

Satan

Satan's Character and Personality

The believer has 3 great enemies according to the Scriptures: (1) Satan, our chief adversary, the devil: (1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 6:12; John 16:11; Col. 2:15; but note 1 John 2:13-14). (2) The world, a system and arrangement of the affairs of men and government under the control of the evil one and opposed to God and His purposes for man: (John 16:33; 1 John 5:4; Eph. 2:2). (3) Indwelling Adamic sin nature or the flesh and all its corrupting power and life-dominating patterns: (Rom. 7:15; 8:4-8, 13; Gal. 5:16-26).

The intelligence apparatus of a nation plays a vital part in modern warfare. Unless, we know who our enemy is, where he is, and what he can do, we will have a difficult time defeating him. The leader of the church's great invisible enemy is of course Satan whose name means, "adversary" because he is the enemy of God. He is also called the "**tempter**" (Mt. 4:3), the murderer (Jn. 8:44). He is compared to "**lion**" in 1 Peter 5:8, a serpent (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9), an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:13-15), the "**god of this age**" (2 Cor. 4:4). The Christian is not to be ignorant of his schemes and devices (2 Cor. 2:11).

Satan is a created being. The Lord Jesus Christ created angels who are moral rational creatures like mankind and the greatest of these was angels was Satan.

Therefore, Satan is a creature (cf. John 1:1 with Psa. 148:1-5; Col. 1:16; Ezek. 28:13). He is also a spirit being. Hebrews 1:14 describes angels as spirits and demons are called unclean spirits (Matt. 8:16; 12:45; Luke 7:21; 8:2; 11:26; Acts 19:12; Rev. 16:14).

Furthermore, the fact we are told that "**we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places**" (Eph. 6:12) also suggest that Satan and his demons are spirit beings.

Finally, the fact that Paul describes them as invisible also shows they are spirit beings (Col. 1:16).

Satan is not omniscient, omnipotent or omnipresent like God but rather he has limitations. He simply cannot be everywhere at once. Nor, can he read your mind.

Angels, though spirit beings and very powerful, are not omnipotent, omniscient, or omnipresent. They cannot be everywhere at once and this is true of Satan. However, as the chief of his demons forces or as the "**prince of the power of the air**" (Eph 2:2), he is chief of a vast host of demons who are so numerous as to make Satan's power and presence seem to be practically ubiquitous or everywhere at once (cf. Mark 5:9).

Therefore, because of this limitation, many references to Satan or the devil include his whole kingdom. The person of Satan does not personally tempt each of us for he simply cannot do that. He is only able to do so through his world system and demon hosts.

In his appearance when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord (Job 1:6), in the temptation of Christ (Matt. 4:10f), and the entrance into Judas (Luke 22:3) we surely have clear references to the person of Satan himself, but in many other passages, Satan or the devil seems to stand for Satan's kingdom (see Mark 3:23; 4:15; Luke 13:16; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Jam. 4:7).

It is also comforting to know that Satan is limited. The promise of Scripture is that **“greater is He who is in us, than he who is in the world”** (1 John 4:4). For all his power and hatred against God and man, he could do nothing against Job that God did not expressly allow. Therefore, he can be resisted and made to flee (Jam. 4:7), but only by the strength of God made available to believers in Christ (Eph. 6:10-18).

Satan is a person. The Scripture state that he possesses the traits of personality. He shows intelligence (2 Cor. 11:3). He exhibits emotions (Rev. 12:17, anger; Luke 22:31, desire). He demonstrates that he has a will (Isa. 14:12-14; 2 Tim. 2:26).

Satan is referred to as a person in both Old and New Testaments (Job 1; Matt. 4:1-12). Notice that the information in this latter passage (the temptation of Christ) had to come from the Lord. Thus He, by using personal pronouns, attributes personality to Satan.

If Satan were merely a personification that people have devised to express their ideas of evil, then such a personification could scarcely be held morally responsible for his actions, since, in reality, there is no being who can be held accountable. But Satan is held accountable by the Lord (Matt. 25:41), and this passage reminds us that to deny the reality of Satan requires denying the veracity of Christ's words.

We must learn from the devil's failure. If angels like Satan who were so close to God gave way to the pride of seeking to be independent of God and fell in sin, we certainly should learn from this that we might be more careful **“to take heed lest we fall”** (cf. 1 Cor. 10:12 with 1 Tim. 3:6-7). We should know full well, as with the temptation of Eve, Satan will seek to reduplicate his sin in us by seeking to get us to attempt to live life independently of God as though we were gods ourselves.

Satan's Original Position

Let's go back to the original angelic Eden, to a time before Satan had rebelled from God and had fallen from his privileged status. What we know about Satan in his perfect state comes mainly from the testimony of Isaiah (chapter fourteen) and Ezekiel (chapter twenty-eight). It must be remembered that in eternity past, Satan held a 3-fold office, which is now belongs to the incarnate Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Satan was a prophet, priest and a king in eternity past prior to his rebellion against his Creator. The devil was the preeminent creature in the universe before his fall, and each of the various characteristics described below call attention to specific aspects of this preeminence.

Ezek 28:11-12, "Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, "Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty."

"**Seal of Perfection**" is the Hebrew *chatham*, "a seal of proportion, a sealer of symmetry, one sealing perfection, " which are literal renderings from the Hebrew and can be expanded to the meaning "the one who puts his seal on harmonious-proportion" or, better, the "touchstone of symmetry" (that is, norms and standards of all kinds as seen from the divine point of view).

Satan, in his un-fallen state, could be looked to as one who upheld, embodied and represented perfect divine standards. It is a tragic irony that he is now the prime example of all that is wicked, wrong and anti-God. In contrast to Satan, our Lord Jesus Christ is the One who died to satisfy the Father's righteous standard regarding our sin (2 Cor.5:21; 1 Pet.2:24).

"**Full of wisdom**" is composed of the Hebrew adjective *male*, "full," and the noun *chokmah*, "wisdom."

The adjective *male* is used figuratively here in Ezekiel 28:12 indicating a high degree of wisdom by which Satan in eternity past, before his fall was characterized. This word indicates that Satan did not reject God out of ignorance. To the contrary, he was the wisest of God's creatures until he perverted that wisdom (Ezek.28:17).

It is a tragic irony that Satan corrupted this wisdom and so became the "**father of lies**", the adversary of God's wisdom and truth (Jn.8:44). In contrast to Satan, our Lord Jesus Christ is the very wisdom of God (1Cor.1:24).

1 Cor 1:22-24, "For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Ezek. 28:12, "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, "Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty."

"Perfect in beauty" is composed of the Hebrew adjective *kalil*, "perfect," and the noun *yophi*, "beauty." Satan before his fall in eternity past was the epitome of beauty.

Ezek. 28:13, "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared."

This "Eden" in Ezekiel 28:13 refers to the original garden of Eden on the original planet earth before the earth's renovation in Genesis 1:3 and following. Though he was the premier creature in a utopian setting, Satan was not content. It is a tragic irony that through his rebellion he has exchanged a perfect environment for eternal place in the lake of fire, and is leading his followers to share his fate (Matt.25:41). In contrast to Satan, our Lord Jesus Christ has prepared a place for us (Jn.14:1-4), a place whose wonders will outstrip even those of that first Eden (Rev.2:7).

The precious stones mentioned in this verse are indeed additional manifestations of Satan's beauty, but it is likely that they also mark him out as the one who represented the angels before God. The nine stones mentioned in this context bear a striking similarity to those placed on the high priest's breastplate (Ex.28:17-21; 39:10-14).

In the Exodus context, each of the stones represented one of the twelve tribes of Israel and bore its name inscribed on the gem. Exodus 28:29 states that Aaron (i.e., the high priest) shall wear the breastplate with the stones inscribed with the twelve tribes "over his heart" whenever he enters the Holy Place "**as a continual memorial before the Lord**"; the verse also calls the breastplate so equipped "**the breastplate of judgment**".

Each of Israel's tribes is thus a precious jewel in God's sight, and was represented before Him in this fashion whenever the high priest entered into the presence of God.

Furthermore, the breastplate also served the practical function of acting as a means of communication from the Lord in designating specific tribes for specific tasks. What we see in Ezekiel's representation of a very similar apparatus on Satan, therefore, should be seen as fulfilling a similar function.

As the "**anointed cherub who covers**", Satan would have been continually in the presence of the Lord as the prime representative of angelic kind in the same way that our Lord Jesus Christ (symbolically represented by Israel's high priest)

has been continually in His presence as the "**last Adam**" (1Cor.15:45) and "the Son of Man" (e.g., Jn.9:35) since His ascension.

It is a tragic irony that Satan, who used to represent his angelic brethren before the Lord would go on to corrupt many of them, thus leading them to eternal punishment (Matt.25:41). In contrast to Satan, our Lord Jesus Christ is our guide to eternal life (Heb.2:10; 12:2).

These 9 jewels are comparable to the 12 jewels found on the breastplate of the high priest of Israel, where each jewel represented 1 of the 12 tribes liable for military service. Satan in eternity past before his rebellion was the high priest of God ruling over these 9 divisions or tribes of angels just as the high priest in Israel presided over the 12 tribes of Israel.

Remembered 3 tribes surrounded the Tabernacle on all four sides in battle array. Revelation 12:4 says that 1/3 of the angels fell, that means 3 angelic divisions in the Lord's military rebelled.

Rev 12:3-4, "Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child."

These 3 angelic divisions are arranged in rank, thus mimicking God.

Eph 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Ezek. 28:14, "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire."

"**Anointed**" is the Hebrew adjective *mimshach*, whose cognate verb is *mashach*, "to anoint," and the noun *mashiach*, "Anointed One, Messiah." The Greek noun *Christos*, "**Christ**" translates the Hebrew noun for Messiah, which is *mashiach*.

The Hebrew verb *mashach*, "to rub means "to rub, anoint," or "spread" a liquid. This word was used of anointing of people for special service or office such as priest (Ex. 29:7; Lev. 4:5, 16; 6:22; 21:10), prophet (1 Kings 19:16), and king (1 Sam. 2:10; 12:3; 16:6; 24:6; 2 Sam. 12:7; 19:21). The person who experienced such anointing was often called "the Lord's anointed" (1 Sam. 26:9; 2 Sam. 23:1).

