

FOREWORD *by* KENNETH COPELAND

Breaking *the* STRONGHOLDS *of* INIQUITY

A NEW TESTAMENT GUIDE TO CLEANSING
YOUR GENERATIONAL BLOODLINE

BILL DENNINGTON

with Robert Henderson



ENDORSEMENTS

In *Breaking the Strongholds of Iniquity*, Dr. Bill Dennington bridges the gap between Christ's finished work of redemption on the cross and believers' reception of the fullness of their inheritance and fulfillment of their divine destiny. Knowing that Satan is not only a liar, but also a lawyer, Bill clearly reveals and presents remediation for the legal issues surrounding iniquity that keep believers from becoming vessels of honor—fit for the Master's use. I highly recommend this excellent work!

ROBERT J. WINTERS, DMIN

Senior Pastor

Prepare the Way International Church

Phoenix, AZ

I thank God for Dr. Dennington and this excellent teaching that is so needed in this hour in the Body of Christ. Sharing from his own life, Dr. Dennington unpacks the importance of incorporating a biblical understanding of Heaven's legal system into your walk with God. For all those who have questions regarding the Courts of Heaven and whether we need to operate there—this book answers ALL your questions with scriptural clarity!

Furthermore, he provides an exceptional teaching on iniquity and how the enemy uses it as a legal means to frustrate and hinder our walk with God. Without a doubt, the revelation and explanation contained in *Breaking the Strongholds of Iniquity* is

a tool that can catapult the Body of Christ into a new dimension of authority.

BEVERLY WATKINS
Johannesburg, South Africa

Breaking the Strongholds of Iniquity is a well-written book by Dr. Bill Dennington concerning your place in the Courts of Heaven and the number-one tactic that satan uses against the church today: Time. I encourage everyone to study this book, develop your spiritual walk with God and begin to take back the things that belong to you. In the deliverance ministry I have seen satan use “time” to steal victory after victory from the saints of God. Let *Breaking the Strongholds of Iniquity* be your guide on entering into the Courts of Heaven and defeating your enemy.

KEITH CHANCEY
Overseer of Norvel Hayes Ministries

In this book the reader will discover many biblical secrets of a believer’s dominion! Too many Christians have been delayed, hindered, and denied from enjoying the fruits of what Jesus Christ obtained for them through His death, burial, resurrection, and seating at the right hand of the Father. Today can be the beginning of reversing your losses in life and accumulating victory in every area of your life that seemingly escaped you in the past! I highly recommend that every believer get their own copy of this much-needed tool and read it several times and join in the victory parade!

PASTOR CLYDE OLIVER
Maranatha Christian Center of Melbourne, FL

With thanksgiving I am honored to endorse Bill Dennington's first published book written after many years of successes, trials and tribulations. Rather than tell you about the book that you are about to read, I would like to tell you about the author as I know him.

It has been my privilege to know Bill since he was a young teenager. We attended the same church in Atlanta, Georgia where his mother and I prayed together for our sons. Throughout the years it has been my honor to watch Bill from those early years when his enthusiasm for the Word of God came alive! Bill and Lorie have served in ministry for several years, and I can share about this couple from a close-up view of their walk of faith. Lorie is Bill's number-one (1) intercessor. Bill is a student of the Bible. He has remained teachable and teaches others from a heart of love for God and people. He and Lorie have climbed the mountaintops where they experienced the glory of God, and they have walked through deep, dark valleys of despair. They never gave up; they continued to seek God, the giver of life! I encourage you to read this insightful book written by a man who talks the talk and walks the walk!

GERMAINE GRIFFIN COPELAND
Best-selling author of the *Prayers
That Avail Much* book series
Greensboro, Georgia

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BILL DENNINGTON
with Robert Henderson

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DEDICATION

To my beloved wife, Lorie, who has stood with me and believed in me for so many years. Your faith in Jesus, and in me, has been such an inspiration and strength! Thank you for your encouragement and love! Without you and your faithful support, this, my first of many books to come, would still be an impossible dream. Thank you! I love you!



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

No one in the Body of Christ is self-made. And there is no fruit in ministry apart from the people who help and assist along the way. I want to acknowledge at least some of the people who inspired and encouraged me in the run-up to the production of this book.

