

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew** 98- Jesus' Authority Over Disease; Disabilities; Demons; and Death- Part 9

Church May 19, 2024

Matthew 9:32-38

32 As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him.

33 After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

34 But the Pharisees were saying, "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

38 "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now beginning today- I want to give a short background on the biblical Issue of "demons". So, I will be going over just what the Bible does teach about these Beings. In short, I will teach:

- Demons are real
- They are "fallen" Angels
- They dwell on the earth
- They are purely "spiritual beings"
- They can possess unsaved human beings
- They fight against the Church

- They know and understand God’s Word
- They CANNOT love God
- They CANNOT repent
- They know there is a Day coming when they will be judged by God
- They are terrified of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit
- They can ONLY do what God *allows* them to do
- God uses them for His own Glory
- They are Liars
- Their Power lies in their Craftiness and their Deceivableness
- They CANNOT *force* anyone to sin
- They will spend all of Eternity in the Lake of Fire

Now throughout human History- there has always been a morbid Interest in what is called, the “*Supernatural*”. People made in the Image and Likeness of God have always been fascinated in what they can’t see and in what baffles the Mind. The word, “*Supernatural*” has to do with that which is “above” or “beyond” the Natural- meaning above or beyond human beings. And so, the bookstores; the Internet; as well as Television is filled with stories about Ghosts; Witches; Warlocks; Sorcerers; and other Issues relating to the Supernatural and the Occult.

But the one, true, and living God has always *condemned* that Interest. And so, around 1450 years *before* Jesus was born, God the Holy Spirit “moved” on Moses to give him the Old Covenant Law.¹ And in **Exodus 22:18** Moses *infallibly* wrote this:

You shall not allow a sorceress to live.

... and this from **Deuteronomy 18:10-14:**

10 “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

11 or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

12 “For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord; and because of these detestable things the Lord your God will drive them out before you.

13 “You shall be blameless before the Lord your God.

14 “For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so.

¹ 2Peter 1:21

Here, God condemned nine different Acts or Manifestations of the Occult and the Supernatural:

- Making your Children “pass through the Fire” (Sacrificing Children to pagan gods)
- Using “Divination” (Contacting the Dead)
- Practicing Witchcraft
- Interpreting “Omens” (Signs in the heavens)
- A Sorcerer
- One who “casts a Spell”
- A Medium
- A Spiritist
- One who “calls up the Dead”

... And then God told Moses something very interesting about these Practices:

... those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so... because of these detestable things the Lord your God will drive them out before you. (v.14b&12b)

... so, even though it is true that many of those who lay claim to be able to speak with the Dead and these other things are simply shysters, who do what they do to fleece naïve people out of their money- the Reality is that God said here that the Nations He was going to take away from various peoples and give to His people WERE engaging in these sinful Practices. And so, God told His people through Moses:

... whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord (v.12a)

... and that tells us that the people of these pagan Nations WERE actually *worshipping* satan; and were believing and teaching what the Apostle Paul called,

“doctrines of demons” (1Timothy 4:1)

... and that tells us that satan and demons are real.

But we must always understand that there is ONLY one God. And that one, true, and living God is “ONE” in His “*Essence*” or His “*Substance*” or His “*Nature*” AND (at the same Time) is *eternally* manifested in three distinct

“Persons” of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. And so, this one, true, and living God is *revealed* to Man. And that means that what we know about God (that is true) has been given to us by the “*Means of Revelation*”. And that makes Christianity to be a “*revealed Religion*”.

And the Revelation about the one, true, and living God is given to Man in two main Ways. There is Divine Revelation a “*general Sense*” through that which has been created (Nature). And there is Divine Revelation in a very “*special*” or “*specific Sense*” on the pages of the Holy Bible.

And the Bible very clearly and repeatedly reveals that this one, true, and living God is Sovereign! And He is *absolutely* Sovereign! And God is absolutely Sovereign- *over everything!* And He is absolutely Sovereign over everything- *all the time!* So, there is NOTHING that competes with God for Sovereignty! NOT Man; NOT satan; and NOT demons. And this sovereign God is NEVER defeated and He CANNOT be overcome! Look what the Prophet said about God in **Isaiah 46:9-11:**

**9 “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,
10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;
11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.**

This tells me that God CANNOT be defeated! Ever! By anyone! And so, it is NOT true that the Choices and Decisions of evil men can thwart God’s Will. And neither satan nor the demon hordes can defeat our great sovereign God! God is Sovereign! And this sovereign God has already determined to move in the earth to save all of those that He “set His Love” on- before the Foundation of the world! And that means that the Apostle was correct when he wrote this in **Romans 8:29-31:**

**29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;
30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.
31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?**

We have such glorious Promises from God that we should believe; and trust; and hope in; and embrace! And these Promises would *radically* change our Lives- if we would just believe!

