

# “Satan’s Modern Disguise”

*Written August of 2022*

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 32:7-9

## **Introduction**

Today’s Message God provided to me in bits and pieces over the course of the past two weeks. However, the past two days the Lord revealed to me first closing of the Message, then the middle of Message and finally yesterday what HE wanted for the Introduction. It was amazing to see how God put this Message together. But after reading over the notes that the Holy Spirit inspired me to write it dawned on me that this Message is a Jeremiah style Message and honestly personally challenged me and my Faith. I have been in deep reflection of my own Faith the past few days in preparation for today. Let’s invite the Holy Spirit to be with us today so that God can open all our minds, hearts and spirits to receive what He has prepared for us today.

## **Sermon**

I wanted to begin today’s Message reviewing a story that we all have heard probably hundred times, but interestingly enough the Lord always has some fresh Mana from a common story. I remember watching this movie in the 80’s with Charlton Heston and was blown away by it as kid and in 1998 when Prince of Egypt came out I remember sneaking to the movie theater to watch because I was an Atheist at the time. But something drew me to this story even then.

If you haven’t guessed it already, it’s the story of when Moses delivered the Israelites from Egypt and there is a whole book in the Bible that documents this event and is named after this event. Have you guessed what book that is? You guessed it, the book of **Exodus**. Here we find this amazing story of Gods’ Deliverance of His People. But interwoven into the fabric of this story we find many object lessons one of which will be the focal point of today’s Message.

I would like to review the part of the story when Moses is up on Mount Sinai and God is writing “The TEN COMMANDMENTS” with his own Finger on two tablets of granite. Now let’s pause right there a moment, if God Himself is writing the Ten Commandments with His own finger do you think the Ten Commandments is important? Ironically enough He wrote them twice as well. If you remember from this story. While Moses was up in the mountain the Israelites got nervous. If you turn in your Bibles to **Exodus Chapter 32** you can pick up on the story there.

Now did the Israelites patiently wait in Faith for Moses to return, especially right after witnessing Gods’ Deliverance by the plagues that fell on Egypt and even more incredible the parting of the Red Sea? Let’s quickly read these verses up to **Verse 9** together.

Here we see the Israelites in complete disobedience to God. But my dear brothers and sisters let's call this what it is: **Open Rebellion against God and everything He stands for.** God tells Moses what the people are doing and Moses rushes down Mount Sinai to find the Israelites worshipping and bowing down to an idol. **This idol was a Golden Calf that represented the Egyptian god Apis.** Here is an interesting fact that I was surprised to discover. This Egyptian god Apis was later adopted by the Canaanites as their fertility god, do you want to guess what his name was? **It was BAAL.** I find it so ironic that all through the Old Testament and the New Testament the Israelites kept defaulting to this idol that their forefathers did at Mount Sinai.

I think of the scene in **I Kings Chapter 17 & 18**, in particular **Chapter 18**, when Elijah calls for the prophets of Baal to be killed right after God had manifested Fire from Heaven to consume the Alter drenched in water. These prophets of Baal would sacrifice children to this idol, that is why God destroyed them in this account. It was amazing to me to see that time and time again Gods' Chosen People kept falling back to old habits.

**I will be very honest; I have always been very critical of the Israelites at Mount Sinai.** How could they have been so **DUMB** to ask Aaron to make/fashion them an idol when they had a front row seat to the amazing Miracles God did for them in their Deliverance. Through the journey of preparing this Message God showed me something that I would like to share with you.

So, I asked myself this question: **“WHAT DID THE IDOL (GOLDEN CALF) REPRESENT TO THE ISRAELITES?”** I ask you today this very same question, what do you think it represented?

- Security in believing in something they can touch and feel.
- The illusion of some type of power they could obtain.
- Feeling better than everyone else.
- It made them feel a part of what the crowd was doing, sense of belonging.
- It satisfied their flesh, their carnal desire to feed their senses and wants.

**\*Let's define the word idol real quick:**

- **IDOL=** an image or representation of a god used as an object of worship. The worship of someone or something, other than God, as though it were God.

