

"Contend Earnestly For the Faith" Part 7

by Erik Olsen

"...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." – Jude 3

--INTRO:

--in the coming weeks... we'll seek to gain a greater appreciation for the truth by looking at the false teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Catholics, we'll also explore who wrote the Bible and how the 66 books of the Bible were chosen...

--Over the past week as I reflected on the video about Israel and Islam, two devotional lessons stood out that I thought would be good to share tonight. So tonight will be a devotional supplement to our series on false teachers.

--THE RELIABILITY OF GOD'S WORD:

--The history of Israel is a graphic demonstration that God's Word is true and encouragement to believe His Word even when the immediate circumstances seem to contradict His Word

*-excerpt from theclocksticking.com - In 960 B.C., when King Solomon completed the first temple in Jerusalem, Israel was a dominant world power. In 586 B.C. the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and took captive the last king of Israel. For the next 2,535 years the people of Israel survived while scattered around the world amid unparalleled persecution. During the Holocaust over 6 million Jews were killed - 2 out of every 3 living in Europe. Many who survived were impoverished and nearly starved to death. **By the end of World War II, the fulfillment of God's promise to reestablish Israel as a nation in their homeland seemed more unlikely than ever** (Ezekiel 34:12; 36:22-24; Zechariah 7:14; Jeremiah 16:14-15; 23:7-8; 33:7); yet the prophetic clock was ticking, and the minute hand would soon strike twelve. In 1947, UN resolution #1981 partitioned Palestine, giving 18% to the Jews and making Jerusalem an "international city" never to be under Jewish control. Six months later, on May 14, 1948, Israel declared independence and made Jerusalem its capitol. They were immediately attacked on all sides by six Arab nations. The Arab League Secretary, General Azzam Pasha declared "jihad" and said, "This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre..." The Jews faced this just three years after the Holocaust! In spite of being outnumbered many times over and fighting with inferior weaponry, Israel was victorious and regained the sovereignty it lost in 586 B.C.*

--not only has God promised to preserve Israel, but He has also promised that Israel will not have lasting peace until they embrace Jesus Christ as their Messiah (Zechariah ch. 12 – 14)

--2 Corinthians 5:6-8: **"For we walk by faith, not by sight."**

--THE DECEPTION OF SATAN:

--2 Corinthians 11:14-15: "For **Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light**. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."

--John 8:44-45: Jesus said, "[**Satan**] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for **he is a liar and the father of it**."

--1 Peter 5:8-9: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he may devour**. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

--when we train ourselves to see Satan behind the lies/temptations that we face, they lose their power...

--Mark 14:38: Jesus said, "**Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**"

--James 4:7-8: "Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you**. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

--Romans 1:24-25: "[speaking of those who don't want to follow God] Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 **who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever."

--Romans 12:1-2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."