

*"Mothers against the Devil's Devices" Genesis 3:15*

**And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15 NKJ)**

*In Genesis 3:15, God is beginning His pronouncement of curses resulting from the first sin and starts with the serpent / Satan. The curse starts with ENMITY.*

*ENMITY – "The quality of being an enemy; the opposite of friendship; ill will; hatred; unfriendly dispositions; malevolence." Noah Webster*

*God tells the serpent / Satan, that He (God) would put enmity between the serpent / Satan and the woman.*

*Maybe this is seen in a woman's fear of snakes, my grandmother was extremely fearful of them – to the point you could not even use the word around her.*

*However, I believe it refers primarily to an enmity between Satan and Eve (representing women in general) and her Seed (Christ) and his (Satan's seed) his followers*

*When it says "He" shall bruise your head ... it is obviously referring to Christ, Christ, the Seed of Eve, The Son of God and Son of Man WHO got victory over the Devil –*

**Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (Hebrews 2:14 NKJ)**

*And you shall bruise His heel, refers to some smaller level of hurt Satan is able to bring to Christ, referring to the cross; referring to persecution of God's people, Israel and the Church!*

*We see this in action throughout Biblical and church history; Satan stirs Pharaoh to kill all the Hebrew boy babies, his opposition are first the Hebrew midwives –*

**Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; <sup>16</sup> and he**

**said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see *them* on the birthstools, if it *is* a son, then you shall kill him; but if it *is* a daughter, then she shall live." <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. (Exodus 1:15-17 NKJ)**

The heat of this battle continues with Herod's attempt at the life of the new born Christ in Matthew 2. This battle is described vividly Revelation chapter 12.

*In the early 1700s the Devil seemed to have England under his total control:*

*1. The dominate teaching in most churches was a philosophy called deism, which basically said God created the world and then left it. According to the deists God was no more than a creative force.*

*2. Churches, therefore, were corrupt, and the nation without spiritual or moral leadership, was faltering fast! Morality was despised! Virtually non-existent!*

*3. The nation was known for the gin-craze, every sixth house in London had become a gin shop!*

*4. The national pastimes were games involving the torture and killing of animals, crime had run rampant, to the point that 160 crimes were punishable by death. The moral low sunk to the degree that hangings became gala events.*

*5. The nation was characterized by: the rule of the mob, nick-named "Sir Mob", child-abuse, poverty, alcoholism, and rat infested over-crowded prisons!*

*Yet in the midst of this -*

*"a religious revival burst forth ... which changed in a few years the whole temper of the English society. The church was restored to life and activity. Religion carried to the hearts of the people a fresh spirit of moral zeal, while it purified our literature and manners. A new philanthropy reformed our prisons, infused clemency and wisdom into our penal laws, abolished the slave trade, and gave the first impulse to popular education." J.R. Green - A Short History of the English People.*

*What happened? Where did the Devil's fool proof plan fail?*

1st, God -- any TRUE revival starts with the Spirit of God!

2nd, God's man -- [George Whitefield](#), a study of the history of this revival shows that his open-air preaching was truly its first direct human spark!

3rd, George Whitefield's mom -- her baby George was the seventh of seven children, one whom she dedicated to the Lord in prayer!

Where the Devil first failed was with the heart of a simple MOTHER who kept praying for her youngest son, whom she raised to serve the Lord, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Satan failed by allowing this woman to desire and have seven children! Genesis 3:15 shows us that the Devil always has hatred for godly women and their children.

What strategies is the Devil using against women today?

## I. Devil's Device #1 He would have women consider children more as BURDENS, and less as BLESSINGS!

1. This goes against the teaching of Scripture which speaks of children constantly as blessings –

**Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; ...(Genesis 1:28 NKJ)**

- A. The first part of God's promise to Abraham was the multiplication of children –

**"And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." (Genesis 17:2 NKJ)**

- B. Abraham was a blessed man and a blessing -

**I will bless those who bless you, ... And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3 NKJ)**

- C. Even Abram's son, Ishmael, who we would call illegitimate, is "blessed" by multiplication –

**"And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall**

beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. (Genesis 17:20 NKJ)

2. *Psalm 127 compares children to arrows / weapons, in Egypt Israel's children became a fearful army –*

<sup>3</sup> Behold, children **are** a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb **is a reward**. <sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so **are** the children of one's youth. <sup>5</sup> Happy **is** the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. (Psalm 127:3-5 NKJ)