But I am sad to report to you this morning that in the richest and freest Country in the History of the world- far too many people who make up the modern Church here in America have lost sight of the Sovereignty of God. And so, for example, many have completely lost sight of the breathtaking Promise of **2Corinthians 3:18** that says,

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

This Promise says when we “**Behold... the Glory of the Lord**”- we WILL be “**transformed into the same image from glory to glory**”! This promises us that as God sovereignly unveils our eyes; and we are graced with the Ability to behold...

... the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2Corinthians 4:4)

... or ...

... the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2Corinthians 4:6)

... that we WILL be transformed into “THE SAME IMAGE”! And HOW will this amazing Transformation be?

... from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

So, we WILL be transformed into the Image of “God in Christ” or the Image of “Christ in God”- from one Realm of Glory to the next- PROGRESSIVELY- even as by the Lord- Who IS the Spirit!

Now THAT is a Promise from a God- Who CANNOT lie (**Titus 1:2**)! And yet, according to Statistics, 6 out of 10 men, who are in the Church today, and who say they are saved- allow Pornography to pass before their eyes on a regular Basis! And yet today, we are seeing many of the very SAME “*behavioral Maladies*” like drug and alcohol Addictions as well as a literal Epidemic of Divorce among the

Redeemed- that have *always* plagued the lost world- creep into the Church and attach themselves to the people of God! How could this be? I will tell you.

The Pulpits of the modern Church are filled with Politics; and social Issues; and Patriotism; and humanly engineered Morality- but they are NOT filled with God. They are not filled with God NOR with the *Particularities* of God's Glory! The Goal of many today is to go to Church and get a "*spiritual High*"- usually through the music- while Preaching and Teaching the Word of God becomes an afterthought.

And so, the people of God are left with very vague and very *general* Information about God- that leaves their Heads empty concerning the infinite Majesty and Worth and Awe of the spectacular Glory of God! And their Lives reflect this Emptiness that gnaws at their souls. And there is only one single Fix:

God must raise up men, who would rather obey God than eat. Men, who are called into the Ministry and who are totally sold out and ready to die for Jesus! Men, who love their Wives; and teach their Children; and guard their hearts. Men, who are ablaze with the Doctrines of Grace; and who are willing to be a "Fool" for the Lord Christ. Men, who will NOT compromise with either Sin or Worldliness and who hate even the Garment spotted by the Flesh. And those men will herald the glorious Gospel of God without Fear or Fail; and they will NOT love their Lives- even to the Death.

I say that God must raise up men like that- or we are doomed. But with men like that- God will ignite the Fire that will burn in every heart and we will see what the Prophet said in **Habakkuk 2:14**:

the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.

Once Adam and Eve rebelled and sinned against God and fell from their "*first Estate*"- many of their Offspring were no longer satisfied to know this one, true, and living God. And so, they did NOT love Him; nor did they enjoy Him. And so, their evil hearts purposefully *withheld* their Worship from God and they placed their Love; Devotion; and Obedience on things that had been made; and things that were passing away. And satan was very eager to help. And so, Cain murdered his brother, Abel; and Sin began to flourish in the earth that God had made for His Glory. And the Wickedness and Rebellion in the human Heart grew and grew until we read this in **Genesis 6:5**:

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Now look closely at this verse- because it is a verse that explains much about the Loves; Desires; and Behavior of ALL lost people. The first part says,

... the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth ...

... where the word, “**great**” comes from a Hebrew word (*rab*; Strong’s #7227) that has to do with something that is “prevalent” or “all-encompassing”. And that means that EVERY Area of human Existence (Loves; Desires; Will; Choice; and Behavior) was consumed by this “Wickedness”. But now look at that last part of the verse:

... every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually

Notice the phrase, “EVERY INTENT of the “THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART”. That encompasses EVERYTHING about Mankind. And look what God through Moses said was the End Result of this:

... was only evil continually

ALL EVIL- all the Time (continually)! So, there is NO Capacity for Good in a heart like that! NONE! And that is why nearly 1500 years later, God the Holy Spirit moved on the Apostle Paul to write this in **Romans 3:10-18**:

**10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;
11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;
12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."**

13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPES IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."