In the OT 2 office bearers are expressly described as *mashiach* i.e. as anointed with oil: (a) High priest (b) King. The most reference in the OT is to the anointing of the King. The rite of anointing was performed on the high priest in the post-exilic community in Judah. The anointing never became a rite of initiation into the

prophetic office. The prophet is discharged a specific task assigned to him by Yahweh Himself. He is anointed for this. Thus the act of anointing confers power.

So the *mashach's* Hebrew cognate adjective *mimshach* in Ezekiel 28:13 describes Satan as one who God conferred divine power to in order to carry out his duties. This anointing marked Satan out as God's number 1 man!

“**Cherub**” is the Hebrew noun *keruv*. Cherubs take the lead in worshiping God (Is.6; Rev.4:8b; 5:8,14; 7:11-12; 19:4), act as intermediaries for God in His royal manifestations (Rev.6:1-7; 15:7), and, perhaps most significantly, control access into His presence and fellowship (a duty most strikingly evident from their guarding of the "way to the tree of life" after Man's expulsion from the garden: Gen.3:24).

“**Who covers**” refers to the fact that Satan's original position can thus be described as that of the ultimate "imperial guard", charged with warding off all that is profane from the perfect holiness of God. It is a tragic irony that Satan's position as a bulwark against the profane has been altered by his own rebellion into that of a promoter of all that is detestable to God's holiness. In contrast to Satan, Christ kept Himself experientially pure from sin, so that in fulfillment of the Father's plan He might "become sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2Cor.5:21).

Ezek. 28:15-19, “You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you. All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; You have become terrified and you will cease to be forever.”

The Fall of Satan

As we noted earlier, in the beginning the most exalted of all the angels was the anointed cherub, whom the Bible calls Satan or the devil, the son of the morning (Isa. 14:12). He was entrusted with responsibilities and was granted privileges beyond those of any other angel, but he abused his freedom through arrogance and rebellion against God (Ezek. 28:12-19). He was the anointed cherub who guarded the throne of God, he was said to created perfect in wisdom and beauty and he was

blessed with the title of *Hallel Ben Shechar*, “**morning star, son of the dawn**” (Is. 14:12). But the Scriptures teach that he led the angels in rebellion against God (Is. 14:12-14). Instead of being 1 will in the universe, now there was 2...God’s and Satan’s. Satan had the audacity to oppose God.

Now, according to Matthew 25:41 Satan was sentenced to the Lake of Fire for his rebellion but he appealed the sentence.

Matt 25:41, “Then He will also say to those on His left, "Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.”

This sentence has not been executed since the Scriptures states that Satan is the “**prince of the power of air**” (Eph. 2:3), and the ruler of this world.

Eph 2:1-2, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

Eph 6:12, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

1 Peter 5:8, “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

We can accurately infer that Satan’s argument for appealing his sentence was that how could a loving God cast some of His creatures into the Lake of Fire forever and ever, thus God granted Satan his appeal. This appeal provides God an opportunity to demonstrate His incomparable love for all His creatures, both men and angels and thus vindicate His perfect character and integrity that was impugned by Satan.

Rom 5:6-8, “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died as a substitute for all of us.”

Therefore, God convened a trial to consider the evidence and pronounce judgment. In the prehistoric trial God was the judge and the prosecution. Satan was the defense. God considered all the evidence and pronounced a guilty verdict and He sentenced Satan and all the fallen angels to "eternal fire" (Matt. 25:41). So “eternal fire has been prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41), but because the sentence was not been immediately executed-and, in fact, will not be carried out until the end of human history (Rev. 20:10)-we can accurately infer that Satan appealed the sentence.

The elapse of time between the sentence and its execution indicates that human history is part of this momentous trial, the appeal trial of Satan. Human history is the appeal trial of Satan.

Further biblical evidence for the prehistoric trial of the fallen angels is found in Satan's titles. Human history was designed to resolve this conflict between God and Satan. The words "**devil**" and "**Satan**" are not names but titles, both of which mean "accuser" or "adversary" as an attorney accuses someone in court.

The Greek New Testament terms *Satanas*, "**Satan**" and *Diabolos*, "**devil**" are legal terms. The term *Satanas* means "adversary," and *diabolos* means "slanderer, false accuser."

Rev 12:10, "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night."

Zech 3:1-2, "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

He is called the devil and Satan because he was the defense attorney who represented himself and the fallen angels at the prehistoric trial and because he continues to act as an attorney now that the trial has entered its appeal phase during human history (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-5; Zech. 3:1-2).

A trial has 3 phases: (1) Formal presentation of the case: Prosecution presents its case, followed by the defense. (2) Rebuttal Phase: The rebuttal arguments of the prosecution followed by the rebuttal arguments of the defense. (3) Closing argument and summary: By the prosecution and the defense. The Formal trial in Satan's appeal trial corresponds to Old Testament history.

Human history provides the same circumstances and options, which belonged to angelic history before man's creation. Satan has been created in perfect innocence; and so was Adam. The angels have free will and man has free will. Adam freely and deliberately chose to follow the pattern of arrogance, which characterized Satan's original revolution.

The fall of Adam duplicates the fall of Satan. The rebellion of Satan in the Garden of God resulted in the fall of angelic creatures (Col. 1:20; Hb. 2:2-4; Rev. 12:4a), and the disobedience of Adam in the Garden of Eden resulted in the fall of mankind (Rom. 5:12a).

Satan became the ruler of the world with the fall of Adam. Satan presented his case in his many attempts to establish control over his kingdom so that he might create perfect environment on earth.

Just as in the prehistorical angelic conflict, his purpose in the historical extension of the angelic conflict is to prove himself equal with God, to be “like the Most High” (Isa. 14:14). Satan wishes to demonstrate that arrogance is not arrogance but a viable alternative to God’s plan. However, Satan lacks the ability to produce the utopia he wishes to establish. When Satan sinned he persuaded 1/3 third of the angels to defect with him (Re. 12:4). Satan took a cross section from these various ranks of angels.

Isa 14:12, “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!”

“**Star of the morning, son of the dawn**” (English transliteration from the Hebrew: *Helel Ben-Shachar*). This title speaks of Satan's role in reflecting the glory of God (cf. Job 38:7, where all the elect angels are described as "stars of the morning").

“**Star of the morning**” (*helel*) literally means, "shining one" is translated in the LXX as "light bearer" and by the Latin Vulgate as "Lucifer".

“**Son of the dawn**” (*Ben-Shachar*) is an apt rendering of this title, for it denotes a heavenly body so brilliant that it can be seen even in daylight.

As the prime creature of the original Eden, a place without darkness (for darkness did not exist before Satan's fall), Satan was the foremost representative of God's splendor, reflecting, for all angelic kind to behold, the brilliant glory of their Creator. It is a tragic irony that through his own choice he has now become the ruler of the domain of darkness (Eph.6:12; Col.1:13).

Far from reflecting God's glory, he now opposes it in every way, but his ultimate destiny is to have his light extinguished forever (Jude 6, 13). In contrast to Satan, our Lord Jesus Christ, the new Morning Star (2 Pet.1:19; Rev.2:28; 22:16; cf. Num.24:17; Is.9:1-2; 42:6; 49:6; Matt.2:2; 2:9; 4:16; Lk.2:30-32; Jn.1:4-5; 8:12; 9:5), is the perfect reflection of the Father's glory (Heb.1:3).

Isaiah 14:13-17, “But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’”

So we can conclude from a study of Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 that Satan was the most talented, attractive and personable creature to come from the hand of God (Ezek. 28:12; 2 Cor. 11:14). His force of persuasion is as compelling today as

when he convinced one third of all the angels to join his prehistoric revolution against God (Rev. 12:4a).

Satan's fall and his leadership of myriad angels in revolt started the prehistoric warfare called the angelic conflict which continues today and will be concluded only with the final judgment at the end of human history.

Satan's Cosmic System

The base of operations and activities of the kingdom of darkness are located in the earth's atmosphere. The cosmos, composed of the stellar universe (2nd heaven), the earth and its atmosphere (1st heaven) serve as the theater of military operations for the angelic conflict pitting the kingdom of God against the kingdom of Satan which are described in Scripture as light and darkness respectively.

The fact that they reside in the earth's atmosphere is implied by the Hebrew text of Genesis 1:6-8 where the 2nd day of restoration is not identified by the Lord as tov, "perfect, good."

A comparison of Scripture with this passage indicates that the reason why the Lord did not call it tov, "perfect" was because the kingdom of darkness, the fallen angels reside in the earth's atmosphere.

Genesis 1:1, "In eternity past, God created out of nothing the heavens and the earth."

Genesis 1:2a, "However the earth became an empty desolation, and darkness was upon the surface of the raging ocean depths."

Genesis 1:2b, "Now, the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters."

Genesis 1:3, "And then, God commanded, 'let there be light,' and so, there was light."

Genesis 1:4, "And then, God observed that in essence the light was perfect, God then caused a division between the light and the darkness."

Genesis 1:5, "And then, concerning the light, God designated the name day but concerning the darkness, He designated the name night and so it was evening and so it was morning, the first day."

Genesis 1:6, "Next, God commanded, 'let there be an atmosphere in the middle of the waters, and let it be a cause of division between waters from waters.'"

Genesis 1:7, "Consequently, God having restored the atmosphere and thus having caused a division between the waters, which were below the atmosphere and the waters, which were above the atmosphere, thus it came to pass as previously described."

Genesis 1:8, “And then, concerning the atmosphere, God designated the name ‘heavens,’ and so it was evening and so it was morning, the second day.”

In Genesis 1:3-5, Moses under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit records for us the 1st day of restoration where the Spirit under the direction of the pre-incarnate Christ restored light to planet earth. Upon the restoration of light, the Lord pronounced it tov, “good.” But He does not say this after the 2nd day of restoration, which is recorded in Genesis 1:6-8.

The reason for this omission is that Satan and the fallen angels inhabit the earth’s atmosphere.

Eph 2:1-2, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

So the base of operations of the fallen angels and their activities take place in the earth’s atmosphere.

The believer is living in enemy territory, which is the cosmic system of Satan. Satan runs this world and deceives it.

1 John 5:19, “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

Rev 12:9, “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

In his temptation of Christ, Satan declared, **“I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish”** (Luke 4:5).

