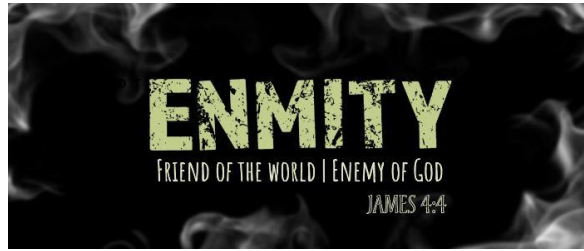


“...the friendship of the world is ENMITY with God.” (James 4:4)



INTRODUCTION

We are in a Bible study on preparations for the last days. In Part 1, we learned of a pre-Adam race that are not humans and not from planet earth (*extraterrestrials*). In Part 2, we learned how some of them rebelled against God and created human hybrids (*giants*). In Part 3, we looked at the heathen rage against God. In Part 4, we focused on *the great merchant men* and the *sorceries* of the global world of the Antichrist. Today, we will remember a history lesson from early church history in Rome when the Christians became the **ENEMY** of the state. It was Emperor Nero who blamed the fires on the Christians and set in motion intense persecutions that became known as the *Ten Roman Persecutions* (**Rev 2:10**). The word of God says that the friendship of the world is ENMITY with God. If the friend of the world is the enemy of God, then the opposite can also be true – *the friend of God is the **ENEMY** of the world!*

❖ Definitions

- ✓ “**Enmity**” – quality of being an enemy; the opposite of friendship; fixed or rooted hatred.
 - ❖ The word is found 8 times in the KJV; 1st in **Genesis 3:15**; last in **James 4:4**
 - ❖ **Luke 23:12** illustrates how 2 can agree against Christ when previously enemies!
 - ❖ **Rom 8:7** teaches us that our carnal mind **IS** “enmity against God.”
 - ❖ **Rom 5:10; Eph 2:15-16** – Jesus Christ reconciled us to God when we were His enemy!
- ✓ “**Friendship**” – an attachment to a person, proceeding from intimate acquaintance; false friendship may subsist between bad men, as between thieves and pirates. This is a temporary attachment springing from interest and may change in a moment to enmity.

❖ Getting some **biblical** context for our study from **James 4:4**:

- ✓ The word of God gives very clear and strict truth related to our relationship to the world.
 - ❖ **The friendship of the world is enmity with God.**
 - The world **HATES** Jesus Christ. **John 7:7; 15:22-24**
 - The world **HATES** true Christians (*little Christs*). **John 15:18-19; 17:14**
 - The believer is called to **LOVE NOT THE WORLD**. **1John 2:15-16**
 - To be a friend is to have *an intimate acquaintance*.
 - ❖ **Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**
 - *Whosoever* – means **ANY** and **ALL** people associated with this truth!
 - *A friend of the world...*
 - What does it mean to be *a friend of the world*?
 - What does it look like to be *a friend of the world*?

“...the friendship of the world is ENMITY with God.” (James 4:4)

- ❖ Consider the state of Rome in early church history in 65AD and beyond...
 - ✓ Rome was filled with lewd immorality, idolatry, sodomy, pedophilia, perversion, etc.
 - ✓ Christians were blamed by Nero for the fire in Rome; heavy persecution ensued.
 - ✓ Nero began what became the “official” **Ten Roman Persecutions**. (**Rev 2:8-11**)
 - ❖ Foxes Book of Martyrs:
 - It is both wonderful and horrible to peruse the descriptions of the sufferings of those godly martyrs as they are described by ancient historians. Their torments were as various as the ingenuity of man, excited by the devil, could devise, and their numbers were truly incredible. “Some,” says Robanus, “were slain with the sword, some burnt with fire, some scourged with whips, some stabbed with forks of iron, some fastened to the cross or gibbet, some drowned in the sea, some had their skins plucked off, some their tongues cut out, some were stoned to death, some frozen with cold, some starved with hunger, some with their hands cut off, or otherwise dismembered, were left naked to the open shame of the world.”
- ❖ Consider the state of Christianity in America in 2023
 - ✓ The words of professing Christians... a video titled, “***I am a Christian, but I am not...***”
 - ❖ ***I AM NOT...*** homophobic, perfect, close-minded, unaccepting, uneducated, judgmental, conservative, ignorant, on a pedestal, a person who has all the answers... (**Lk 18:11**)
 - ❖ ***BUT I AM...*** accepting, queer, gay, a feminist, a believer in science, friendly to all people in all religions, a listener of Christian music, a lover of wine, a believer in monogamy, a churchgoer, a youth counsellor, a believer that Christians should not judge others...
 - ✓ Terminology – Gender Identity, Gay Christianity, Hate Speech, Racists, etc.
 - ✓ Current events – Satanism in mainstream, major earthquakes, gender of God, etc.
- ❖ According to the word of God, to be a friend of the world is to be the **ENEMY** of God.
 - ✓ Are you a friend of the world?
 - ✓ What are you going to do to **SEPARATE** from worldliness and sin? **2Cor 6:17**
 - ✓ What is your plan to stand for Jesus Christ and His glory?
- ❖ The *spirit of antichrist* is rising; the seduction of evil spirits (*called devils*) IS IN YOUR FACE!
 - ✓ All Christians **must** know that SINCERITY is **not** sufficient to **safeguard** against deception!
 - ❖ Why would the Holy Spirit warn us so much to “TAKE HEED” to ourselves??
 - ❖ You must be vigilant and sober related to these 2 key truths:
 1. Evil spirit powers DO EXIST.
 2. You **must** have an uncompromising attitude of hostility against them/their works.