



The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

"And an highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness."

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SATAN'S AUDACIOUS ADVENT

Nowhere in all the Gospels does the transcendent teaching ability of Jesus shine more brightly than in that great parable of the Sower. There is enough material for a lifetime of study in this one portion of Jesus' words. His analysis of the Wayside Hearer not only reveals the cause of personal declension, but also contains a principle which unerringly points out the cause of the variegated history of God's cause in the world. There is more solid history, unerring analysis and solemn warning in "then cometh the devil" than in whole volumes written by uninspired men. It is the purpose of this sketch to trace the "Audacious Advent" of the devil from Eden to the present troubled time.

From Eden Onward

The powers of the human mind are simply inadequate either to describe or fully appreciate the pure blessedness that reigned over the Primal Scene as Adam and Eve dressed the Garden and communed with the Creator of all. Beauty, harmony, joy, singing and purity ruled supreme and then, sad to relate, "cometh the devil." The word was taken from Adam and Eve's heart, disobedience followed and the scene darkens with a portentous darkness that fills the souls with dread.

God, in His desire to redeem, has now called out the holy nation which should, by its institutions and mode of life, bear witness to a pagan world the spirituality and oneness of the True God. When Israel heeded the word all went well. The fear of them fell on every portion of the nations about them. One would be tempted to say that the devil could not break into this blessed plan, but such was not the case. When Israel was launched into her God-given sphere of action "then cometh the devil" with the same fatal result that obtained in Eden. All now became darkness, frustration, loss and unutterable sorrow as defeat, disease, famine and misery became their bitter portion. All of this was permitted to come because they had allowed the devil to steal the word of obedience away from the heart, nation and temple.

The Early Church

The Christ has now come, given His life a ransom, sent the Holy Ghost upon the disciples while thousands are converted to the Lord. Such waves of purity and power are now sweeping the world that one might again be tempted to say that nothing could ever dim this picture in any degree whatsoever. But "then cometh the devil" and stole the word away and sowed the tares of compromise by the hand of the Emperor Constantine. The world soon lapsed into long centuries of dark-

ness called by some "the devil's millenium" or the thousand years of darkness.

The Reformation

Upon this scene of almost universal darkness the German monk, Luther, rose as a shining light and soon all Europe was girdled with light and gospel glory. Great was the progress of this movement which bid fair to change the very map of the earth. "Then cometh the devil" and wrought such havoc until today the movement that Luther gave the world has lapsed back almost to the point they arose from. Candles, ornate altars, endless ceremonies and powerless form fill a great portion of the scent until the original doctrine of justification by faith is almost lost insofar as it brings instant light and power to the soul.

The Wesleyan Revival

The great nation of England had almost lapsed into open paganism when in the great providence of God a group of mighty men, led by the immortal John Wesley, began to preach the full gospel of an uttermost salvation. Even profane historians declare that this movement saved England from the bloody Revolution which desolated the French nation just across the Channel. Mighty streams of pure salvation rolled out from this movement to the uttermost parts of the world until it was almost pardonable to believe that the Methodist Church would bring in the millennium. At this point of great power and blessing it would have been hard to have believed that even the devil could hinder the course of this mighty river of salvation. But, sad to relate, "then cometh the devil" and sowed such a terrible sowing of tares that today the movement begun under God by Wesley is almost universally apostate. Worldliness in all of its open and subtle forms, denial of the historicity of the Old Testament and much of the New; and the rejection of the Deity of Christ Himself finds comfortable lodging in this once towering tree of God's planting.

The Modern Holiness Movement

The scene now shifts to America where such giants as Inskip, Roberts, Bresee, Rees, Taylor and multitudes of the same stamp began to call the people back to the primitive principles of "holiness unto the Lord." The times of power they saw, the multitudes they pointed to the Lamb of God remind one of the days of the Wesleys. It would be mere childishness indeed to think that the devil whose audacious advent had corrupted all prior movements would allow the modern holiness movement to carry the field without a battle. The devil even now is making mighty efforts to steal away the seed of the word from the hearts of those who compose the holiness groups. The lamentable signs of his success is

to be found in the desire to be like the nations around us in matters of dress, sports, amusements, Sabbath keeping and such like. Within the Church there is a great trend toward organization, program, discussion groups, the use of the movie and contests of various sorts to whip up a flagging interest in church attendance and Bible reading. The unutterably sad part in this is that most every excuse is offered concerning non-attendance at the prayer service where all the attraction offered is the immediate and blessed personal Presence of the Triune God. That the devil has come in destructive advent cannot be doubted when the zeal for points, committees, contests and social affairs has far outrun the desire for prayer and praise.

May the God of infinite mercy give us eyes to see that this is the very condition that produced the apostasy in the older Churches. This apostasy became so militant and noxious that men of vision and spirituality were literally thrust out to form Churches where the souls of the people could again breathe the pure air of Heaven. It is folly of the deepest dye to pattern in any way after those movements that have lost their field as a soul-saving agency and in many cases their orthodoxy.

The sound historical basis for this sketch cannot be denied, for these are facts too well known to be doubted. No one of any knowledge of these matters can deny that the audacious advent of the devil in times past has produced all of this and more. The application of this principle to the modern holiness movement may be unwelcome and even contradicted, but at any rate a word of kindly caution is not out of order. The same Arch-fiend that has wheeled out all the infernal enginery of hell against all prior movements will not stand idly by in our case.

The only possible defense against the audacity of the devil is to receive the word of repentance, separation, devotion and spirituality in an "honest and good heart." Any wincing or shiftiness here will just as certainly bring us down as it has brought others down in the past. As the muttering thunders and forked lightnings of coming destruction are making dismal every department of life today, may grace and strength be granted us, as a people chosen of the Lord, to detect and resist every audacious advent of the devil. May we ever "deny ungodliness and worldly lusts live soberly, righteously, godly in this present world, look for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the Great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." —The Wesleyan Methodist.