Of course, God is sovereign and omnipotent, but in accord with God’s eternal purposes, the Bible does teach us that this present world is Satan’s domain and under his authority. Thus, the Lord frequently spoke of Satan as the ruler of this world (kosmos) (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), and Paul likewise asserts the same truth (2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 6:12; 1 John 5:19).

The nature of Satan’s aims in the world are quickly evident in his first appearance in the Garden of Eden when he tempted the woman to act independently of God that she might become like God knowing good and evil. He appeals to what is pleasant to the senses and desirable to gain wisdom, but always, the goal is a life that seeks to get by “without” God.

Gen 3:1-7, “Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall

not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’ The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die. For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.”

Satan’s aim is to create a world system that rivals God’s kingdom but which leaves Him out. His aim is to promote a counterfeit world order. Basically, the cosmos is evil because it is independent of God. It may contain good aspects as well as overtly evil aspects, but its inherent evil lies in its being independent of God and a rival to Him.

Evil originates with Satan and began when he rejected the authority of God in eternity past (Is. 14:12-14). Evil in its root essence is independence from God. The rejection of authority and rebellion against authority is evil. Conspiracy and revolution are evil (Psa. 64:4-5; Prov. 17:11).

Evil is Satan’s policy as the ruler of this world and is the way that he operates as ruler of this world. He seeks to capture and control the human soul with his policy of evil.

Satan seeks to establish his own millennium and become the victor in the angelic conflict through his policy of evil. God’s policy of grace is antithetical or totally opposite to Satan’s policy. Grace and Bible Doctrine represent the genius and thinking of God in relation to the human race.

Evil represents the genius and thinking of Satan regarding the human race. All sin is evil but not all evil is sin. Evil includes human good, which is the attempt by man to solve his problems apart from Bible Doctrine and apart from divine establishment.

The area of strength in the old sin nature is the source of human good. The area of strength in the old sin nature produces human good or “dead works” (Heb. 6:1). Both believers and unbelievers produce human good. God hates human good (Isa. 64:6).

Human good can include: (1) Humanitarianism (2) Socialism (3) Philanthropy (4) Public welfare (5) Social security (6) Religion (7) Legalism (8) Reversionism (9) Communism (10) Pacifism.

Human good cannot please God and He rejects human good because it originates from the old sin nature. The area of strength in the old sin nature motivates the production of human good. God wants Bible Doctrine to motivate the believer to perform divine good, which He will accept (1 Cor. 3:11-16).

Anything that an unbeliever can do is not the Christian way of life. God only accepts divine good or good done in His power, which is the Filling of the Spirit and Bible Doctrine (John 4:24).

The sin nature has 2 trends: (1) Antinomianism: immorality, sin (2) Legalism: morality, human good.

There are immoral degenerates and moral degenerates in the world today and God rejects both.

God does judge evil (Psa. 34:16; Isa. 13:11) and He will punish evil (Jonah 3:10). Evil will eventually be eliminated in the millennial reign of Jesus Christ (Zeph. 3:14-15). It will be permanently eliminated when Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:7-10).

Evil is located in the soul (Matt. 6:23; 15:19) and shortens life (Amos 5:14-15). It is distinguished from sin (1 Chron. 21:1, 17). Evil is often mistaken for good (Micah 1:12). Evil leadership is anti-God (Nahum 1:11). Sincere do-gooders practice evil (Rom. 7:19, 21). The believer is warned to beware of people who practice evil (Phil. 3:2). Those under the influence of evil always have a price (1 Tim 6:10). Evil distorts grace by emphasizing good works (Psa. 38:19-20).

Evil people seek to build happiness on someone else's unhappiness (Psa. 35:11-13). The influence of evil explains why the prayers of believers are not answered (Job 35:9-13). Evil is self-destructive (Psa. 34:21). This sharp rivalry surfaces in such verses as James 1:27 where the believer is told to keep himself unstained from the world; in 4:4 where friendship with the world is said to be hostility toward God; and in 1 John 2:16 where John declares that all that is in the world is not from the Father.

1 John 2:15, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

"**World**" is the noun *kosmos* and is the primary word in the Greek New Testament for the world. *Kosmos* means "order, ornament, adornment, an orderly arrangement. Our word "cosmetics" comes from this word.

In the New Testament it has three main uses: (1) The orderly arrangement of the heavens or the earth and all things in their complex order and composition as created by God, created in perfect order and subject to the laws God established to govern its operation.(Matt. 13:35; John 21:25; Acts 17:24). (2) The cosmos (Greek, *kosmos*) may also refer to the world in its arrangement of the inhabitants of the earth in tribes and nations or peoples (Acts 17:26; John 3:16; 1 Cor. 4:9; 1 John 2:2; 2 Pet. 2:5). (3) But most importantly, (3) *Kosmos* is used of a vast system and arrangement of human affairs, earthly goods, godless governments, conflicts, riches, pleasures, culture, education, world religions, the cults and the occult dominated and negatively affected by Satan who is god of this satanic cosmos.

This system is promoted by Satan, conformed to his ideals, aims, methods, and character, and stands perpetually in opposition to God the cause of Christ. This world system is used to seduce men away from God and the person of Christ. It is anti-God, anti-Christ, and anti-Bible, and very anti-humanity though it often appears as humanitarian as part of Satan's masquerade as an angel of light. The devil's world will never be healed; the devil's system will never be successful in bringing in perfect environment apart from God.

Indeed, Satan's kosmos is not at all designed to do so it is to the contrary constructed to appear to have the betterment of humanity as a prime objective, in order to further the devil's plans of enslaving and misleading as many people as possible.

While masquerading as a kingdom of light, Satan's world is entirely a kingdom of darkness, and so the scriptures describe it, making abundantly clear the distinction between God's world to come and the present cosmos of evil. Satan has incorporated into his system of world rulership as many material distractions as possible.

Affluence, the increase and spread of wealth, communication and technology are factors, which, from one point of view, are very beneficial to the devil's control of mankind.

Fear is a major element in Satan's manipulation of humanity, and to the extent that men enjoy and rely on such things for their happiness and security, to that degree the fear of losing them produces a sort of bondage which the devil is quick to exploit (cf. Heb.2:14-15 for the principle).

Heb 2:14-15, "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives."

In order to prevent our enslavement to the delights of this world (as well as to its necessities), an area Satan knows only too well how to manipulate against us, we need to have a full and sober appreciation of what the world really is. We need to be very aware of the world's essential vanity and of the pointlessness of its distractions and diversions. We need to be able to keep the pressures and exigencies of life (as well as its pleasures and delights) in proper perspective.

God is important. Knowing Him and serving Him is why we are here. Everything else is mere context. We are neither asked nor commanded to get through life without taking any joy or pleasure in worldly things and we certainly will not pass through the human experience without worldly pressure and problems (especially as Christians). But it is all these largely extraneous matters, which we must compartmentalize, and not God.

We dare not put God "in a box", giving priority to everything the world sees as important (but which from the Christian point of view is ultimately inconsequential), and neglecting the One who made us, who bought us, and whom we claim is our Master.

Whenever we allow the "things" of life to grow high, and fail to tend our faith, we endanger our spiritual growth. Ironically, believers have a tendency to do better spiritually in times of severe testing than in times of prosperity (cf. Deut.8:10-20).

Prosperity can be very dangerous and destructive to a believer's spiritual growth. In these last days it is especially important for Christians to avoid a pair of assumptions, which are equally dangerous: Affluence is a sign that God is blessing us, and therefore, if we are wealthy, that we must be doing just fine in our spiritual lives. Result of spiritual growth and a prosperous relationship with God is material wealth (i.e., the "prosperity gospel").

In fact, the opposite effect is certainly not without precedent, that is, the spiritually mature encountering greater testing on this score (e.g., consider Job's trials, or Elijah's privation).

Morbid over-emphasis on material prosperity has always been an occupational hazard of the human race in general, and, the closer we come to the end of history, the more we can expect this issue to grow as a threat to Christian spiritual growth. During this last era of the Church, the Laodicean era, there is destined to be an ever increasing tendency toward equating wealth and affluence with spiritual success (Rev.3:14-22).

Rev 3:14-22, "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Untroubled lives of ease in the midst of abundance are neither the norm nor the objective of the Christian life. The closer we walk with God, the more we can

expect that walk to be opposed by Satan and his angels: **2 Tim 3:12, “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”**

Another word that sometimes refers to this world system is the Greek *aion*, “age, period of time.” This word seems to serve as a synonym in certain contexts. It is used in some contexts of the age in which we live as marked by certain spiritual and moral characteristics as affected by Satan whom Paul identifies as “**the god of this age.**”

A very interesting use occurs in Ephesians 2:2 where Paul combines both *aion* and *kosmos*, “the course (age) of the world (cosmos).”

Eph 2:1-3, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

This age is often contrasted in Scripture with the age to come because of the very different characteristics and conditions of the two ages (Eph. 1:21; Matt. 12:32; 13:22; 1 Tim. 6:17; Tit. 2:12-13; Heb. 6:5).

Trench defines *aion*: “All that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations, at any time current in the world, which it may be impossible to seize and accurately define, But which constitutes a most real and effective power, being the moral, or immoral atmosphere which at every moment of our lives we inhale, again inevitably to exhale, all this is included in the *aion*, which is, as Bengel has expressed it, ‘the subtle informing spirit of the *kosmos*, or world of men who are living alienated and apart from God.’”

The world, then, instead of remaining a beautiful expression of God’s will and creative power as seen under the conditions of its creation, has become the seat of an angelic conflict and the very rival and antithesis of the plan of God.

1 John 2:15-17, “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

To achieve his aim, Satan must try to make the values of his godless system seem attractive. Thus he works to make people give top priority to self as number one and to the here and now as most important.

When John wrote that all that is in the world is not of the Father he explained what he meant by “all” by three expegetical statements that follow in 1 John 2:16. All of them emphasize self as number one. Satisfy the lusts of the flesh, Satan counsels. Try to get what the inordinate desires of the eyes make you covet and build a self-sufficient, arrogant attitude that arises from boasting about the possessions one has in life.

This selfishness is, of course, the prevailing philosophy of the world, and it comes from Satan who promoted himself from the beginning. Satan also seeks to focus people's attention on the present rather than on eternity. That is why John reminds us in verse 17 that the world passes away but the one that does the will of God abides forever. Thus Satan seeks to achieve his purposes by trying to change our priorities (self first) and our perspective (here and now more important).