Now that got me thinking even further on the second half of this definition. **There is no way that Gods' Chosen People now, Spiritual Israel can be dumb enough to fall for satans trap again, right?** What do you think? Well let's watch this quick video clip and see if begins to help you answer that question. **“Idol Worship”** by the **Skit Guys.**

**What does the church think about this video?** How would you define IDOL WORSHIP in our modern times? This is what the Holy Spirit revealed to me:

**“ANYTHING THAT TAKES TIME AWAY, or YOUR FOCUS FROM TRULY SPENDING TIME WITH GOD HAS BECOME AN IDOL IN YOUR LIFE”**

**Let me provide you an interesting statistic according to:** [www.Statista.com](http://www.Statista.com).

*“According to a survey conducted in February of 2021 nearly half of the respondents stated that on average they **spent five to six hours on their phone on a DAILY BASIS**, not including work-related smartphone use.”*

**Here is another interesting statistic according to:** [www.Digitalwellnesslab.com](http://www.Digitalwellnesslab.com)

*“56% of teenagers within the age bracket of 13 to 17 years of age spend an average of **2.5 hours daily** on video games.”*

*“It also shows that 66% of gamers aged between 8 to 12 years of age spend approximately **2 hours daily** playing video games.”*

Now let's put this into perspective. I have two teenage daughters myself and at 7am we start getting ready for the day and head off to school and they get back around 4:30pm to do hours of homework we eat dinner at 6pm and then they finish their homework sometimes until about 8pm. **So, the majority of our children somehow squeeze time out of their day to play video games at least 2-2.5 hours daily.** Mind you the majority of these video games promote violence, sexual content and demonic role-playing games. My question is: **HOW MUCH TIME ARE THEY SPENDING WITH GOD?**

It fascinates me that we get shocked and appalled at all the school shootings, the increase in moral degradation; yet these statistics involved so called “Christian” homes. Jesus said in: **John 17:11** that *“He was in the world, but NOT of this World.”* By definition CELL PHONES AND VIDEO GAMES have become an IDOL to our children and teenagers. Oh, but us adults are not left out of the equation. Ask yourself this, since you came into church today, **HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR CELL PHONE OR WERE ON YOUR CELL PHONE?**

Don't answer that; because prior to coming up here to preach I was looking around and almost all of you did that, ask yourself why. **Cell phones and social media have become an addiction, A VISE, A CHAIN, that satan has put upon you and we are all asleep to it. That's why!!!** If you have some free time checkout a documentary on **Netflix** called **“Social Dilema”** so that you can open your eyes to how satan has used social media to suck society into this addiction. Worse of all degrade the minds of your young people, the future of our society.

Next time you go to dinner look around and see how many conversations are actually happening. Notice how many people have their cell phones in their hands. A while back someone had given my wife a gift card to Starbucks. We would never pay \$5-\$6 buck for a cup of coffee of our own fruition, but since we had a gift card, we wanted to see what all the hype was all about. Well, little did we know that \$25 wouldn't be enough to buy coffee and a snack so we ended up paying \$1.20 to finish covering the sales tax. But that wasn't the most shocking part of all.

Once we got our order the entire place was completely silent, yet there were 15-16 people in there. EVERY SINGLE PERSON WAS ON THEIR CELL PHONES, and there were people sitting together that it was obvious that they came in together, yet not a single word was uttered. It was really eerie to see and experience that. I turned to my Wife and said: man, if people would have that same reverence when they walked into the HOUSE OF GOD, it would show so much respect to God. We went outside to eat our snack and drink our coffee because my Wife and I didn't want to break the reverence these coffee goers had for their coffee.