And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel **are** more and mightier than we; <sup>10</sup> "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and **so** go up out of the land." (Exodus 1:9-10 NKJ)

3. *When Pharaoh made a law requiring the murder of Hebrew boy babies you might expect in that difficult circumstance to hear of the SO CALLED "wisdom" of limiting family size, but ---*

A. *God rewards those who break that law, even those who deceived Pharaoh –*

Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one **was** Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; <sup>16</sup> and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see **them** on the birthstools, if it **is** a son, then you shall kill him; but if it **is** a daughter, then she shall live." <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?" <sup>19</sup> And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women **are** not like the Egyptian women; for they **are** lively and give birth before the midwives come to them." <sup>20</sup> Therefore God **dealt well with the midwives**, and the **people multiplied** and grew very mighty. (Exodus 1:15-20 NKJ)

B. *How did God reward the midwives?*

**And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. (Exodus 1:21 NKJ)**

*Households, meaning families with children!*

*Not one verse in Scripture speaks of the so called “wisdom” of limiting family size*

...

- *A couple I knew of in seminary. While they were in seminary they had twins. Because of that WORRIED about costs, when she was pregnant again they were PRAYING against twins: God gave them triplets!*
- *A widow with TWELVE children I was blessed to meet in my first full-time pastorate.*

*When I saw her she was bed ridden, she was a shut in, she was a joy to see, she was one of the happiest people I have ever met; her children were always around her helping her!*

*4. Children as burdens –*

*Max Heine in “Children Blessing or Burden” puts it like this –*

*Children Are BURDENS! “It is no exaggeration to say that they require everything from A to Z. They need to be Answered, Bathed, Combed, Diapered, Encouraged, Fed, Groomed, Helped, Instructed, Judged, Kissed, Led, Managed, Nurtured, Observed, Praised, Quieted, Reminded, Spanked, Trained, Utilized, Valued, Wedded, X-Rayed, and Yearned-for-Zealously!”*

*5. Often represented as financial burdens -*

... “We call it the “motherhood penalty.” Every child born to or adopted by a woman **decreases her income by 4%**, such that the average mother makes between **5 and 10% less** than she would have otherwise. A man’s income, in contrast, **goes up by 6%**. They see a “fatherhood premium.” Becoming a parent harms women’s earning potential and, in an extra twist of the knife, it gives men an assist.” Lisa Wade, writing for “Money” Magazine an article titled **The Hidden Penalty of Motherhood - And What It Costs Us**

*What kind of woman / mother / or wife thinks this way? I had a baby, I’ll lose 4% of my income ... Oh and what really irks me is my husband’s income will INCREASE!*

*Jesus compares the "JOY" He anticipates His disciples having when He resurrects from the dead, to the JOY of a woman giving birth –*

**"Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.<sup>21</sup> "A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.<sup>22</sup> "Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. (John 16:20-22 NKJ)**

## **Children are greater BLESSINGS than they are BURDENS!**

*II. Devil's Device #2 He would have us belittle the Role of Wife and Mother! Why? Because he knows motherhood is part of God's plan for women!*

*There are verses in Scripture that are HATED and derided to the point preachers fear reading or preaching on them –*

**Therefore I desire that *the younger widows* marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.<sup>15</sup> For some have already turned aside after Satan. (1 Timothy 5:14-15 NKJ)**

**<sup>15</sup> Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control. (1 Timothy 2:15 NKJ)**

**Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.<sup>12</sup> And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.<sup>13</sup> For Adam was formed first, then Eve.<sup>14</sup> And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. (1 Timothy 2:11-14 NKJ)**

*These are probably the main verses against a woman preaching or having authority as an elder in the church -*

*What could the Devil possibly gain by getting women who were on fire for the Lord, to give themselves wholeheartedly to ministering, maybe even preaching and teaching in the Church?*

*Well, there might be many answers to this question but here are two:*

- 1. They keep men from roles that men often sinfully avoid because of spiritual laziness!*

*\* Men are not naturally spiritual. None of us are –*

*As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)*

*Just as men sinfully avoid those roles they are called to:*

*(1) Leading devotions in the home*

*(2) Leading their families in spirituality, going to church, teaching not only their children but their wives*

*So, women are more than ready to SINFULLY TAKE those roles!*

- Women typically have better verbal skills – about the difference between male and female verbal skills ... The Health Federation of Philadelphia website says*

The female brain has a higher proportion of gray matter while the male brain has a higher proportion of white matter. Having more gray matter may explain why young women are usually more efficient in processing information, often have stronger verbal skills, and usually excel at juggling several activities. Having more white matter appears to help the male brain transfer information throughout the brain. This can enhance young men's spatial skills, such as navigation and solving math problems. A person whose brain thinks spatially often needs more space when learning; so many males may spread out their work assignments while their female classmates may not.