In reality the truth is that God is first and eternity most important. The Scripture sets forth a number of importance truths regarding the believer's relation to this satanic cosmos in which we live. Though we are in the cosmic system of Satan, we are not of it (John 17:14-16).

John 17:14-17, "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

We are of a different kingdom and, as sojourners and aliens. We are to be living our lives in light of eternity. Though in the world, we are to be both unstained by the world and separated from it and its way of life while also penetrating the world as ambassadors of Christ, as those holding forth the Word of life (cf. Jam. 1:27; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; with Phil. 2:12-18; Matt. 5:14-16; 2 Cor. 5:20-21).

Philippians 2:14-16, "Continue performing all activities without murmurs resulting from doubts so that you might demonstrate yourselves to be uncensurable and uncontaminated, students of God (the Holy Spirit), virtuous in the midst of a corrupt and depraved generation. Among whom you yourselves continue appearing as luminaries in the cosmos by all of you continuing to exhibit the Word of life as a boast for me on the day of Christ."

Our trust, therefore, is not to be in the uncertain riches of this age nor in the things in which men glory (1 Tim. 6:17-19; John 5:41; 1 Thess. 2:6). We are not to be friends with this world which amounts to hostility to God and His aims (Jam. 4:4); nor are we to love the world, for loving the world and its things chokes out our ability to love God (1 John 2:15-17; Matt. 6:19-24; Mark 4:18-19).

Rather, we are to find our purpose, peace, significance, and joy, not as the world seeks these things, but through the Savior's life and the eternal purpose He gives us (John 14:25-27; Phil. 2:1-5).

We can enjoy the things God gives us in the world for He has given us all things freely to enjoy, but our security, significance, or basic satisfaction and contentment in life are to come from knowing, loving, trusting, and serving the Lord (1 Tim. 6:17; Phil. 4:11-13; Eccl. 2:24-26).

1 Tim 6:17, “Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.”

Eccl 12:13-14, “The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything, which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”

So while we can use the things in the world, we must not abuse them as one who belongs to Satan’s cosmic system who seeks from the world what only the Lord can give (1 Cor. 7:29-35). As believers we can expect animosity from the world bridled with an attempt by the world to conform us to its ideal, ambitions or aims, and way of life (John 15:18-19; 17:14; 1 John 3:13; Rom. 12:1-2); it is God’s truth as found in the Bible that protects from the world (John 17:17).

1 John 3:13, “Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.”

John 15:18-20, “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”

So therefore, the believer is in enemy territory and is under siege from the kingdom of darkness. This world system of Satan is against the Lord Jesus Christ and His church, which is His body and future.

1 John 2:15-17, “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

1 John 2:18-29, “Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. As for you, let that abide in you, which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you

also will abide in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise, which He Himself made to us: eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.”

We are not to love the world because our citizenship is heaven.

Philippians 3:20-21, “For our citizenship exists from eternity past in the realm of the heavens, out from which also we ourselves at the present time are eagerly anticipating as Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who will cause our humiliating body to be outwardly transformed to be identical in essence with His glorious body because of the power that will enable Him to marshal all things created to Himself.”

The citizens of the cosmic system of Satan hate the citizens of heaven. Satan and his cosmic system persecuted the Lord Jesus and have and will continue to persecute the church as well.

John 15:18-25, “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.’”

There are many passages in the New Testament, which address the believer's attitude and conduct to this present cosmic system of Satan.

Gal 6:14, “But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Philippians 1:27-30, “Single-mindedly, continue conducting yourselves (as citizens of heaven) in a manner worthy of the gospel concerning the Christ. So that whether having come and having seen all of you or being absent I might

continue hearing the things concerning all of you, that all of you are persevering by means of one Spirit, one soul. By all of you fighting together for the Christian faith, namely, the gospel and by not letting yourselves be intimidated in anything by the adversaries, which to their disadvantage is evidence of destruction but on the other hand, (evidence) of your (soul) prosperity. Indeed this (prosperity) originates from God (the Father) because for the benefit of all of you, it has been graciously granted (the privilege) because of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also, to suffer (hardship) because of Him. Since all of you are experiencing the same conflict, which all of you have seen with me and now all of you are hearing through me.”

Philippians 2:14-17, “Continue performing all activities without murmurs resulting from doubts so that you might demonstrate yourselves to be uncensurable and uncontaminated, students of God (the Holy Spirit), virtuous in the midst of a corrupt and depraved generation. Among whom you yourselves continue appearing as luminaries in the cosmos by all of you continuing to exhibit the Word of life as a boast for me on the day of Christ because I have not run in vain, nor have I worked diligently in vain. In fact, although I am offering myself as a libation poured out upon the sacrificial service which is (the expression of) your faithfulness: I rejoice and I congratulate all of you. On the other hand, in the same manner, I request that all of you also begin rejoicing and congratulating me and continue doing so.”

Rom 12:1-2, “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

James 1:27, “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

The fact that we are not to love this world does not mean we are to withdraw from society and live in a monastery but rather God has separated us from the world in order that we might manifest His Son to a lost and dying world through our words and actions.

God’s purpose of conforming us to the image of Christ is not accomplished by withdrawing to a monastery. We are not to conform our thinking to the world’s thinking but rather our thinking is to be conformed to Christ’s thinking.

2 Cor 10:3-6, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking

every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”

As He conforms us into the image of His Son, God permits us to use that which the world has devised, but we are to use it in service for the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers can and should use the world’s means of communication, such as radio, television, movies and the Internet in order to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are in the world as servants of Christ. We are here to manifest His glory and to reveal the knowledge of God. We don’t do this by conforming to the world, and not by loving the things that are in the world, but by being conformed to Jesus Christ and by loving Him with singleness of purpose, by being dedicated and devoted to Him. We are not to “sell out” to the world and play by its rules but rather we are to walk in conformity with Christ.

Stratagems of Satan

The principle stratagem of the devil is lies and deception. Satan deceives and is the father of lies.

1 John 5:19, “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

Rev 12:9, “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

John 8:44, “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Satan employed the strategy of deception against the woman in the Garden of Eden.

Gen 3:1-19, “Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’? The woman said to the serpent, ‘From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’ The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they

sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.' And He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' And the woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.' To the woman He said, 'I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.' Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.'"

1 Tim 2:9-15, "Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint."

2 Cor 11:3, "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

The devil's purpose for deceiving the human race is to divert worship from the Lord Jesus Christ and to himself.

Isa 14:12-14, “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'”

Thus, he promotes independence from God. Evil is independence from God and is the genius of Satan. The system that Satan has designed to promote independence from God is religion.

Theologically, religion is the antithesis to Biblical Christianity in that it is the ignorant, presumptuous, vain and arrogant attempt by man to gain the approbation and approval of God by depending upon a legalistic, meritorious system of human works rather than the impeccable Person and Finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Biblical Christianity and religion are antithetical concepts since the latter is man’s presumptuous, ignorant and vain attempt to gain the approbation of God through a meritorious, legalistic system of man-made oral traditions.

Religion is seeking to worship God apart from the protocol set by the Lord in John 4:23-24. Those who seek to worship the Father must do so by means of the Spirit and Truth.

John 4:23-24, “But an hour is coming and now is when the true worshippers, will worship the Father spiritually, yes, by means of truth. In fact, the Father intensely desires such worshippers of Him. God, as to His nature, is spirit and those worshipping Him must worship spiritually, yes, by means of truth.’

Religion is the genius of Satan but on the other hand, Biblical Christianity is total dependence upon God. It is God providing man everything He needs to worship through the Person, Work and Life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Religion promotes creature credit whereas Biblical Christianity promotes Creator credit. It is through religion that Satan feeds the arrogance of man so that he remains alienated from God. Satan employs religion to appear as an angel of light.

2 Cor 11:1-15, “I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this

beautifully. For I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles. But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this evident to you in all things. Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge? I robbed other churches by taking wages from them to serve you; and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so. As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”

Satan promotes religion through his false prophets. The Lord warned His disciples of these false teachers.

Matt 7:15-29, “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’ Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell -- and great was its fall. When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were

amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.”

Paul warned the pastors in Ephesus in his farewell address to beware of these false teachers that promote religion.

Acts 20:28-30, “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.”

Paul warned the Galatians of these false teachers that teach a counterfeit gospel.

Gal 1:8-9, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!”

Peter warned his readers of being deceived by false teachers.

2 Peter 2:1-3, “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

The Holy Spirit working through the Word of God is the Divine Provision that God has given every believer without exception to protect them from the lies of false teachers who are energized and promoted by the kingdom of darkness. The sword that the Spirit employs in spiritual combat is the Word of God.

Eph 6:17, “And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

The Holy Spirit is the resident teacher or mentor whom the Father has sent through the Son to indwell every New Testament believer as God’s special anointing to teach and make the truths of the Word understood and real to the heart or mind of believers (John. 14:16-20, 26; 15:26; 16:7-16; 1 Co. 2:10-16; 2 Co. 13:14; Ga. 5:5, 16-25; Eph. 3:16-19; 5:18; 1 Jo. 2:20-27).

One of the stratagems deals with the lack of forgiveness on the part of believers. If we don’t forgive one another, not only are we out of fellowship with God but also we are wide open to Satanic and demonic influence. When there is a lack of forgiveness in the local assembly, there will be disunity and when there is disunity, the enemy will take advantage of the local assembly.

2 Cor 2:1-11, “But I determined this for my own sake that I would not come to you in sorrow again. For if I cause you sorrow, who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful? This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you. But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree -- in order not to say too much -- to all of you. Sufficient for such a one is this punishment, which was inflicted by the majority, so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, otherwise such a one might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. But one whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

The believer is to operate according to the love of God, which was perfectly expressed by the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross in order to be protected from an unforgiving heart. Forgiveness is an expression of the love of God.

Luke 23:34, “But Jesus was saying, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’”

Eph 4:32, “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Col 3:12-14, “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.”

1 Cor 13:4-5, “Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered.”

1 John 4:7-21, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we

love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love, which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.”

One of Satan’s schemes is that he blinds the unbeliever to the truth of the Gospel.

2 Cor 4:1-4, “Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

Satan employs intimidation tactics to produce fear in believers so that they will go AWOL from the plan of God for their lives.

