

MOMENTUM YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

THE CHRONICLES OF JENIAH AND URIAH
8 - THE GREAT CONTROVERSY
"CAUGHT IN THE WEED(S)"





The foul smell hit Uriah's nostrils as he came downstairs. He wasn't sure what it was, but he knew it wasn't going to be good. He looked at his friends standing around the microwave trying to hide an obscure package. "Is that what I think it is?" Uriah asked incredulously. "I know you didn't bring weed into my parents' house. If my dad finds out, I am going to die."

“Relax man!”, one of his friends said. “It got wet earlier so we put it in the microwave to dry it out. Your dad will never know; the smell isn’t even that strong. It will be out of the house in no time. And if he asks, just tell him we burnt some food. That works with my mom all the time.”

As they continued to fan the kitchen they heard a familiar sound coming from the side of the house. The garage door was opening. Uriah’s dad came home early from work and was met at the door by Uriah.

“Hey guys!” Mr. Hinds said to Uriah’s friends. “I got off early and stopped by the store to get dinner. Can you help me get the groceries out of the car? You are more than welcome to stay for dinner...” His voice tailed off as he smelled a weird odor and saw Trent making funny motions with his hand in his pocket.

“No, they were just leaving,” Uriah said pushing them out of the house. He didn’t get far as Mr. Hind’s solid frame filled the doorway. Dad’s nose made a little twitch as he walked into the kitchen. He looked at Uriah and without saying a word, he lifted his right eyebrow... “Guys can I see you for a minute?” Dad asked just before they got on their bikes. The three of them walked back into the house with their heads down knowing this wasn’t going to be good.

“Gentlemen come around the table,” Dad said firmly. They bowed their heads and pulled out a chair. Uriah nervously grabbed a seat unsure of where this was going. “Guys. I’m really disappointed in your behavior. Before you say anything, I’m going to tell you a story... and you will listen intently” Dad said taking time to look at each of them in the eye.

“The Bible tells a story that one day Lucifer (or Satan), heaven’s most trusted angels, was unsatisfied with his position in heaven and caused other angels to question God’s authority,” Dad began as he opened the Bible app on his smartphone. “Satan wanted to be like God.”

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God... I will make myself like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:13-14)

"Guys, think about it. If Satan can trick one third of the angels to follow him out of heaven, how much more should we be on our guard in this sinful world?" Dad asked the young men.

"⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth....

⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world _____. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him." (Revelation 12:4,7-9)

He couldn't win in heaven, so he brought the battle to earth. He was unsuccessful in beating Jesus, so Satan went to attack God's children in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve's disobedience to God's commands brought that fight to us. Do you know what the real issue was? Do we believe what God says even when it doesn't make sense? Can God be trusted?

"The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must _____ eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the _____ said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and _____." (Genesis 3:2-5)

"Notice how the couple ran to cover themselves and sewed together fig leaves to shield their nakedness. Sin always needs a covering... a counterfeit of sorts." Dad continued.

“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig _____ together, and made themselves aprons.” (Genesis 3:7)

“They heard God was coming and ran in an attempt to get away from Him. That’s the crazy thing about sin; we run and hide even when no one is chasing us. It’s like the way you guys were trying to hide when you heard the garage door open,” Dad said with a piercing glance.

“We just wanted to try it sir. Didn’t mean to disrespect you or your home,” Trent said with his eyes to the floor. “When I was a teen, I was introduced to marijuana,” Dad said. Uriah’s eyes widened, shocked at his dad’s confession. “I knew it was wrong but I did it anyway in an attempt to be cool. It took years for me to get off and I still struggle to keep it from rearing its ugly head. It was going to destroy me. That’s when I found out that the Great Controversy is real in my life. The enemy tried to distract me and take me out.”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to _____.”

“How did you break out from the addiction? I know a lot of people that got hooked,” one of the boys said. “I found a text in the Bible that I memorized and I recite it every time I get tempted. And I still get tempted,” Dad said.

“Submit yourselves, then, to _____. Resist the devil, and he will _____ from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you _____, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:7-8

“You know the crazy thing I learned as I studied this Great Controversy topic? It was how God treated Adam and Eve in the garden. He found them and didn’t scold them. He also covered them with the animal skin to cover their nakedness.” Dad continued.

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” Genesis 3:21.

“God revealed that there are consequences to sin and he put them out of the garden. I’m going to be like God tonight and put you out of my house. I want you to go to your house and tell your parents everything that happened today... but know you are welcome here any time,” Dad said with a gentle smile.

“Wow Uriah. That was really nice.” Trent said. “I thought he was going to kill us!”

“Yeah, me too,” Uriah replied. “I never thought about the Great Controversy story quite like that.”

As they got on their bikes, Uriah turned to go back inside and tears welled up in his eyes. He would never look at his dad the same way. Today, he realized he was loved...
[To be continued].