I must give credit to the vast majority of understanding and insight that led to the writing of this work, Robert Henderson. Thank you, sir, for your faithfulness to the Lord to give birth to the revelation of the Courts of Heaven. Thank you for your apostolic leadership, which set things in order for my church, my ministry, my family, and my life. And thank you for believing in me to the point that you would allow me the honor of helping you to herald the message of the Courts of Heaven with your personal endorsement.

I want to thank my spiritual parents, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, for bringing me up as a true son in the faith. Your lives and testimony of faith still set the standard of excellence that I endeavor to reach and maintain every day.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the Global Reformers HUB leaders for your complete acceptance and fullhearted endorsement to write this book. That day in Branson, Missouri, will always be a day of remembrance and encouragement!

I give thanks for the partners and members of Harvestfire Church International for your love, support, and encouragement. You make being in the ministry a joy and something to celebrate each and every day!

I can't leave out my family! My son, Grant, and his amazing wife, Rachel; my daughter, Lindsay, and her outstanding husband, Kelsey; and my growing group of grandchildren, all have contributed to the success of what God has called me to do, this book being only one tiny part of that calling.

Finally, I want to give my eternal thanks and praise to Jesus, my Lord, the Righteous Judge, who lives in constant fellowship with me and loves me like no one else ever has or ever could!

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FOREWORD

I first met Bill and Lorie Dennington in 1978. In the years since then we have become more than good friends. I have laughed with them in good times and ministered to Bill and his whole family when his young grandson unexpectedly died at the age of two years old.

Rather than grieving and accusing God for this terrible tragedy, I watched as Bill led his entire family to absolute victory in Christ Jesus. The whole family stood on the Word of the living God and practiced what Bill has preached all his ministry life: the Word of faith.

Preaching is one thing; living it is another. Bill and his family demonstrated what it means to be vessels of honor as in Second Timothy 2:20-21.

The Dennington family could have chosen to blame God and grieve until the spirit of grief and sorrow—the

devil—entered their lives and continued to steal, kill, and destroy. But instead, they chose to make their stand until the joy of the Lord manifested, which became their strength.

Why is this so important? Throughout this book, by the Spirit of divine revelation, Bill will introduce to so many, for the first time, the Courts of Heaven and how Jesus, our heavenly judge, functions.

There is a legal side and a vital, or living, side to our redemption. Bill helped open my spiritual eyes to the legal side. One must have working knowledge of both in order to enjoy, to the fullest, the victory declared in First Corinthians 15:57: *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (KJV).

Study this book along with your Bible. Don't just take Brother Dennington's word for it. As you'll see, the Word of God, the Bible, is his final authority. You and all yours will be glad you did!

JESUS IS LORD!
KENNETH COPELAND



Chapter 2

THE ROOTS OF INIQUITY

When God created Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden, the spiritual environment that existed in this earth was already hostile to Adam's existence. An enemy was already observing the creation of man and began to forge a plan to bring him down.

This spiritual being who sought to overcome Adam had, at one time in the past, held a place of rulership over the earth and had access to Heaven's court. He had been cast out of Heaven and now occupied a place in the spirit that was subservient to mankind as of the result of the dominion mandate God Himself gave Adam (see Gen. 1:28; Ps. 8:4-6). With Adam given this mandate and fulfilling it, this being once called lucifer and now called satan saw that even his place in the earth was now threatened.

It is important to investigate some biblical records as to the history pertaining to satan's past. This is important information that gives us insight into why we must always be on guard and as Peter wrote, we must "*be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking who he may devour*" (1 Pet. 5:8).

One day as I was studying on the Courts of Heaven, the Lord spoke to me and said, "You need to do a study on iniquity to learn of its beginnings and how it manifested when it was discovered." So, I did. I was amazed at what I found out as I researched the Scriptures where this was concerned!

My study led me to a time in the past (as revealed through the Old Testament prophetic writings) when lucifer held a high and lofty position in the Kingdom of God. Let's look at Ezekiel 28.

In verses 1 through 10 we find that the Lord is addressing the "prince of Tyre" who was in fact the man who was the ruler of this ancient city. He was actually an under-ruler, an earthly king who was a spiritual prince functioning under the direct influence of a ruling spirit who controlled his place of government.

