

III. THREE MAJOR RULERS OF DARKNESS IN THE LAST DAYS

A. Deception

1. Deception is the name of the game in these last days! We are seeing unprecedented lying and deception in every sector of society now—fake news, fake money, fake pastors, fake everything! It is becoming increasingly difficult to find out the truth about anything!
2. There will be such blindness and confusion that evil will be called good and good evil:

Isa. 5:20: *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.*

3. People will be like the Ninevites who couldn't "tell their right hand from their left" (Jonah 4:11), who now don't even know the difference between a male and a female!
4. **1 Kings 22:19-23:** ¹⁹*Micaiah continued [to King Ahab], "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne with all the host of heaven standing around Him on His right and on His left. ²⁰And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?' "One suggested this, and another that. ²¹Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.' ²²"By what means?' the LORD asked. "**I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,**" he said. "'You will succeed in enticing him,' said the LORD. 'Go and do it.' ²³"So now **the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you.**"*
5. **Mat. 24:4-5, 11:** ⁴*Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many... ¹¹and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.*
6. **2 Cor. 11:2-3, 12-15:** ²*I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him. ³But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ... ¹²And I will keep on doing*

what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. ¹³For such men are **false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ**. ¹⁴And no wonder, for **Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light**. ¹⁵It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

7. **2 Thess. 2:7-12:** ⁷For the **secret power of lawlessness is already at work**; but the One who now holds it back will continue to do so till He is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one [the antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the **work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders**, ¹⁰and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because **they refused to love the truth and so be saved**. ¹¹For this reason **God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie** ¹²and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.
8. **1 John 2:18** (NKJV): Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that **the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come**, by which we know that it is the last hour.
9. **1 John 4:3-4** (NKJV): ³And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And **this is the spirit of the Antichrist**, which you have heard was coming, and **is now already in the world**. ⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
10. **Rev. 12:9** (NLT): This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the **devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world**—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

B. Perversion

1. Webster's definition: "an aberrant sexual practice or interest especially when habitual." The Bible uses stronger terms like "abomination, unnatural, shameful, reprobate."

2. **Rom. 1:18-32** (NKJV): ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and **their foolish hearts were darkened.** ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶For this reason **God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.** ²⁷Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. ²⁸And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased** ["reprobate, depraved"] **mind**, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹being filled with all unrighteousness, **sexual immorality**, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, ³⁰backbiters, **haters of God**, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³²who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, **not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**
3. Jesus said the last days would be like the days of Noah (wickedness, evil, corruption, and violence) and Lot (homosexuality, perversion) in **Luke 17:26-30**: ²⁶Just as it was in the **days of Noah**, so also will it be in the days of the

Son of Man. ²⁷People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸It was the same in the **days of Lot**. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹**But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.** ³⁰It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

Don't forget Sodom & Gomorrah, for God will judge all sexual immorality and perversion!

4. **Jude 1:6-7 (NLT):** ⁶And I remind you of the **angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.** ⁷And **don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.**

C. Rebellion

1. **1 Sam. 15:19-23 (NKJV):** [Samuel to Saul]: ¹⁹Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" ²⁰And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." ²²So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.** ²³For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."
2. **2 Thess. 2:1-4, 7-8:** ¹Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. ³Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will

Many will fall away from the faith and defect from the truth in the last days.

not come until the **rebellion** [Gk. *apostasia* = “falling away, defection from truth”] occurs and the man of **lawlessness** [antichrist] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴He will **oppose** and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God... ⁷For the **secret power of lawlessness is already at work**; but the One who now holds it back will continue to do so till He is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one [antichrist] will be revealed

3. **Jude 1:8-13** (NKJV): ⁸Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, **reject authority**, and **speak evil of dignitaries**.

⁹Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” ¹⁰But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. ¹¹**Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.** ¹²These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; ¹³raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; **wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

The spirit of antichrist rejects all authority—it produces rebellion against parents, pastors & police!

D. We have the victory—God’s truth will set us free, and greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world!

IV. THE ARMOR OF LIGHT

A. Our greatest weapon against darkness is the light—God’s word, the truth of the gospel, the light of His Presence and revelation, the power of the Holy Spirit, faith, hope, love, and righteousness!

1. **Rom. 13:12-14**: ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us **put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light**. ¹³Let us **behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.** ¹⁴Rather, **clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.**

We do not belong to darkness—we are sons of the light!

2. **1 Thess. 5:4-8:** *⁴But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.*

Be strong, put on your armor, take your stand, and fight! This is war!

3. **Eph. 6:10-18** (NKJV): *¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not **WRESTLE** against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.*
- a) We do wrestle! This is hand-to-hand combat!
- b) Stand, stand, stand, stand!

B. Walk in the light

1. **Ps. 89:15:** *Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You, who walk in the light of Your presence, O LORD.*
2. **John 3:19-21:** *¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.*

3. **1 John 1:5-7:** ⁵*This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: **God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.** ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet ⁷walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. **But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,** we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.*
4. **2 Cor. 6:14-17:** ¹⁴*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or **what fellowship can light have with darkness?** ¹⁵What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people." ¹⁷**Therefore COME OUT FROM THEM AND BE SEPARATE,** says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."*

<p>Don't conform or compromise! COME OUT!</p>

C. The greater the darkness, the greater God's light!

1. **Isa. 42:16:** *I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; **I will turn the darkness into light** before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.*
2. **2 Sam. 22:29:** *You are my lamp, O LORD; **the LORD turns my darkness into light.***
3. **Ps. 112:4:** ***Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,** for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.*
4. **Rom. 5:20** (NAS): *The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but **where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.***

D. Greater glory for the last days church:

1. **Isa. 60:1-3:** ¹*Arise, shine, for **your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.** ²See, **darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, BUT the LORD rises upon you and His glory appears over you.** ³*Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

2. **Mat. 5:13-16:** ¹³*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.* ¹⁴***You are the light of the world.*** *A city on a hill cannot be hidden.* ¹⁵*Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.* ¹⁶*In the same way, **let your light shine before men**, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*
3. Shine!

V. SUMMARY

- A. There will be a great increase in spiritual darkness in the last days; it will be so thick that “it can be felt.”
- B. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus conquered all the powers of darkness and rescued us from the dominion of darkness.
- C. Three major rulers or realms of darkness are prominent in these last days: deception, perversion, and rebellion.
- D. As Christians, we must be very careful to separate ourselves from the darkness and walk in the light of God’s Presence and truth.
- E. God has given us the armor of light to fight all of the power of darkness in these last days.
- F. The more spiritual darkness increases, the greater the light and glory for the Church! Arise, shine, for your light has come!

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt—darkness that can be felt” So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. ²No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

—Exodus 10:21-23—