

Team Light vs. Team Darkness

AN EPIC CHALLENGE IN THE STADIUM OF EARTH

BY VICTORIA SARVADI, TH.D.

It has been said that if we don't stand for something, we'll *fall* for anything. Truer words could not be spoken as we witness a *fallen* and lost world filled with chaos and confusion.

Before *Yeshua* comes with his saints in heaven to gather his people called by his name, we can be certain about what *must happen* by his own words. "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed because all these things must happen; but that is not yet the end. Nation will rise against nation, and **kingdom against kingdom**" (Matthew. 24:6-7, EHV).

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DARK KINGDOM

As a result of *falling away* from God, Adam and

Eve elected and crowned a charming angelic superstar as their new authority. They trusted the new prince's bewitching narrative. His luring enticement was self-gratification and the freedom to make their own choices independent of God's standard. Satan gloried in the couple's submission to him as he proceeded to set up his **Dark Kingdom** and methodically assemble his team, **Team Darkness**.

He sold humans on what he knows best; arrogance, pride, violence, vanity, lies, material wealth, and narcissistic knowledge. This copious rhetoric has been repeated in every pillar of influence in human society for generations.

SATAN'S TRADE

The prophet Ezekiel tells us of Satan's cunning and clever trade practices. We can readily see what wicked manner of merchandise that this crafty businessman with his mercenary agenda has sold to the vulnerable subjects of his administration. "In your *widespread trade*, you practiced much violence, and you sinned" (Ezekiel 28:16, EHV). Because of the immense number of your crimes and your dishonesty in business, you profaned our sanctuaries (Ezekiel 28:18, NCB).

Just as Adam and Eve were deceived, the ruler of this **present darkness** makes his narrative palatable to every earthly vessel that lives upon the earth. He appeals with lust and greed. He appeals with false humility and spiritual dogma. No one is spared temptation. "So, the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, **who deceives the whole**



world” (Revelation 12:9).

But there is good news. The Father has a plan—a play book to redeem mankind and restore Planet Earth. It’s an eternal plan that was established from the foundation of the world. The apostle Paul wrote to Titus, that God, who cannot lie, promised us eternal life before the world began (Titus 1:2). In fact, Daniel 4:3 says, “His **kingdom** is an everlasting **kingdom**; his dominion endures from generation to generation.”

As the Father of Light begins to implement the **restoration kingdom** process, he implores us that we must choose whom we will serve—or rather—whose team we are on. “You **were** following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God]” (Ephesians 2:2. AMPC).

TEAM DARKNESS

The world has been hijacked and desperately needs redemption and restoration. The present ruling **kingdom** of earth is becoming darker. The powers and authorities in the high places of the air have created a global mindset of self-conceit and discord. The **kingdom** of sin is “anti-God” as it opposes all that is God, and “anti-light,” entirely in conflict with every standard of virtue and goodness. We see this **Dark Kingdom** rising in universities, media, global governments, and controlling organizations that threaten our freedoms and national identities. The stock market portends collapse, viruses appear to be purposely unleashed, sex trafficking of children and susceptible victims is rampant, and pedophilia and sexual narratives target our children and confuse the masses. **Team Darkness** is growing in strength and numbers.

As we consider the parable of the wheat and tares in Matthew 13:38, we understand that the field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of God’s **kingdom** who live among the weeds (or the people) of the evil **kingdom**. Hence, there are *two kingdoms*. Yeshua explains that at the end of days (at the height of man’s global government), these *two kingdoms* will “rise up” against each other. The prophet Isaiah says it another way: “When the enemy shall *come in like a flood*, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a **standard** against him (Isaiah 59:19, KJV21). A standard is a banner—a banner of Divine victory.

A profound aspect of these end times is that God’s Word **determines** the enemy will indeed come in like a flood—a forceful and rising evil **kingdom** of darkness that increases and pervades

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the entire earth. The most comforting fact is that when this happens, the Lord himself will raise up a divine victorious banner—his standard of light against the evil forces. Rest assured, **Team Darkness** will not win the game.