Philippians 1:27-30, “Single-mindedly, continue conducting yourselves (as citizens of heaven) in a manner worthy of the gospel concerning the Christ. So that whether having come and having seen all of you or being absent I might continue hearing the things concerning all of you, that all of you are persevering by means of one Spirit, one soul. By all of you fighting together for the Christian faith, namely, the gospel and by not letting yourselves be intimidated in anything by the adversaries, which to their disadvantage is evidence of destruction but on the other hand, (evidence) of your (soul) prosperity. Indeed this (prosperity) originates from God (the Father) because for the benefit of all of you, it has been graciously granted (the privilege) because of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also, to suffer (hardship) because of Him. Since all of you are experiencing the same conflict, which all of you have seen with me and now all of you are hearing through me.”

The kingdom of darkness will employ fear and intimidation tactics to get the believer to go AWOL (Absent without Official Leave) from the plan of God (Phil. 1:28; Heb. 2:15; 1 Pet. 5:1-9). They will employ intimidation tactics in order to get the believer to enter into fear and thus render the believer's spiritual life inactive.

Intimidation tactics by the kingdom of darkness are employed to get the believer out of fellowship with God and to ultimately render the believer's spiritual life totally inactive and inoperative.

Fear is a contradiction to the believer's spiritual life, which is a lifestyle of wisdom and confidence (2 Tim. 1:7).

2 Tim 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."

Fear produced by these intimidation tactics sponsored by the kingdom of darkness destroys spiritual growth and the execution of the Plan of God. Intimidation tactics, which produce fear, worry and anxiety in the believer are only successful when the believer allows his soul to be overrun by them.

The believer will be confronted with the kingdom of darkness intimidation tactics while undergoing undeserved suffering. Undeserved suffering experienced by the believer in spiritual adulthood either advances the believer forward in the spiritual life or it stops them. He who does not go forward goes backward.

The failure to meet this challenge by entering into fear can be immediately dealt with by the use of Rebound, which restores fellowship with God and allows the believer to go on the offensive. These intimidation tactics sponsored by the kingdom of darkness will backfire when the believer goes on the offensive applies the Word of God in adversity.

Occupation with Christ is the greatest weapon that a church age believer can employ when entering into offensive action. The intimidation tactics sponsored by the kingdom of darkness through unregenerate humanity and reversionistic believers are rendered inoperative when the believer goes on the offensive.

Confidence, contentment and courage are characteristics of the believer in spiritual adulthood who does not allow the command post of the soul (volition) to be overrun by fear produced by the intimidation tactics of the kingdom of darkness.

Insecurity, anxiety and cowardice are characteristic of the believer who allows the command post of the soul to be overrun by fear produced by the intimidation tactics employed by the kingdom of darkness.

The believer's relationship to the communication of doctrine and the communicator of doctrine will provoke these intimidation tactics upon the believer. Faithfulness to the communication of doctrine will inevitably produce undeserved suffering, which is designed by God to advance the believer forward in the spiritual life and build greater Christ-like character in the believer.

Romans 12:12, “Rejoicing in confidence, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.”

2 Corinthians 4:8-10, “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”

2 Corinthians 4:17, “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5, “Therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and doctrine in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.”

2 Timothy 1:8, “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.”

2 Timothy 1:12, “For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”

2 Timothy 2:3, “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

God uses Satan’s evil policy against himself and to advance the believer to spiritual maturity.

Spiritual Combat with Satan

Sooner or later, every Christian discovers that the Christian life is a battleground and not a playground that he is up against an enemy that is much more powerful and smarter than he is. The believer can glorify God in this angelic conflict by becoming an invisible hero with an invisible impact on human and angelic history.

The believer is being conformed to the image of Christ by conforming his thoughts, words and actions to Christ by means of the Spirit will have an invisible impact in 5 categories: (1) Personal: Your own periphery. (2) National: The Pivot. (3) International: Blessing by association through a mature missionary. (4) Angelic: Witness for the Prosecution in the Rebuttal Phase of Satan’s Appeal Trial. (5) Heritage: Children of a mature believer are blessed after the believer dies.

Invisible Heroes are described as the “**salt of the earth**” (Matt. 5:13). They are the “**lights of the world**” (Matt. 5:14). Invisible Heroes are like a “**city on a hill**” (Matt. 5:14).

The Lord has given the believer spiritual armor (Eph. 6:11, 14-17), and spiritual weapons to fight this spiritual warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-5). The same power that the humanity of Christ used to achieve the strategic victory in the angelic conflict has now been made available to the believer in the church age: (1) Word (2) Spirit.

The battleground for this spiritual warfare is in the believer's soul (Rom. 7:23; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Gal. 5:17). God has provided the believer the power to overcome his spiritual adversary, Satan and the kingdom of darkness (1 John 4:4).

Never before in history has so much power been made available to believers. This is because we live in the intensified stage of the angelic conflict and the church age believer is the enemy of the kingdom of darkness (John 15:18-19).

There is no excuse for any believer to become a permanent casualty in this war. The believer who goes AWOL (Absent without official leave) and succumbs to fear, worry and does not take advantage of knowing that God will support him through logistical grace in times of adversity will become a spiritual casualty in this spiritual warfare.

This is why we receive the following prohibitions and commands in the Scripture:

Philippians 4:6, "At this very moment, all of you stop continuing to be anxious about absolutely anything, but rather, concerning anything at all by means of reverential prayer in the presence of the Father and by means of petition accompanied by the giving of thanks, let your specific detailed requests be repeatedly made known in the presence of the Father."

Philippians 4:7, "And as a result the peace produced by God the Holy Spirit, which is always superior to any and every human conception, will as a dogmatic statement of fact cause your hearts to be protected and as a result your thoughts by means of the doctrine of Christ Jesus."

1 Peter 5:6, "Make it your top priority and permit yourselves to be humbled under the mighty hand of God the Father in order that He may promote you at the proper time by casting all your anxiety upon Him because as for Him He cares about you."

Matthew 6:31, "Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'what shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, what shall we be clothed with?'"

Matthew 6:32, "For all these things (food, drink, and clothing) the unbelieving Gentiles are lusting after. Certainly, your heavenly Father knows perfectly from eternity past with the result that He keeps on knowing perfectly that you are in constant need of all of these things."

Matthew 6:33, "But above all else (number one priority in life), all of you make it your habit to diligently, earnestly and tenaciously seek after the kingdom of the God and His righteousness (grow to spiritual maturity),

sparing no effort or expense, and as a result all these things will be provided for all of you.”

Matthew 6:34, “Therefore, stop entering into anxiety for tomorrow: For tomorrow will have anxieties of its own. Sufficient with reference to the day is its own evil.”

As we noted earlier at the beginning of this article, the believer has 3 great enemies according to the Scriptures: (1) Satan, our chief adversary, the devil: (1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 6:12; John 16:11; Col. 2:15; but note 1 John 2:13-14). (2) The world, a system and arrangement of the affairs of men and government under the control of the evil one and opposed to God and His purposes for man: (John 16:33; 1 John 5:4; Eph. 2:2). (3) Indwelling Adamic sin nature or the flesh and all its corrupting power and life-dominating patterns: (Rom. 7:15; 8:4-8, 13; Gal. 5:16-26).

The intelligence apparatus of a nation plays a vital part in modern warfare. Unless, we know who our enemy is, where he is, and what he can do, we will have a difficult time defeating him. The leader of the church’s great invisible enemy is of course Satan whose name means, “adversary” because he is the enemy of God. He is also called the “**tempter**” (Mt. 4:3), the murderer (Jn. 8:44). He is compared to “**lion**” in 1 Peter 5:8, a serpent (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9), an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:13-15), the “**god of this age**” (2 Cor. 4:4). The Christian is not to be ignorant of his schemes and devices (2 Cor. 2:11).

The believer utilizes the Word of God effectively in spiritual combat by appropriating by faith his union and identification with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection and session (Rm. 6; Col. 3).

God the Father’s victory over Satan and his kingdom have already been accomplished through the voluntary substitutionary spiritual death of the impeccable humanity of Christ in hypostatic union on the Cross-and His resurrection and session.

Victory or defeat is gained by the application of power and the withdrawal of the inferior force.

When we apply the Word of God, which is alive and powerful, by appropriating by faith our union and identification with Christ in His death, resurrection and session, then Satan and his armies will withdraw because though powerful, their power is inferior to God’s Word.

This is illustrated by the humanity of Christ in hypostatic union when confronted by Satan in spiritual combat.

Luke 4:1-13, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, tell

this stone to become bread.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, ‘**MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.**’ And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, ‘**YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.**’ And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, ‘**HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU TO GUARD YOU,**’ and, ‘**ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.**’ And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘It is said, ‘**YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.**’ When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.”

The apostle Paul employs a military analogy in Ephesians 6 in order to describe the believer’s defense and offense when engaging this invisible enemy. That Paul would use such an illustration is reasonable since Paul was chained to a Roman soldier when he wrote Ephesians 6.

Eph 6:19-20, “and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Military illustrations were favorites of Paul (2 Cor. 10:4; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3; 4:7).

Ephesians 6:10, “In closing, I solemnly charge all of you to make it your habit to permit yourselves to be empowered by means of the (Word of) the Lord, even, by means of the manifested power (in and through the Person of Christ), which is the possession of His power to overcome (the sin nature, cosmic system and Satan).”

To permit yourself to be empowered by means of the Word of the Lord means the believer must appropriate by faith what the Word of God says about himself, namely that he has been crucified, died, buried, raised and seated with Christ at the Father’s right hand, far above all angelic power and authority. It means to appropriate by faith his union with Christ and this is what it means to put on the nature of Christ.

The omnipotence of God that has been “manifested” through the resurrection and session of the unique theanthropic Person of the cosmos, the Lord Jesus Christ who achieved at the Cross of Calvary the decisive victory in the angelic conflict.

The believer can appropriate this omnipotence that has been manifested in the Person of Christ by appropriating by faith his position in and union with Christ.

Every church age believer through his union with the Lord Jesus Christ “**possesses the power to overcome**” his invisible enemy the kingdom of darkness led by Satan.

Ephesians 6:11, “I solemnly charge all of you to make it your top priority and clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that all of you might be able to habitually stand your ground against the stratagems of the devil.”