18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

Now keep in mind- this insulting and horrific spiritual Diagnosis is NOT merely describing the people of Noah's Day- but this describes the spiritual Condition of ALL lost people!

Now keep in mind- this spiritual Diagnosis has to do with the people *themselves*. This is NOT speaking about only demon-possessed people. This is describing what being "LOST" actually means.

So, this is the spiritual Condition of ALL lost Mankind. And so, individual people were Evil (because of the Fall). And those individual evil people engaged in individual Acts of Wickedness. And they were no doubt *encouraged* and even *empowered* by satan- but their *primary* Problem was their own wicked heart and their own "internal Lusts". And that is the Way things were until God destroyed the entire earth in the Flood because of the prevalence of their Wickedness- while protecting Noah and his Family in the Ark.

But at some point AFTER the Flood and as people began to fill the earth again, we read this in **Genesis 10:8-10**:

8 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.

9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord."

10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

11 From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah,

12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

The phrase, "**Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord.**" is best understood as, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter AGAINST the Lord". Because unlike the other lost people who came before him- Nimrod was *speciallly* equipped and empowered by satan to fight against God by "hunting the souls of men". So, Nimrod was, perhaps, the *first* human who was possessed by demons.

Here in verse 10, we see that satan used Nimrod to *begin* his Kingdom from Babel in the "land of Shinar"- where the Tower of Babel was. But he didn't stop there. Nimrod's Kingdom extended into Assyria and into the city of Nineveh- where God would later send His two Prophets (Jonah and Nahum).

Over Time- we know that Babel became the Babylonian Empire which was founded on the false religion that Nimrod began. So, satan used Nimrod to *codify* the pagan religion of Babylon. And that means that Nimrod- became for satan- what Moses later became for God. Moses was NOT the first person to know and

love God. But Moses WAS the *first* person that God used to write down the special or specific Revelation of God in the first five Books of the Bible. And likewise, Nimrod was NOT the first person possessed or empowered by satan to sin against God. But Nimrod WAS the *first* person that satan used to write down the false religion of the Babylonians.

Now the reason I gave you all this background- is because what Nimrod did- is the PRIMARY Work that satan and demons do in the earth. Satan and demons *empower* human beings to *create*; and then *write down* (*codify*); and then *propagate* false religion in the earth. And the Importance of those false Beliefs and those false Religions being written down- is now they can be read and studied and taught to each succeeding Generation And these demon-empowered people do this- to fight *against* Jesus Christ and His Church; as well as keep lost people- Lost.

Now because of Hollywood and a whole host of real bad Teaching- many in the modern Church have come to believe that demons enjoy turning little girl's heads around; cause them to vomit green bile; speak through them in a foreign language- usually a male voice; and other mysterious and frightening Displays. But the Reality is quite different.

The main Activity of satan as well as demons is to live in the Background- unseen and unnoticed. Demons have NO desire at all to be uncovered and exposed. And that is precisely why Jesus exposed them publicly. The only reason we have seen demons exposed and then we read what they said during our verse-by-verse "Journey" through Matthew- is because Jesus *made* them- He *forced* them to expose themselves and to beg for Mercy. And that is because Jesus is God Almighty in human Flesh and so, He has absolute Authority over satan as well as the demons. Now we're not going to finish this- but let's go to **The Revelation 12** for a few moments:

1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 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.

4 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.

5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

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.

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.

11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

12 For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.

14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Now we know that the Apostle John was used by God to write this Book that contains this Chapter. And we know that **The Revelation** is NOT about satan; or the "Mark of the Beast"; or the "Antichrist"; or the number "666". This Book- like every other Book in the Bible- is about Jesus; and about His complete and total Victory over EVERYTHING!

But we also know that this Book- more than any other Book in the Bible- is *symbolic*. This Book is filled with Symbols that represent something. And so, the

Key to understanding this Book lies in correctly interpreting the Symbols. So, go with me as I unravel this Chapter.