This ruling spirit had influenced the man to think that he was a god and functioned from a place of government (a seat) in the realm of the spirit. He possessed a wisdom that exceeded Daniel's wisdom, but his wisdom was derived from the spiritual overlord who had virtually possessed this man who was allowing this entity to have full expression through him.

This entity was actually lucifer who is now the one we know of as satan, or the devil. The prince of Tyre was yielding himself to the influence of satan, granting him a great measure of expression in the earth through this earthly ruler's governmental position.

God proclaims a judgment against this earthly ruler of Tyre, and the verdict was death by the sword. He would find out that he was not a god, but a man, and he would die at the hands of an army of an invading nation.

God then speaks to the devil and calls him the "king of Tyre," indicating that he was the true ruler of Tyre. God goes on to rehearse his history from the ages past and we will look at just a few of these verses.

Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, "Thus says the Lord God: 'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering...You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you'" (Ezekial 28:12-15).

As an anointed cherub he was created perfect. He was the sum of wisdom and extremely beautiful. He had a place of function in God's government and conducted business on the

heavenly trading floors where the fiery stones are located in the Court of Heaven before the throne of God.

Lucifer did as he was supposed to do in his place of responsibility in the government and economy of the Kingdom of God until iniquity was found in his heart. Let's look at Isaiah 14 and take note of something revealed in verses 12 through 15.

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.

Iniquity showed up within lucifer's heart by what is revealed in verses 13 and 14. He was exercising self-will in rebellion to God's will. There are five self-willed declarations of lucifer's intentions that set him on a course of attempting a heavenly coup.

This is the first time iniquity showed up in the history of Heaven. In the heart of one of the lead angels in the Kingdom of God; the one who was charged with the responsibility of stewarding the worship of God on the trading floors of Heaven. And it cost lucifer his heavenly seat.

Jesus said in Luke 10:18, “*I saw Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*” As second person of the Godhead, Jesus would have witnessed this expulsion, and most probably was the One who executed the verdict and judgment against satan. This is even recorded in some detail in Revelation 12:7-10:

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”

This is a record of something that has already taken place in the past. (Bible prophecy can not only speak to the future; it can also reveal things of the past that have impact on the future.) When lucifer corrupted himself through iniquity and became satan, he also influenced the angels who were under his authority to attempt an overthrow of the Kingdom of God and did not succeed. They all were cast out of Heaven and banished to the earth which had been under lucifer’s stewardship and government. This event is what had already taken place prior to Adam’s creation in the Garden of Eden.

God told Adam that he would have to exercise dominion and do this as He put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it (see Gen. 2:15). You don't need to exercise dominion over something or guard something if there is no enemy already present.

There is no record of the time that passed while Adam and his wife were in the Garden as this enemy observed their activities. One reason this is so is because time was not an issue or concern to man prior to his fall. He was an eternal being, created by God to live forever. Time had no dominion over him up until he fell through sin and became a mortal being subject to death. We must assume that satan had to take some measured and careful observation of man and his activities and watch for any tendencies that could potentially give an opportunity to move in and walk "*about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*" (1 Pet. 5:8).

We can read what took place eventually, after the devil determined his best strategy to devour what was the head of all mankind. Let's read this story from Genesis 3:1-6:

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For

God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

At this point in this story we need to refer to some insight given in First Timothy 2:14, “*Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*” This is an extremely important insight. Adam, the head of the human race, did not fall into transgression by deception. He willfully stepped into sin with his eyes wide open. He committed iniquity.

He could have inquired of the Lord as to how to handle this entire situation even before the woman was influenced to take that first bite. But he didn’t. As an act of self-will, he joined her in the act; and as a result, doomed the entire race of man to a life now locked into spiritual death, subject to fear, sickness and disease, poverty and lack, and physical death.

In his spirit Adam was no longer drawing his life force from God; he had stepped into spiritual death, which is spiritual separation from God. He stepped out of light and into darkness. He stepped out of an environment saturated with God’s love and was now the object of satan’s hatred. Where he once walked in faith toward God, he was now living in fear of God and hid himself from God. But this was because he had lost his original clothing, which emanated from within

himself, which was the glory, and attempted to cover his now naked body with fig leaves.

The depths to which man fell was not immediately evident in those first few moments. But the results of that moment still are influencing mankind even to this day.