When the apostle Paul spoke of the full armor of God, he was referring to all the spiritual equipment God has provided every believer through their union with the Lord Jesus Christ so that those who are in His army may be victorious and triumphant in spiritual combat. The believer who appropriates by faith His union with the Lord Jesus Christ is infinitely more powerful than Satan and his armies.

Putting on the full armor of God means appropriating by faith the believer’s union with the Lord Jesus Christ, which is equivalent to putting on the nature of Christ.

Putting on the full armor of God involves the believer being obedient to the Spirit’s revelation in the Word of God concerning himself that he has been crucified, died, buried, raised and seated with Christ at the Father’s right hand, far above all angelic power and authority.

Putting on the full armor of God refers to putting on the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ, which involves the believer appropriating by faith what the Word of God says about him, namely, that he has been crucified, died, buried, raised and seated with Christ at the Father’s right hand, far above all angelic power and authority.

Gal 3:27, “For all of you who has been identified with into Christ have clothed yourselves with the nature of Christ.”

Rom 13:12, “The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

Rom 13:14, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to {its} lusts.”

1 Thess 5:8, “But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.”

We are to appropriate for ourselves by faith in the Word of God, the victory that is ours through our identification and union with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection and session. We fight “from” victory and not “for” victory.

Our faith in the Word of God enables us to stand our ground against the attacks of the enemy.

1 Cor 16:13, “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”

Paul is saying to the Ephesian believers to make it their top priority and clothe themselves with the full armor of God so that they might be able to habitually stand their ground against the “stratagems” of the devil meaning the devil’s plans, schemes, and tricks designed to surprise and deceive the Ephesian believers.

The principle stratagem of the devil is lies and deception. Satan deceives and is the father of lies (1 Jn. 5:19; Rev. 12:9; Jn. 8:44). Satan employed the strategy of deception against the woman in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-19; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:9-15).

One of the stratagems deals with the lack of forgiveness on the part of believers. If we don’t forgive one another, not only are we out of fellowship with God but also we are wide open to Satanic and demonic influence. When there is a lack of forgiveness in the local assembly, there will be disunity and when there is disunity, the enemy will take advantage of the local assembly (2 Cor. 2:1-11).

The believer is to operate according to the love of God, which was perfectly expressed by the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross in order to be protected from an unforgiving heart. Forgiveness is an expression of the love of God (Lk. 23:34; 1 Cor. 13:4-5; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12-14).

One of Satan’s schemes is that he blinds the unbeliever to the truth of the Gospel (2 Cor. 4:1-4). Satan employs intimidation tactics to produce fear in believers so that they will go AWOL from the plan of God for their lives (Phlp. 1:27-30).

Actually, every piece of the full armor of God speaks of Christ: (1) Faith in His Person (2) His righteousness (3) His Gospel (4) His Word (5) Salvation He provided.

Remember the Lord Jesus Christ is our everything meaning He “is” our sanctification, redemption, righteousness, and life! He is our armor!

1 Cor 1:30, “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.”

Ephesians 6:12, “because as far as all of you are concerned your combat is emphatically not against blood and flesh, i.e. humanity but rather against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers, which produce this present darkness, against the wicked spiritual forces residing in the heavenlies.”

Paul speaks of a Satanic order of battle in Ephesians 6:12: (1) “**Rulers**” (2) “**Powers**” (3) “**World-forces**” (4) “**Spiritual forces of wickedness.**”

"Order of Battle" is a military term generally used to denote the force structure of a particular combatant in any given military campaign. The term is appropriate for our discussion of the devil's forces, given that angels are organized into "**hosts**" (i.e., "**armies**", the Hebrew word *abj, tsabha'*: compare Judg.9:29 with 1

Knq.22:19), and that God's angelic forces will one day "**do battle**" with and defeat Satan's forces (Rev.12:7-17).

“**Rulers**” is the Greek noun *arche*, “position of power, office, official post, position of celestial power.” *Arche* connotes the highest in authority and rank and was a word used in the ancient world of “angelic and demonic powers, since they were thought of” by the ancients “as having a political organization.”

The meaning of “highest rank” is used in the Greek New Testament for both the human and angelic realm. In Ephesians 6:12 it connotes the highest rank and authority in the angelic realm.

“**Rulers**” is the noun *arche* and refers to the highest rank of angels in the Satanic table of organization who hold positions of authority (“**thrones**”) in the Satanic kingdom and are subordinate to only Satan himself.

The title *arche* signifies the highest rank in the demonic army and is comparable to our four star commanding generals. By interpretation, this term refers to the highest order of demons in Satan’s Table of Organization.

These top-echelon commanders are the elite of the fallen angels, the equivalent of the archangels among the heavenly host. These angels hold top-ranking positions in his government. They are the archangels like Michael who is the archangel or prince over Israel and are control and manipulate human governments on planet earth. They are kings over the various kingdoms or countries on planet earth (cf. Daniel 10:13) and are subordinate only to Satan.

These angels are heads of Satan’s worldwide network for administering his “**kingdom of this world**” (Rev. 11:15). Therefore, archangels and the “**rulers**” of Ephesians 6:12 are one in the same.

“**Powers**” is the Greek noun *exousia*, “delegated authority, authoritative position, and office of state, official power, head of state.” The noun *exousia* when used in relation to the Satanic order of battle is always listed after the noun *arche*, “**rulers**” (Col. 1:16; 2:10, 15; Eph. 1:21; 3:10).

The noun *exousia* refers to the rank of fallen angels who have been given by Satan “**dominions**” and are subordinate only to the *arche*, “**rulers**” and Satan himself. They do the bidding of the “**rulers**,” and are subordinate to them and are always mentioned with other demonic officials but never alone. They are a lower rank than the archangels or the rulers as their name implies but they are invested with significant spheres of operational authority.

We may take them as high-level commanders, subordinate to the archangels but with significant numbers of subordinates of their own.

“**World-forces**” is the noun *kosmokrator* and expresses the power or authority, which the fallen angels exercise over the cosmic system. These angels are subordinate directly to the *exousia*, “**authorities**” and carry out their orders and are

more than likely they are behind the miracles and other satanic demonstrations of power (cf. Rev. 13:13).

In Ephesians 6:12, the phrase “**spiritual forces**” refers to the rank and file angels in Satan’s military. These rank and file angels are also known in Scripture by a variety of names such as: (1) “**Demons**” (Lev. 17:7; Mt. 9:34). (2) “**Evil spirits**” (Lk. 7:21; Acts 19:13). (3) “**Unclean spirits**” (Mt. 10:1; Mk. 1:27). (4) “**Devils**” (Jn. 6:70).

Ephesians 6:13, “Because of this, I solemnly charge all of you to make it your top priority to take up for yourselves this full armor of God in order that all of you might become spiritually capable to resist during the course of this evil period. Now, I solemnly charge all of you to make it your top priority to successfully accomplish everything to stand your ground.”

The evil day is not a particular point in history or judgment in history, nor is it referring to the Tribulation period, but rather from the divine perspective it is an extended period of time in human history, which began with the Fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden and extends to the 2nd Advent of Christ when Satan will be imprisoned for a thousand years. From our human perspective, the evil day refers to our entire lives here on planet earth.

Eph 5:15-16, “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”

The time in which we live in is called the evil day because Satan is the ruler of this world and is at this time is stridently opposing God’s work that He is accomplishing through the church.

As long as Satan is free and the ruler of this world, the days will always be evil because he is evil.

Ephesians 6:14, “Therefore, I solemnly charge all of you to stand your ground. I solemnly charge all of you to buckle yourselves up, your waist with the belt of truth. Also, I solemnly charge all of you to clothe yourselves with the breastplate, which is (the divine) righteousness (of Christ)”

The Roman soldier who lost his footing and fell to his knees was certain to fall before the stroke of the sword of his adversary. No soldier could hope to be victorious who was not able to stand. So the apostle Paul assures us that Christians will be able to stand their ground against the attacks launched by Satan and the kingdom of darkness when they put on the full armor of God or in other words appropriate by faith their union with Christ.

To stand our ground means victory. In the apostle Paul’s day a girdle was absolutely essential to the Roman soldier who was about to go into combat. He would pick up the lower edges of the robe he wore and bind it about his waist. In this way the girdle freed the soldier for rapid movement. If he were to engage the

enemy in hand to hand combat without a girdle, his long robe would trip him up and he would be an easy mark for the adversary.

So the soldier would be equipped with a girdle. The girdle or belt tied tightly around the waist indicated that the soldier was prepared for battle and to loosen the belt meant that the soldier was off duty. It was not an ornament but served an essential purpose since it gathered in the short tunic and helped keep the breastplate in place when the latter was fitted on. From it hung the scabbard in which the sword was sheathed.

The swordsman would fasten his girdle across his shoulder so that he could suspend his sword from that girdle. The soldier's girdle was usually a wide leather belt that would bind the clothing together and would have in itself sufficient strength to support the offensive weapons with which the soldier would go into combat. Thus, Paul was using a figure that was familiar Christians in the 1st century since they were all familiar with the Roman military since they occupied many of their cities.

Just as the belt was absolutely essential for the Roman soldier to be victorious in combat so the believer who girds his soul about with the belt of the Word of truth will be victorious in spiritual combat with the kingdom of darkness. So the truth is to be the believer's belt or girdle. Thus, Paul is speaking of the believer buckling on the belt of truth.

Paul mentions the belt first and foremost because he understood its importance. The belt was essential to the rest of the panoply. It was the foundation for everything else the soldier put on. Therefore it parallels the Word of God, i.e. Bible doctrine resident in the soul, the essential requirement for the "full armor from God."

The noun *thorax*, "**breastplate**" in Ephesians 6:14 is used with the noun *dikaiosune*, "**righteousness**" in the figurative sense for the righteousness of Christ that the believer experiences when he is obedient to the Word of God. Just as the breastplate of the Roman soldier saved him from being mortally wounded, so the believer who appropriates by faith the righteousness of Christ after salvation will be protected from being mortally wounded in spiritual combat with the kingdom of darkness.

The Ephesian believers are being commanded to experience the righteousness of Christ, which is theirs in the positional sense. They are to live in that which is true of them positionally, namely, they are as righteous of God because of their faith in Jesus Christ, the righteous for salvation, or, in other words, they are to live in the righteousness of Christ, which is theirs permanent possession.

Ephesians 6:15, "Also, I solemnly charge all of you to make it your top priority to strap on your own feet combat boots and do it now, equipped with

a firm foundation, namely, the Gospel, which produces a peace that is divine in quality and character.”

The Romans had one of the finest types of footwear ever invented for the infantry. This heavy combat footgear closely resembled that of the ancient Greeks. Similar to sandals, the Caligae were made of hobnail-studded leather soles, half an inch thick. These were bound securely to the foot over the instep and around the ankles with thick leather thongs.

Strips of cloth or fur were placed inside the sandal to serve as a lining. The hobnailed soles were designed to make the sandals extremely rugged for the long marches with heavy equipment and to provide the soldier with sure footing on the battlefield. The application is this, that the Christian who understands the solid foundation that peace with God has given him, is able to become effective in the mission and ministry of evangelism.

The infantry of the ancient world relied on well-shod feet for transportation. In Scripture, feet become synonymous with service, thus there can be no effective Christian service apart from constant training and preparation along the road to spiritual maturity. It was the seasoned combat veteran of the Roman army who served his nation best. It is the spiritually mature soldier of Christ Jesus who can serve his Lord giving Him maximum production.

Not unlike the Roman soldier, the soldier of Christ Jesus needs a firm and secure footing when engaging in spiritual combat his invisible enemy the kingdom of darkness. His ability to stand against the adversary will depend upon the shoes, which he has on his feet. It would be poor preparation for combat if the believer put on the belt of truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness if he did not also wear the proper shoes.

There is that in the Gospel of peace that will enable the soldier of Christ Jesus to stand after he has put on the other articles of his spiritual armor. This the apostle Paul emphasizes in Ephesians 6:15 when he commands the Ephesian believers to put on their feet the Gospel of peace.

Since the gospel is the truth that Christ died for our sins and rose again three days later from the dead for our justification, we may infer that the soldier of Christ Jesus is to be prepared ahead of time for spiritual combat by comprehending and appropriating by faith this truth.

We are to put on our spiritual footwear prior to spiritual combat since it would be too late to look for them in our spiritual knapsack after the enemy attacks. We must be prepared and ready. When Paul mentions protection for the believer's feet, he is implying that they need protection in their daily walk in the devil's world. The fact that the apostle Paul commands the Ephesian believers to put on their feet the Gospel of peace indicates that he is concerned about their "walk" with the Lord.

The “**firm foundation**” that the Gospel of peace provides the soul of the Christian soldier is one of the articles that help to compose this full armor of God. The fact that the Christian soldier has peace with God for all eternity serves as a firm foundation for him as he engages the kingdom of darkness in spiritual combat. The believer who understands and is sure that he has eternal security has a firm foundation in his soul that will serve to sustain him as he endures spiritual combat with the kingdom of darkness.

Those who doubt their eternal security do not have a firm foundation for their souls and will suffer certain defeat in spiritual combat with the kingdom of darkness.

Ephesians 6:16, “In addition to everything, I solemnly charge all of you to take up for yourselves your shield, which is your faith because that will enable all of you to extinguish all the flaming arrows originating from the evil one.”

In Ephesians 6:16, the noun *thureos*, “**shield**” is a “hapax legomenon” meaning it appears only here in the Greek New Testament and refers to the large rectangular door-shield that when crouched behind, protected all the other pieces of armor. The shield Paul is referring to in Ephesians 6:16 was a heavy shield approximately 30 inches wide and 48 inches high, large enough for a soldier to crouch behind it. It was primarily designed to give a soldier protection.

A Roman phalanx would overlap such shields and advance upon the enemy. When they came into close proximity to the enemy, they stood close together and formed a solid wall behind, which the phalanx hid. The soldiers who carried these shields were in the front lines of battle, and normally stood side by side with their shields together, forming a huge phalanx extending as long as a mile or more.

This suggests that believers are not alone in spiritual combat.

1 Peter 5:7-9, “casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

The archers stood behind this protective wall of shields and shot their arrows as they advanced against the enemy. Anyone who stood or crouched behind such shields was protected from the barrage of enemy arrows and spears. It is this large, protective door-shield that the apostle Paul had in mind when he told the Ephesian believers to take up for themselves the shield of faith, which would enable them to extinguish the fiery missiles of the kingdom of darkness.

When the apostle Paul used this door-shield as a figure of the shield provided by God for the soldier of Christ Jesus, he was emphasizing the fact that the believer has full and complete protection from the enemy. A soldier could crouch behind the door-shield, and no part of his person would be unprotected.

The Christian soldier, equipped with the door-shield of faith, has the full and complete protection for his entire person, which is provided by God the Father. The pieces of armor mentioned by Paul in Ephesians 6:13-15 covered the entire believer, thus he was totally and completely protected from head to toe by the equipment given by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The door-shield, then, was not singled out as the most important piece of armor, but rather it was that piece of the equipment, which went in front of and protected all the other pieces of equipment. Thus, the soldier of Christ Jesus has double protection.

There is protection for his person in the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, and the gospel boots on his feet but the door-shield of faith was for his overall protection from the attacks of the enemy. When the soldier of Christ Jesus takes up for himself the shield of faith, his armor cannot be touched, let alone himself. So the believer has double protection.

The believer is not only covered completely by the armor, which is analogous to his union with Christ, but also God has provided protection for his armor so that he can stand before the attacks of the enemy.

In Ephesians 6:16, the noun *pistis*, “**faith**” is used in the active sense meaning “to trust, to have total and absolute confidence in God.” Faith here is an attitude toward God, in which the believer considers God to be faithful who will perform all that which He is promised in His Word.

The shield of faith therefore, is “not” the objective body of truth, the content of the Christian faith, Christian doctrine, although that is the object of the believer’s faith after salvation, but rather it is the Christian soldier’s faith or total and absolute confidence in God’s faithfulness to His promises.

Hab 2:4, “But the righteous will live by his faith.”

Rom 1:16-17, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.’”

This faith makes the Christian invincible.

Ephesians 6:17, “Also, I solemnly charge all of you to take hold of your helmet, which is your salvation as well as your sword that originates from the Spirit, which is, as an eternal spiritual truth, God’s Word.”

The Roman helmet had a small metal peak, which jutted out in front to offer added protection against the downward strokes of an opponent. Hinged bronze cheek pieces held the helmet securely in place.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:9 and Ephesians 6:17, the compound noun *perikephalaia*, “**helmet**” is used figuratively of course to express the idea of “protection” or “safety”.

The helmet of course protected the head of the Roman soldier from being injured on the battlefield by flying debris or objects such as arrows. The figure in 1 Thessalonians 5:9 and Ephesians 6:17 is that the believer's spiritual helmet protects his head and in particular what's inside his head, namely, this thinking.

The Roman soldier would never think of advancing in combat without his helmet. The helmet of the Roman soldier was designed to protect him from the blows the broadsword.

When Paul speaks of salvation here in Ephesians 6:17, he is speaking of salvation in the sense of a 3-fold deliverance from the believer's 3 great enemies, namely, sin nature, cosmic system of Satan and Satan himself (cf. Eph. 2:1-3).

Salvation, like sanctification is accomplished in 3 stages: (1) Positional: At the moment exercising faith alone in Christ alone and being delivered "positionally" (God's work and viewpoint of the believer) from real spiritual death and eternal condemnation, the devil, his cosmic system and the sin nature through the death, resurrection and session of the Lord Jesus Christ. (2) Experiential: After salvation, being delivered from the devil, his cosmic system and the sin nature "experientially" by appropriating by faith the believer's union and identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection and session. (3) Ultimate: At the resurrection the believer will be delivered "ultimately" and permanently from the devil, his cosmic system and the sin nature when he receives his resurrection body at the rapture of the church, which is imminent.

This 3-fold deliverance helps to compose the believer's eternal security. Thus, the adjective *soterias*, "**salvation**" in Ephesians 6:17 is a reference to the believer's eternal security that is a result of this positional, experiential and ultimate deliverance from sin, Satan and his cosmic system, which the Father accomplished through the death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session of Christ.

In Ephesians 6:17, the noun *machaira* refers to a "small sword" such as a dagger and is used in a figurative sense for the Word of God. During the days of the Roman Empire in which Paul lived, the *machaira* enable the Romans to dominate the world for 1000 years. It was a short double-edged sword, which was developed by the Romans. The *machaira* gave the Romans a distinct and decisive advantage in battle. They could make several short quick thrusts in hand-to-hand combat before the enemy could ever wield a stroke.

The analogy that Paul is making here is this: Just as the enemies of Rome could not stand up to the Roman soldier's short double-edged sword, so the kingdom of darkness can not stand up to the Christian soldier's double-edged sword, the Word of God. The Roman soldier's *machaira* could pierce the human body of his enemy but the Christian soldier's *machaira* pierces the human soul.

Heb 4:12, “For the word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart.”

The Lord Jesus Christ employed His machaira when facing Satan in hand-to-hand combat (Mt. 4:1-11).

“**Word**” is not the usual *logos* that we see often in the New Testament but rather *rhema*. *Rhema* is a specific passage of Scripture, which applies to a particular situation. When the believer is influenced by means of the Spirit, this enables the Holy Spirit to bring to the believer’s remembrance a specific passage or concept in the Scripture, which will apply to the believer’s problem or specific set of circumstances. This is further substantiated by the fact that as the Lord Jesus employed Scripture to repulse the temptations presented to Him by Satan in Luke 4 so the soldier of Christ Jesus, the Christian must utilize the Words that are inspired by the Spirit to repulse the temptations presented to Him by Satan.

Also, it is significant that in Matthew’s account of our Lord’s encounter with Satan in Matthew 4, the Lord Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 and refers to “**every word (*rhema*) that comes from the mouth of God**” (Mt. 4:40). He employs relevant Scriptures to defeat the devil’s stratagems.

Ephesians 6:14-16 lists 4 items that help compose “**the full armor of God**”: (1) Ephesians 6:14a: “**Belt of truth.**” (2) Ephesians 6:14b: “**Breastplate, which is (Christ’s) righteousness.**” (3) Ephesians 6:15: “**Combat boots, namely, the Gospel.**” (4) Ephesians 6:16: “**Shield, which is your faith**” (5) Ephesians 6:17a: “**Your helmet, which is your salvation.**”

Not one of these items that help to compose the full armor of God are designed to defeat the believer’s spiritual enemy, Satan, but rather these items all serve to protect the soul of the believer against the offensive tactics of “rulers, the authorities, the world-rulers, which produce this present darkness, the wicked spiritual forces residing in the heavenlies.”

