

Mark 1:9-15

“It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him. ¶ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Trapped

Reviews of the Battle of Diepe remind us of the consequences of being trapped, without cover and ready escape. Thousands lost their lives and Canada still, rightfully, mourns the loss. There is a Spiritual parallel where not a company of soldiers, but the entire human race has been trapped by a real and vicious enemy that no changing political environment will ever unite. Jesus knew well the power of this enemy when "he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan." (Mark 1:13)

Satan originally sprang his trap upon mankind by a direct attack on the authority of God's Word. Genesis chapter three records the attack. Here, Satan first deceived Eve by doubting God's Word. His opening remark "Hath God really said", cast seeds of doubt. Satan next distorted God's Word' by changing God's "You may eat of all but one tree" to his own "You shall not eat from every tree". Finally Satan, denied God's Word' with "Thou shalt not die."

Because of Satan's lie, Eve was deceived and Adam following, sinned. Therefore "as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). Since Adam, all mankind has been born into the sin-trap, all that is save Christ. But there is an escape. Anyone can be free from the clutches of Satan's lie by acknowledging the authority of God's Word. To accept the Bible's declarations: first; that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23), second; that "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: (1 Peter 3:18), and finally; that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

For many of our countrymen Diepe was a place of no escape, consequently, they lost their lives. There are those who see life as an inescapable pattern of guilt and shame. Let not the reader be trapped by Satan a day longer. He is a real foe. Scripture warns "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8). Mankind is urged to "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Escape is found by admitting the truth of God's Word and accept Christ's offer of deliverance.

What is my response:
