

Today's Topic: Spiritual Warfare and the Christian's Authority Over Satan

I. Scripture: Revelation 12: 7-9, 17, 11. 2 Corinthians 10: 3-5; 2 Samuel 22: 33-51; Ephesians 6: 10-18

Revelation 12: 7-9, 17, 11. And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. 17Then the dragon was enraged at . . . those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. 11They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

2 Corinthians 10: 3-6. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Samuel 22: 33-51. It is God who arms me with strength
and makes my way perfect.

34 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;
he enables me to stand on the heights.

35 He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

36 You give me your shield of victory;
you stoop down to make me great.

37 You broaden the path beneath me,
so that my ankles do not turn.

38 "I pursued my enemies and crushed them;
I did not turn back till they were destroyed.

39 I crushed them completely, and they could not rise;
they fell beneath my feet.

40 You armed me with strength for battle;
you made my adversaries bow at my feet.

41 You made my enemies turn their backs in flight,
and I destroyed my foes.

42 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them—
to the LORD, but he did not answer.

43 I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth;

I pounded and trampled them like mud in the streets.

44 "You have delivered me from the attacks of my people;
you have preserved me as the head of nations.
People I did not know are subject to me,

45 and foreigners come cringing to me;
as soon as they hear me, they obey me.

46 They all lose heart;
they come trembling from their strongholds.

47 "The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock!
Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior!

48 He is the God who avenges me,
who puts the nations under me,

49 who sets me free from my enemies.
You exalted me above my foes;
from violent men you rescued me.

50 Therefore I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations;
I will sing praises to your name.

51 He gives his king great victories;
he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed,
to David and his descendants forever."

Ephesians 6: 10-18. Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

II. Discussion Questions

a. In the Gospels and Acts, Jesus and the apostles frequently encountered demon-possessed people and drove out demons. In our Christian experience today we do not encounter this kind of demon activity. Why?

b. First John 3:8 said that Jesus has destroyed the devil's work, but then in chapter 5 of the same letter John says that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. Can you explain what this means?

c. Why does God allow Satan to tempt Christians?

III. Next Week's Topic & Scripture: Jesus' Second Coming? — Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4-5; 2 Peter 3; Revelation

More Scriptures About the Christian's Authority Over Satan

Genesis 3: 15. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Zechariah 3: 1-2. Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. 2 The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you!"

Matthew 4: 10-11. Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 6:13. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 10: 1. He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Matthew 16: 23. Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Mark 1: 23-25. Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, 'What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!' And Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be quiet, and come out of him'

Luke 4: 1-2, 4, 8, 12. Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil . . . 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.' . . . 8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' . . . 12 Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Luke 4: 33-35. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 "Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst of the people, he came out of him without doing him any harm.

Luke 10: 17-18. The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Luke 13: 16. Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

John 12:31. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

John 14: 12-13. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

John 17:15. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

Acts 26: 17-18. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Romans 16: 20. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

2 Corinthians 2: 10-11. If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Ephesians 1: 3. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1: 18-22. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 2: 1-2. As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 3: 10-11. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 4: 26-27. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold.

Colossians 1: 13. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

Colossians 2:15. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

2 Thessalonians 3:3. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

2 Timothy 4:18. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.

Hebrews 2: 14-15. Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

James 4: 7. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 3: 22. Jesus Christ . . . has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

1 Peter 5: 8-9. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 John 2:14. I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1 John 3: 8. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 4: 4. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 5: 18-19. We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ¹⁹We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Revelation 12: 10-11. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;

Revelation 20:10. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.