

The Attackers: Jepsen's Synopsis of *Batach*, the Verb "to Trust"; the Demonic Army's Table of Organization, Eph 6:12; Lucifer's Influence on Christianity in America Demonstrated by Barna Group's Survey of "Bible-Minded Cities"; Christian Churches Distracted by Placing Benevolence Ahead of Teaching Doctrine

22. In Jeremiah 17:5, the object of one's trust is in himself or in others. In verse 7, it is placed in the Lord. The use of this verb and the importance of selecting the right object is the subject of this excerpt:

בטח (*batach*). To feel secure, be unconcerned, to rely on something or someone. Quite often this general meaning has a negative ring: the thing on which one relies turns out to be deceptive, so that the words derived from the root *batach* are actually used to indicate a false security. But these words are also used to convey the idea of complete security in God alone. (p. 89)

False Security. Frequently *batach* is used to describe a person who thinks he is secure, but is deceived because the object on which his feeling of security is based is unreliable. When we take all the passages in which *batach* is used in this sense, we get a picture of everything to which the heart of man clings and on which he believes he can build his life, but which will end in failure.

This includes many different things. First of all, these texts affirm that men cannot rely on riches: "He who trusts in his riches will fall" (Proverbs 11:28).

Fortified cities and walls "in which you trust" (Jeremiah 5:17) or chariots and horses (Isaiah 31:1) are not reliable either, no matter how many they may be. And although Israel feels secure in the multitude of her warriors, they will not be able to help (Hosea 10:13). (p. 90)

But neither can one rely on man! It is not difficult to understand that this is true of a faithless man (Proverbs 25:19). But Jeremiah 17:5 contains a curse against the man who trusts in man and thus makes flesh his strength. One cannot even feel secure in the help of princes (Psalm 146:3).

Most of all, man must not have confidence in himself. He must not trust in his own strength (Isaiah 30:12; Psalm 62:10; Proverbs 21:22) ... for "he who trusts in his own mind is a fool (Proverbs 28:26), or in his own righteousness (Ezekiel 33:12). (p. 91)

Security in God. The community of Yahweh can know for sure that it can rely on him. This certainty is expressed in texts that praise the person who relies on Yahweh. Thus we read in Jeremiah 17:7 (in contrast to 17:5): "Blessed is the man who trusts in Yahweh," and in Proverbs 16:20: "Happy is he who trusts in Yahweh."

The recurring admonition, "Trust in the Lord!" can be understood in light of this. It is especially impressive in the antithetical statement in Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in Yahweh with all our heart, and do not rely on your own insight."¹ (p. 92)

23. The way that New Testament believers trust Yahweh is to place their uncompromising trust in His immutable Word. Doctrine in the soul and loyalty to it is the Church Age equivalent of the Old Testament mandate, **אֶל-יְהוָה בְּכָל לִבְךָ** (*Batach 'el-Yehowah bechal-libacha*): "Trust in the Lord with all your heart!"

(The content of one's biblical inventory is the source of authentic trust in God.)

¹ Alfred Jepsen, "בטח *batach*," in *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, rev. ed., eds. G. Johannes Botterweck and Helmer Ringgren, trans. John T. Willis (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977), 2:89–92.

24. This sage advice can be summed up thusly for the Church Age believer:
Trust the FLOT Line!

25. Here is our translation up to this point:

Ephesians 6:16 - In addition to all the above, after having picked up the shield of faith-rest ... (EXT)

1. When deployed into harm's way, the soldier must make sure he is attired in full panoply. In the Invisible War the protection that the faith-rest shield provides is imperative at all times but especially during our present crisis.
2. The attacks launched by those who are visible are coordinated by the most brilliant tacticians of the Dark Side and who are introduced in:

Ephesians 6:12 - Because our combat is not against blood and flesh, but against general officers, against commissioned officers, against special-forces guerrillas and fifth-column spies of the Dark Side, against the demonic rank-and-file warriors of evil who populate the atmosphere and outer space.

3. These guys are not unarmed. They have a system of thinking that is so sophisticated in its presentation that the person not having an internal filter of divine viewpoint will be indoctrinated.
4. The dumbing down of the American people has progressed to such a degree that the willing sycophants of President Gramsci have bought the lie and in so doing have brought this client nation to the brink of destruction.
5. The origin of this disaster began in the pulpits of this country. Failure to teach the Word of God – exegetically, categorically, and consistently – has resulting in churches becoming either religious country clubs or conduits for every form of human good.
6. There is an obvious place for extending helping hands to certain individuals who, due to no fault of their own, fall upon rough times.
7. But the primary task of the local church is to teach doctrine, to instruct those who have interest in learning the Word of God, and its application to their personal lives.
8. Those that do this are provided for and protected by the grace, mercy, and integrity of God.
9. Unbelievers have no spiritual perspective and therefore are self-condemned to face the downtrends of history without the panoply required to endure its consequences.

(They go into battle without the weapons needed to endure.)