If you notice, the armor is for the protection of the front of the individual and not the back and the reason for that is that God makes no provision for the believer in case of retreat.

As J. Vernon McGee used to say, “A retreating Christian is certainly open season for the enemy; the enemy can get through to him.”

All of five of these items presented in Ephesians 6:14-17 are for “defensive” purposes. Ephesians 6:17b and Ephesians 6:18 present the “offensive” weapons provided by God for the soldier of Christ Jesus, namely, the Word of God and prayer.

Ephesians 6:17b presents the first “offensive” weapon provided by God for the soldier of Christ Jesus, namely the Word of God. Ephesians 6:18 presents the

second “offensive” weapon provided by God for the soldier of Christ Jesus, namely, prayer.

The Word of God and prayer are to work together since prayer is only effective and productive if it is in accordance with the Father’s will, which is revealed by the Holy Spirit “in the Word of God.”

Ephesians 6:18, “By means of every kind of specific detailed reverential prayer requests, all of you make it your habit to pray at each and every opportunity while in fellowship with the Spirit. Now, for this very purpose, all of you make it your habit to stay alert (in prayer) with every kind of persistent specific detailed requests with regards to each and every one of the saints.”

In Ephesians 6:18, the noun *proseuche* is used of reverential prayer in the presence of the Father. The noun *proseuche* literally means a “face to face audience with God the Father.” It refers to the general concept of prayer that is directed toward God the Father without reference to the content of the prayer, which will be indicated by the context.

Proseuche speaks of prayer in the general sense of speaking face to face or in the presence of the Father to worship and adore Him. The basic meaning of the word views the prayer of the believer from the standpoint of speaking face to face with the Father in worship and dependence, thus acknowledging Him as all-sufficient in Himself and the believer as insufficient in himself.

Prayer is the means by which the believer can approach the Father face-to-face in dependence of His sufficiency and submitting to His will.

There are five essential elements to prayer: (1) Confession (2) Worship of God (3) Thanksgiving (4) Intercession (5) Petition.

“**Petition**” is the noun *deesis*, which in context indicates refers to making a petition or prayer for a specific need, whether spiritual or material and which is in accordance with the will of the Father.

Proseuche emphasizes the worshipful attitude of the believer who depends upon God to meet his needs through prayer and *deesis* stresses the believer acting based upon that attitude of dependence upon God. *Deesis* is a request to God for what is lacking in the believer’s life.

In Ephesians 6:18, the verb *proseuchomai* refers to intercessory prayer to the Father on behalf of other believers, but without reference to the fact that it is intercessory. Thus it simply refers to prayer in its general sense or the simple act of making a prayer to the Father without reference to its content.

“Perseverance” is the manner in which the Ephesian believers were to stay alert in prayer for all believers.

Acts 1:14, “These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

Acts 2:42, “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Acts 6:4, “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Col 4:2, “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.”

Perseverance is steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, and a state. Perseverance suggests activity maintained in spite of difficulties, steadfast and long continued application.

The Scriptures teach that an effective and productive prayer demands perseverance (Matt. 7:7-8; 26:39-44; Luke 11:9-10; 18:1-8; 21:36; Rom. 12:12; 15:30; Acts 1:14; 6:4; 12:5; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim. 5:5; 2 Tim. 1:3; Col. 1:9; 4:2, 12; Heb. 10:22).

The Lord emphasized this concept of perseverance in prayer with His disciples.

Matt 7:7, “Ask repeatedly, and it will be given to you; seek repeatedly, and you will find; knock repeatedly, and it will be opened to you.”

The church age believer is to pray from his position in Christ and not from planet earth. The believer is to pray from his position of victory and power and authority, which is at the right hand of the Father.

John 16:26-27, “In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.”

When the Lord commanded His disciples to pray “**in My Name**” means to pray from the vantage point of a new and exalted position of being in union with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Judgment of Satan

God the Father has awarded the humanity of Christ in hypostatic the highest rank in the entire cosmos for His substitutionary spiritual death on the cross with power and authority over all creation and every creature.

Philippians 2:5-11, “Everyone continue thinking this (according to humility) within yourselves, which was also in (the mind of) Christ Jesus, Who although existing from eternity past in the essence of God, He never regarded existing equally in essence with God an exploitable asset. On the contrary, He denied Himself of the independent function of His deity by having assumed the essence of a slave when He was born in the likeness of men. In fact, although He was discovered in outward appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by having entered into obedience to the point of spiritual death even

death on a Cross. For this very reason in fact God the Father has promoted Him to the highest-ranking position and has awarded to Him the rank, which is superior to every rank. In order that in the sphere of this rank possessed by Jesus every person must bow, celestials and terrestrials and sub-terrestrials. Also, every person must publicly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord for the glory of God the Father.”

Because the Lord Jesus Christ controls history as sovereign ruler of history, He has the authority to conduct the following judgments and evaluations in the future. The humanity of Christ in hypostatic union has been awarded the sovereign rulership over the entire cosmos for His voluntary substitutionary spiritual death on the cross and as a result has been awarded by God the Father the power and authority to preside over and conduct the following judgments: (1) Bema Seat Evaluation: Takes place at the Rapture of the Church and is the evaluation of the Church Age believer's life after salvation (Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 John 2:24). (2) Israel: Takes place at the 2nd Advent and is the removing unregenerate Israel from the earth leaving only regenerate Israel to enter into the Millennial reign of Christ (Ezek. 20:37-38; Zech. 13:8-9; Mal. 3:2-3, 5; Matt. 25:1-30). (3) Gentiles: Takes place at the 2nd Advent and is for the purpose of removing unregenerate, anti-Semitic Gentiles from the earth (Matt. 25:31-46). (4) Fallen Angels: Takes place at the end of the appeal trial of Satan which runs co-terminus with human history and is execution of Satan and the fallen angels sentence for the pre-historic rebellion against God (1 Cor. 6:3; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10). (5) Great White Throne: Takes place at the end of human history and is the judgment of all unregenerate humanity in human history for the rejection of Christ as Savior (Rev. 20:11-15).

The following groups of regenerate human beings throughout human history will be subjected to a eschatological compulsory evaluation that the victorious, resurrected incarnate Son of God as Sovereign Ruler of the entire cosmos will conduct: (1) OT saints in heaven who lived during the dispensation of the Gentiles (Adam to the Exodus). (2) OT saints in heaven that lived during the dispensation of Israel (Exodus to 1st Advent). (3) All Church Age believers (Day of Pentecost to the Rapture). (4) Regenerate Jews who will live during the Tribulation (Post-Rapture to the 2nd Advent). (5) Regenerate Gentiles who will live during the Tribulation (Post-Rapture to the 2nd Advent). (6) Regenerate Jews and Gentiles who will live during the Millennial reign of Christ (2nd Advent to Gog and Magog Rebellion).

The following groups of unregenerate human beings throughout human history will be subjected to a eschatological compulsory judgment that the resurrected incarnate Son of God as Sovereign Ruler of the entire cosmos will conduct: (1) Unbelievers who lived during the dispensation of the Gentiles (Adam to the

Exodus). (2) Unbelievers who lived during the dispensation of the Jews (Exodus to the 1st Advent). (3) Unbelievers who lived during the Church Age (Day of Pentecost to Rapture). (4) Unbelievers who lived during the Tribulation (Post-Rapture to 2nd Advent). (5) Unbelievers who lived during the Millennium (2nd Advent to Gog Rebellion).

All fallen angels including Satan himself have already been subjected to a judgment before human history but the execution of that sentence has been delayed because the Supreme Court of Heaven granted Satan and the fallen angels an appeal trial, which runs co-terminus with human history. The elect angels do not come under judgment for the very same reason that regenerate human beings don't come under judgment because they have exercised personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Every regenerate human being in every dispensation of human history must at some point in the future submit to an evaluation of their lives after salvation which will be conducted by the resurrected and sovereign humanity of Christ in hypostatic union.

Regenerate Israel who lived during the Age of Israel and Tribulation period will be evaluated at the 2nd Advent (Ezek. 20:37-38; Zech. 13:8-9; Mal. 3:2-3, 5; Matt. 25:1-30). Regenerate Gentiles who lived during the Age of the Gentiles and Tribulation period will be evaluated at the 2nd Advent (Matt. 25:31-46). Church Age believers will be evaluated at the Bema Seat Evaluation of Christ (Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 John 2:24). Regenerate Jews and Gentiles who lived during the Millennium will be subjected to a judgment at the conclusion of human history (Rev. 20:15).

Every unregenerate human being in every dispensation of human history must submit to a judgment, which will also be conducted by the resurrected and sovereign incarnate Son of God at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

Every fallen angel has already been judged and sentenced to the Lake of Fire by the Supreme Court of Heaven before human history. The execution of that sentence will not be carried out until the conclusion of the appeal trial of Satan and the fallen angels (Rev. 20:10).

The Scriptures teach that the execution of Satan's sentence to the Lake of Fire will not be executed until the end of human history. He will though be imprisoned for a thousand years. Satan must be thrown into prison at the 2nd Advent of Christ according to Revelation 20:1-3 before the millennial reign begins (Rev. 20:1-3).

All unbelievers will be removed from planet earth at the 2nd Advent of Christ and will be thrown into the Lake of Fire with the beast and the false prophet (Jews: Ezek. 20:33-38; Gentiles: Matt. 25:31-46). These judgments are designed to produce perfect government and environment on planet earth.

During the millennial reign of Christ religion will be abolished from the earth because Satan, who is the author of religion will be imprisoned. The demons have all been removed from the earth and a new civilization will begin with believers only.

Satan will be released from prison after the millennium and will immediately start a rebellion against the Lord Jesus Christ. Theologians call this rebellion, the “Gog, Magog rebellion.” God puts down this rebellion decisively. The appeal trial of Satan terminates after the Gog and Magog revolution (Rev. 20:7-9). The eternal state will take place after the execution of the sentence against Satan and the fallen angels when they are cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10). It will take place after the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-14).