This is the case and point my dear friends as a society and as "professed Christians" we have lost sight of what is happening. We have become numb and desensitized to the moral decay that is all around us. Ask yourself this: **WHAT IF WE TREATED OUR BIBLES THE WAY WE TREAT OUR CELL PHONES?**

- What if when you forgot it, you would turn around and go home to get it?
- What if in life's emergencies we turned to the Bible instead of social media to make a post?
- What if instead of using Google and the Internet to seek out an answer to a problem we turned to the Bible?
- What if you checked your backpack at school every ten minutes to make sure your Bible was there instead of your phone.
- **What if every spare second of the day you had available you spent it in your Bible instead of your phone?**

**I am guilty of this myself as well, I get it. We get BUSY...Let me give you an acronym for B.U.S.Y. that they Holy Spirit gave me years ago. BEING. UNDER. SATANS. YOKE!**

**Satan has made us BUSY with cell phones, social media and video games that we have forgotten the GOSPEL!**

**Here is the Meat & Potatoes of this Message today, so listen up. Do you have an urgency to preach the Gospel?** When was the last time you invited someone to church? Do you worry about friends and family that have not made a decision for the Lord? Do you pray for them daily? Do you intercede for them? Do you even know what the Gospel is?

What does the word Gospel mean? Does anyone know that? In the original Greek it means: "**GOOD NEWS**". The Great Commission calls us to preach the Gospel. Can anyone tell me where this Commission is found? In **Matthew 28:19** we are given this Commission if we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

These are the basic fundamentals of Christianity, yet few "professed Christians" know this. When I was an Atheist, I used to have a field day causing "professed Christians" to doubt their Faith, because most people that call themselves "Christian" don't even know what they believe. Ask yourself this do you truly know what you believe?

- Do you know the meaning of the word “**LORD**” and what it implies?
- Do you know the meaning of the word “**REPENT**” and what it implies
- Can someone here tell me what the “**GOSPEL**” means; what Gospel should we be preaching?

The overall consensus is the “**SAVING BLOOD OF JESUS**”. What if I told you that your answer and what most “professed Christians” believe barely scratches the surface of the true depth of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

I can prove this to your right now. I can show you that today, what believers know is just a watered down version of the Gospel. What the Watered down MILK that Religion teaches is. Let’s turn to **Mark 16:15-18**. Notice what it says in **Verse 15: “and these signs shall follow”**.

My dear brothers and sisters the evidence of the True Gospel of the Kingdom being preached is Gods’ Power being manifested. Jesus Himself said in **John 14:12** that “**if we believed in HIM we would do greater signs and wonders than He did**”. **WOW!** Think about that for a moment...

When was the last time you preached The Gospel and Signs & Wonders began to happen? You most likely haven’t because Religion doesn’t teach you about the Power of the Kingdom, only the Holy Spirit does.

Let’s quickly read **Matthew 24:14** – “**And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**”

Then we ask ourselves why Jesus hasn’t returned yet. Well then, start preaching the **TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM**, more importantly start living the Gospel of the Kingdom. The Gospel means that through the Blood of Christ we have our **INHERITANCE** restored; we are grafted onto the vine again. We become **CO-HEIRS** with Jesus as it tells us in **Romans Chapter 8**. And we call God our “**ABBA**” Father to.

**The Gospel of the Kingdom is where our True Power as CHRISTIANS flows from.** Because we are connected to God again and our Birthright is restored back to us as Sons and Daughters of the King again. Most people can’t even begin to understand the Gospel because they don’t truly understand what sin is and how we can know our condition of sin.

**Where did sin begin?** Most people say the Garden of Eden and you would be partially right. Sin began in the form of iniquity, the day Lucifer wanted to be like Jesus and God Himself in the Kingdom of Glory. Sin manifested itself for the first time when Lucifer, who was the covering Cherub in the throne room of God, who was also the most beautiful angel ever created, decided to convince a quarter of the Celestial host (Angels) to rebel against God. **That is the origin of sin.**

But let's go back to Creation as you suggested and see when sin entered this world. Let's go to **Genesis 1:26**. Here we see the Trinity making man. What two things did the Trinity give Mankind when they created the first Human (Adam)? **IMAGE AND DOMINION**.

**Genesis Chapter 3**, Eve and Adam sinned! What was their sin? Ask yourself this, it will help us define what sin is. You are partially correct. Sin by the definition of the Scriptures, not Religion is: **OPEN REBELLION AGAINST THE GOVERNEMENT OF GOD**. Rebellion against His Laws and His precepts.

This is why in my opinion it is an **ACT OF TREASON** in the Government of God to remove the Ten Commandments from our lives and our society. The Ten Commandments show us our condition of sin. It is Gods' Spiritual Mirror for us to see where we Measure up as a Christian.