You would think better verbal and social skills would make women better PREACHERS or PASTORS or even LEADERS?

Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I **am** not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I **am** slow of speech and slow of tongue." <sup>11</sup> So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? **Have** not I, the LORD? <sup>12</sup> "Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say." (Exodus 4:10-12 NKJ)

2. *And most important, they keep themselves from that which God created them, the role of child bearing, by their business with other things. Maybe the superior social and verbal skills God has given women were meant for their CHILDREN?*

**Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: <sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." (Matthew 2:16-18 NKJ)**

*Have you thought about the implications of these verses, especially verse :18 that mentions RACHEL weeping for her children?*

*Why doesn't it say Jacob weeping for his children? Does it imply that Jacob would not care if his children died? Is it SEXIST?*

*Rachel represents the mothers and their EMOTION; children were their God given realm!*

*One thing I doubt you'll ever hear on any news station on TV --- You may hear a lot about the PROBLEMS of young people ...*



*BUT not having more stay-at-home-MOM's will never be listed as a reason why children are troubled!*

### *III. Devil's Device #3 To propagate lies, such as the myth of over-population -*

**"You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44 NKJ)**

1. *The truth / The Bible says – “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:28 NKJ)*

*This is one commandment from God many Christians today consider to be already fulfilled and so no longer applicable ...Where is this idea taught in Scripture? Is it?*

2. *LIE example - In 1968 a man named Paul Ehrlich, wrote a book called “The Population Bomb”. In his book he predicted that overpopulation in the United States and in the world, would result in a famine that would directly or indirectly kill sixty-five million Americans between 1980 and 1989 - Did any of you feel the effects of this famine?*

*But there are more lies --- “Pro-choice, that’s a lie, babies don’t choose to die!” Pro-choice is anti-life; anti-baby, anti-motherhood.*

3. *Mother-Earth / Earth Day / Global Warming Lies vs. The TRUTH – Mother Earth / Gaia lie*

**Hurt women blame “Our Father in heaven” for the hurts they have received from earthly men and radical feminism has grabbed both male and female adherents. It has become a religion itself –**

**Rosemary Radford Ruther a leading feminist theologian describes this religion in her book “Sexism and God-talk” using Christian / Biblical terminology – yet she changes the meaning –**

**A. Revelation / Scripture / truth – any writing that affirms or promotes the full humanity of woman (as judged by Rosemary Ruther) is SCRIPTURE**

**B. God is not --- up there in heaven, but earthy / not He but she goddess to Ruther is pre-God / goddess does not make rules**

**C. About Jesus, Ruther says, “Christology has been the doctrine of the Christian tradition that has been most frequently used against women”**

**D. Man – Ruther has a problem with “man” being over animals and seems intentionally confused about “man” over against “woman” being created in God’s image**

**E. Sin – Ruther says, “Feminism represents a fundamental shift in the valuations of good and evil”**

**F. Eschatology – the afterlife is a male concern only**

**How do we battle such beliefs?**

**1. By embracing God-given biblical roles, values and institutions:**

**A. God created and commanded us “to be fruitful and multiply” men and women are called to be parents – Genesis 1:28; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Timothy 5:14-15**

**B. God created us “male and female” to cooperate, to fit together – Genesis 2:18 & 21, for man, meaning MALES - the creation of woman should be the ultimate proof of intelligent design!**

**C. God established marriage and the family – Genesis 2:24  
Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24 NKJ)**

**2. By honoring and supporting those who are faithful in their God-given roles, not just on Mother’s Day, but every day!**

### 3. By women teaching other women -

**“the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things--<sup>4</sup> that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,<sup>5</sup> *to be* discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.” (Titus 2:3-5 NKJ)**

### 4. *By continuing faithful even when it is difficult –*

"At the same time," says the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people."<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness-- Israel, when I went to give him rest."<sup>3</sup> The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. (Jeremiah 31:1-3 NKJ)

*Arnold Brevick*