

REFLECTIONS

WEBS!

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Webs! Watching a garden spider spin her web one can see the creative power given by God to the lowly spider as she creates not only a functional trap for food, but a work of art as well. In similar fashion, the webs of life often at first appear to be beautiful or beneficial, but when fully encountered prove to be a snare leading to enslavement and defeat. The term web has a variety of meanings but one of the common uses describes snares, conspiracies, and other forms of entrapment. Terms such as “web of deceit” or “web of conspirators” can be used to describe the tools of predatory individuals who prey on the emotions and even the lusts of the weak. Just like the spider, those who create these webs of deceit and predation have in mind the capture and exploitation of their captives.

Isaiah speaks words of judgement on the people of Israel and in his words he references the webs of iniquity that they have woven in their fallen state. *No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.* ⁵ *They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.* ⁶ *Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are works of iniquity, And the act of violence is in their hands.* (Isaiah 59:4-6 NKJ) Here again we see the trap-like nature of the spider’s web used as a metaphor for the sins of Israel. It seems then to be quite appropriate for us to focus on both the deceptive beauty of the web and its ultimate purpose to trap the unsuspecting prey as we use it as a picture of sin’s influence on the lives of each of us.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan spread his “web” by using Eve’s own response to his question as a transition to causing her to “see” the fruit in a manner that appeared to make it irresistible. She saw that it was attractive, good for food and desirable to make one wise and then took of the fruit and ate it. She had fallen for the apparent beauty of the temptation and was unable to see the trap that had been set and the life altering consequences of entering into the web of sin.

Peter in his epistle warns that the enemy is not passive in his desire to possess the souls of men. He tells us... ⁸ *Be sober, be*

vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.* (1Peter 5:8-9 NKJ) He states, with considerable energy, that we are to resist him by remaining steadfast in our faith in Jesus and His Word. Satan’s webs of deceit can be overcome by the Holy Spirit living in the believer where He will provide a discerning spirit to make us able to avoid them.

Today we have a new and powerful web, the internet, that not only can be a useful tool for research and communication, but can also be a powerful weapon to mislead and defeat us through the influence of evil men who aim to use it to exploit the lusts and desires of men and as a result many have been captivated and enslaved. Here again we must remain fully confident in our faith in Christ as we resist the temptations offered that appeal to the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life.

Even in the political world we see the webs of deceit, the lust for power, and the desire to rule over others controlling our elected officials and the results are laws that promote behaviors that are clearly described in Scripture as being abominations to God. We see the Kingdom of God under continuous assault by those who have been duped by the enemy to accept a world where the truth has been suppressed and the lies of Satan have been embraced as if they are truth. Webs of lies fuel the world view of many and the Church itself has, in too many ways, been influenced and contaminated by Satan’s world view distortions. As a result of the Church’s confusion over truth, we have seen many abandon the Word of God in order to fill the buildings with those looking for entertainment and experience rather than those who are seeking eternal life in Jesus. We have seen them embrace the sinful world’s web of distortion and, as a result, they have turned to fables and foolishness. Paul warned young Timothy that... *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,* ² *speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,* (1Timothy 4:1-2 NKJ) Let’s walk in faith in Jesus and thereby avoid the entrapment of the webs of sin. **Pastor Doug**