However, just merely keeping the commandments doesn't make us clean, anymore than standing in front of our mirror at home and we see our face full of dirt and expecting the mirror to clean or cleanse us. What has to happen? We have to recognize and admit we are dirty and wash our face. Similarly to Spiritually being washed by Christ.

When Christ died on the Cross he restored the two things that our first parents gave to satan. **GODS' IMAGE AND DOMINION!** This was the true "Good News" of the Gospel of the Kingdom and **was what the early church was willing to die for. Are you willing to die for the Gospel? Matthew 16:24-26 says: "we must take up our cross and FOLLOW JESUS"** If living the Gospel hasn't cost you something, then it has no **VALUE** to you.

**Again, do you even have an urgency to share the Gospel? If you don't then you are NOT A TRUE CHRISTIAN.** I am sorry to be so blunt, but this is what God wants you to hear today. Or are you more worried about pointing out and criticizing peoples eating habits and their choices of food. More worried about a day of worship; than **WHY WE WORSHIP GOD?** Where are your priorities at my dear brothers and sisters?

As I mentioned the last time I was here, God doesn't want to be on our list of priorities, **HE WANTS TO BE OUR ONLY PRIORITY!** Are you more focused on your political affiliation and politics more than taking a stance for God. There are so many professed Christians that have no problem holding up a political campaign sign on a street corner. But ask those same professed Christians to hold up the **BANNER OF CHRIST** on a street corner and they get weirded out.

Why do suppose that is? There is a quote I have shared several times with my family during our Bible study and morning worship times. **"IF YOU DON'T STAND UP FOR SOMETHING, THEN YOU WILL FALL FOR ANYTHING"**! What are you standing for? Are you more wrapped up in **WORDLY THINGS** than Godly things. What are you doing to a contributing member of the Body of Christ?

Let's look at this FINAL Video clip and hopefully it opens our eyes to a bit more. Video clip by **Paul Washer** called "**Christian or Churchgoer?**".

### Closing

**Thus saith the LORD of Host. "SATANS MOST CLEVER AND DECEITFUL DIGUISE IS "RELIGION"".**

Just because you come to church every weekend and warm a church pew merits you nothing in the Kingdom of Glory, nor does it make you a Christian! Your name on a membership roster of your church merits you nothing in Eternity! This is why Jesus said in **Matthew 7:16** "**by their fruits you shall know them**". Let's read together to **Verse 23** to close today's Message.

Being inside this building today doesn't make you a Christian! That's like saying if you stood in your garage, it would make you a car. Or if you wear the official jersey of your favorite sports team it would make you a member of that team! Just because you wear a cross around your neck doesn't make you a Christian! Just because you have a Jesus related bumper sticker doesn't make you a Christian! **YOU ARE NOT A CHRISTIAN AUTOMATICALLY BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS ARE CHRISTIAN OR YOUR FAMILY OR GRANDPARENTS ARE, CHRISTIANITY IS NOT INHERITED BY YOUR PHYSICAL FAMILY. IT HAS TO BE YOUR CHOICE TO LIVE FOR CHRIST OR NOT!**

**Revelation 3:16 tells us flat out. If you are Lukewarm, God will spit you out!**

### Altar Call

If you jump a few text forward you come to one of my favorite text **Revelation 3:20** "**Lo He stands at the door and knocks, if you will allow him to enter**". He will dine with you forever. I will end today by asking you this question: **HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR SATANS MODERN DISGUISE?**

Today's Altar call will be a bit unorthodox, but bear with me. This Message has resonated so much in my life in my spirit that I am coming forward and confessing the following before all of you today. I have not lived up to the holy name of calling myself a "Christian". I have been to B.U.S.Y. in my daily life and willingly put myself under satans yoke. I have put other priorities in front of God, who should be my **ONLY PRIORITY!** I have not been the spiritual leader my family needs. I have not been the husband and partner my wife needs. I **HAVE NOT LIVED THE TRUE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM**, that God deserves and should have. I have not truly acknowledged Jesus as LORD of my life.

If you feel the same way, I ask you to join me here up front and let us all come before the throne of Grace.