What Adam and Eve did on that day violated certain unchangeable spiritual laws, and the fruit of those broken laws began to play out over time. A spiritual entity that had no right before man's sin to have a say-so or authority over man's life and destiny had been granted that right; it was a legal position that was established by the self-willed decision of Adam. Romans 5:12 describes the problem; a couple of versions make this really plain to understand:

Sin made its entry into the world through one man, and through sin, death. The entail of sin and death passed on to the whole human race, and no one could break it for no one was himself free from sin (PNT).

When Adam sinned, the entire world was affected. Sin entered human experience, and death was the result. And so death followed this sin, casting its shadow over all humanity, because all have sinned (TPT).

An interesting note from A. S. Worrell's translation of the New Testament on this verse: *"Adam was the head of our race: and all his posterity was involved in his sin, and poisoned by it."*³ This is in perfect agreement with the note I shared from Dr. Brian Simmons on this verse from *The Passion Translation* that

I will repeat for you again: “The actions of both Adam and Christ affect the entire world. Death passes to all who are in Adam; life passes to all who are in Christ. Each is a corporate head of a race of people. God sees every person as in Adam or in Christ.”⁴

I want to emphasize this point because of its importance to what we are dealing with in the Courts of Heaven. We came into this life by birth with an inheritance that is legal in nature and affects our spiritual destiny. And this inheritance is established through the bloodline of our family, which ultimately traces all the way back to Adam. This is true no matter where, when, or from whom you were born, and it does affect and shape our lives in ways that are profoundly serious in nature.

In his message to the city of Athens from Mars Hill, the apostle Paul verifies this bloodline inheritance. Look at this passage from Acts 17:24-26:

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.

Many translations reflect that the word *blood* is not found in many of the best Greek texts, but this does not reflect a change in the idea that the entire human family descend from

Adam. Again, quoting a note on verse 26 from Worrell's New Testament, "He made of one blood; one family. All men of all races... trace back to Adam."⁵

From a scientific standpoint, if we had a sample of Adam's DNA, we would unquestionably find a percentage of his DNA in our blood. We all, every man, woman, and child carry in our bodies the genetic markers of the first man, Adam.

Throughout this book I will emphasize a critical theological, doctrinal reality that is a cornerstone of everything pertaining to our identity in Christ. When you and I were born-again, we became a new creation in Christ Jesus. Even though our physical bodies are still "in Adam" as far as its generational history is concerned, our human spirits are no longer connected to Adam's fallen race. We are in Christ, of Christ, and by Christ! You and I do not identify with Adam; we identify with Jesus Christ. All of the old state and condition of our spirit being has changed and has been reborn in the image of Christ. Christ is our pattern, and we measure from our position in Him.

It is this revelation of being in Christ that we must renew our minds to and deal with any issues that relate to our physical bodies. I will be repeatedly emphasizing the need to renew our minds to the reality of who we are in Christ and the need to bring this physical body and its passions and desires into submission to our spirit. Quite frankly, if you are not going to approach the subject of the Courts of Heaven with your position in Christ as the preeminent focus of your identity, you will struggle to get results, because the Courts of Heaven depends

on the believer having their identity established in the righteousness and oneness with the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, understanding this, what does this mean as far as our need to learn to go to the Courts of Heaven? How, and to what extent, did the finished work of redemption through Christ Jesus's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension change the way a born-again believer can deal with that part of our physical inheritance? What is different for the believer as a result of becoming the new creation of Second Corinthians 5:17? We will begin to investigate this in the next chapters.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Bill Dennington has been in full-time ministry for over forty years. He serves the Body of Christ as an apostolic leader and teacher; he has pioneered two churches and ministered in Bible schools, conferences, and churches across the United States and internationally.

Bill has a depth of understanding and revelation of the Word that centers around new creation realities and the finished work of redemption. Always seeking more effective ways to help people reach their full potential in Christ, Bill combines a deep understanding of the laws of faith; the importance of mind renewal; and a functional, practical knowledge of the courts of Heaven that instills spiritual hunger and energy into those who hear him.

Bill is a 1979 graduate of Rhema Bible Training College in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in theology from Life Christian University near Tampa, Florida and a doctorate in theology from New Life Bible School in Cleveland, Tennessee.

Bill and his wife, Lorie, have been married for thirty-eight years, and have two children and three grandchildren. Bill and Lorie have served as the founding and senior pastors of Harvestfire Church International since 1995.