THE MIDDLE SCREEN PASS

My husband often talks about a specific football play he experienced as a quarterback in a high school football game. Paul wasn’t as large as most of the players on his team, and he was nowhere near the size of the country-fed boys of the opposing team. It was a typical Friday night in Texas. Under the bright stadium lights, as the two high school bands competed to play their anthems and marching tunes, his team was being profoundly outplayed. In the fourth quarter, the score was a dismal 60 to 0. Paul’s good friend, Bob, the first-string quarterback, took a hit, had a concussion, and was out for the duration. Paul was called in to take his place and face the giants. Understand, all night, the defensive line had been breaking through every play and sacking the quarterback repeatedly. As the weary Falcons scrambled to a huddle, a play came in from the sidelines. The coach called out, “*The Middle Screen Pass.*”

At the end of days, the Kingdom of God will confront the Kingdom of Darkness, and the Lord will lift up his banner of victory in the Messiah!

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The *Middle Screen Pass* is a play that is designed so that the entire offensive line (whose main job is to protect the quarterback) **allows** the defensive line to come through like a flood. A host of offensive players simply move out of the way while the receivers (who are left virtually undefended at the other end of the field) wait in position. They are watching and waiting for the ball that must be thrown quickly before the inevitable “sack.”

This most paradoxical play is a good picture of God’s plan for redemption and victory over the challenging foe. The permissive play gives aggressive opportunity to the enemy, appealing to ego and violence. There is little opposition. Satan is allowed to plow through the world with his presumptuous team tactics to “sack” the opposing side. “In fact, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only until the one who is now **holding him back moves out of the way** (2 Thessalonians 2:6–8, EHV).

TEAM LIGHT

So, darkness gets darker, but it’s an ingenious play! The players on the field begin to separate. **Team Darkness** runs through to crush the quarterback, the Lamb. **Team Light** moves toward their goal, the high calling. Yeshua is our all in all. He is the star quarterback who takes the hit. He’s the ball that hits perfectly on the mark. He’s the receiver who runs with his team to the goal. He’s the Victor, the Divine Standard, and those who run with him are on his winning team—the **Kingdom of Light**. “You have made them to be a **kingdom** and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10).

Are you wondering what hap-


pened after Paul threw the *Middle Screen Pass*? The ball left his arm and was perfectly launched through the air, caught by one of his wide receivers to be taken in with the whole team for the score. The weary crowd that had endured brutal disappointment for three quarters erupted into cries of elation and joy.

But Paul? Well, he was the team’s sacrificial lamb. Lying buried beneath a large mound of 200+ lb. Goliaths, Paul finally emerged—like a true resurrection from the dead. Bruised but not broken, it was nothing short of a miracle. After all these years, he still carries a few scars, but he lived to tell not only of the miracle on that football field that night but the more miraculous victory of our superstar, Redeemer, Yeshua.

THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT WILL ARISE VICTORIOUS

Satan’s cultural systems have promoted self-worship, self-promotion, and self-glorification. Happiness is thought to come from riches, education, positions of power, entertainment, promiscuity, food and wine, and the list goes on. If you want it—get it at all cost—lie, steal, kill. Just help yourself—indulge.

Sadly, because of the negative narrative that fuels Satan’s **Dark Kingdom** on earth, God’s people have become disoriented, lost in the labyrinth of spiritual concussion and amnesia. And for this reason, God sent his Messiah—Yeshua—to redeem those chosen people who would trust in him instead of this world system. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9, EHV). “Surely the eyes of the Sovereign Lord are on the sinful **kingdom**. I will destroy it from the face of the Earth” (Amos 9:8).

And the team who bears Yeshua’s name will be glorified in their hero’s fame. **Team Light** will prevail. Shout it out loud! Hooray—for our side! Hail our conquering hero. “And this gospel of the **kingdom** will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **then** the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). 

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RESTORE!

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“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe” (Hebrews 12:28).