

### III. OUR SPIRITUAL ENEMY: "BEELZEBUB"

#### A. The Name by which our Spiritual Enemy is Called

1. The name Beelzebub (O.T. form Baalzebub) was the name designated to the Philistine god of flies and means "lord of flies."

2. Other spellings of this name have appeared historically which designate the moral impurity of this being:

Beelzebel means "lord or god of dung."

Beelzebul means "Lord of the house or dwelling" in which evil spirits dwell.

3. It should be noted that behind all the different heathen deities or gods were demons who worked and in turn were worshipped. Examples of these would be Chemosh, a god of the Moabites; Dagon, a god of the Philistines; Molech, a god of the Ammonites, and Baal, a god of the Canaanites.

4. The name Beelzebub seems to indicate the position of Satan over all the demons who are behind the false gods.

#### B. The Notions that Some People have

1. Some people suppose that the idols worshipped by various peoples are simply a part of their religious culture which evidences their expression of worshipping God and therefore should not be condemned. But it should be noted that immorality is always associated with idolatry (Rom. 1:21-31).

2. Some people suppose that heathens who are involved ignorantly in all kinds of idolatrous worship are not condemned because they don't know any better. But the Scriptures teach that God's person and power are revealed in creation and this renders every man without excuse (Rom. 1:20). The Scriptures also teach that if a man will accept the spiritual light which God gives him, then God will give him more light. If heathens were not condemned there would be no need for missionary enterprises and the tremendous cost and sacrifices involved. Note Jn. 3:18.

### **C. The Nature of Our Spiritual Enemy which is Derived from this Name**

1. The name variation "Beelzebel" or "god of dung" may well fit the devil's character because he is involved in tempting men to do things which are dirty and morally unclean (Ex. 32:1-8,18,19,25; Num. 25:1-9).
2. The name "Beelzebub" or "god of the house or dwelling" indicates that the devil is the Lord over all the demons who are behind the various idols which have been worshipped down through the ages and involving present manifestations of idolatrous worship. Examples would involve Buddhism's Buddha, Islam's "black stone", America's Santa Claus, and Roman Catholicism's icons of the various saints. Notice God's displeasure with idolatry (Dt. 17:2-7; I Cor. 6:9).

### **D. The Necessity for Defending Ourselves against the God of the Demons**

1. First of all, we as believers should be obedient to Scriptural mandates concerning idols (Ex. 20:4,5; Dt. 16:21,22; Judges 6:25).
2. Secondly we need to realize that there's no power, no life, and no blessings in any idol and they are in themselves nothing. But we need to see that behind every idol there is a demon under the direction of Beelzebub who is Satan the "lord of the house" of all demons.
3. Note when the apostle Paul opposed idol worship it stirred up a storm in his day and it still does today because it encroaches upon the devil's territory (Acts 17:16; 19:23-41).
4. We should realize that our God will not give His glory to idols (Isa. 42:8). And we should make sure that Christ is given the glory at Christmas, Easter and at other times and not fictitious characters behind whom is Beelzebud.