**1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;
2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.**

Now the “Roman religious System” interprets this Woman as being Mary- the Mother of Jesus- whom they call, the “Queen of Heaven”. And this false Teaching began during the 1,000 year time-frame of Church History called, the “*Tragic Mistake*”; or the “*Tragic Effort*”. This was a period of about 1,000 years, when the Christian Church pulled away from the world and went up into the Mountains and into Monasteries. And the monks would fast and pray and read and study the Bible- all by themselves- leaving the lost world to remain lost. And as a Result of this tragic Mistake- the Gospel became hidden from the people and was NOT preached or heralded to the Lost. So, not only were people NOT being saved- all sorts of strange and unbiblical Beliefs and Teachings- originating from demons- began to be taught and believed and practiced.

Now during this Time, many Theologians centered much of their Teaching on what the Apostle Paul taught in **Romans 5** about the *first* and the *last* Adam. And, of course the *last* Adam was Jesus. But various Theologians began to ponder about Eve. Because Eve had sinned as well as Adam. And so, they put forth a ridiculous and completely unbiblical Teaching that there was also a *first* and *last* Eve. And the *last* Eve was Mary- the mother of Jesus.

And this spurious Teaching grew until many began to teach that since God is so Holy and He is busy creating Galaxies- people CAN'T go directly to God. They can't even pray to God. And so, people began to pray to dead people (saints) and to Mary. And the Logic behind this was based in ancient Old Testament Jewish Logic that said that God was too Holy and too Glorious for humans to touch.

So, God became frightening to most people. And even Jesus was frightening to them. And so, the people were taught to go to Mary- because Jesus simply can't refuse His own Mother. And so, Mary became the “Mediatrice” between the people and Jesus. And Jesus was the Mediator between Himself and God. And so, in order for their Prayers to be heard- the people HAD to *first* pray to the “*last Eve*”- who was Mary.

And so, compelled by demons, many in the visible church began to teach that Mary was the “*Queen of Heaven*” and even the “*Mother of God*”. And she became a “*Co-Redemptrix with Christ*” for our Salvation. In other words, the Roman System now teaches that NOBODY can be saved- unless Mary allows it.

But suffice it to say- the Woman here in **The Revelation 12** is NOT Mary. This Woman is *symbolic* of the Church of Jesus Christ- in her Glory. And the fact that this Woman is “with-Child” is *symbolic* of the Church of Jesus bringing forth her “*Children*”- the born-again Converts- who will are all *symbolized* as “Male” in the sense of that word being used back in the 1st Century in Israel.

You see a “Son” or a “Male-child” in 1st Century Israel represented Strength; and Power; and Protection; and Provision. So, in verse 5 this glorious Woman (the Church of Jesus) brings forth a “Son” a “Male-child” who will, as the Body of Jesus Christ, act with Jesus to *first* Inherit the whole earth (**Matthew 5:5**); and then rule and reign with Christ as a “kingdom of Priests” before God (**The Revelation 5:10**)!

We need to remember that at the Time that John wrote this Book- the Church was a small, rather insignificant group- that operated under *intense* Persecution; and was a completely *illegal* Operation. It had NOT spread around the world yet; it was NOT the largest Religion in History, yet; and it had NO Power or Authority on the earth- yet. So, the Church was the “mustard seed” that was very tiny and, then over a long- extended period of Time- would grow to become a great Tree that would be able to allow birds to build their nests in its branches (**Matthew 13:31&32**).

But at the Time John wrote this inspired Prophecy- the Church had the Need for God to hide it and protect it from the Jews as well as from the Romans and the other Gentile Nations. And that is what the Apostle is talking about in verse 6 where the Time-frame given is simply symbolic of a “long- protracted period of Time”. Now look at verses 3&4, 7-9:

3 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.
4 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.
7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,
8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.
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.

This Passage describes the Rebellion (war) that Lucifer began in Heaven- that includes the part where satan and “his angels”- those angels that sided with Lucifer in his Rebellion against God- were “thrown down with him” into the earth.

The heads and horns and diadems of verse 3 are symbolic of the Authority that satan has been allowed to exercise on the earth by God. And this is very important to understand. Satan does NOT do what he desires to do in the earth. The **Book of Job** tells us that satan MUST go to God and get Permission from Him before he can do anything in the earth. And even though there are Times when God sovereignly *allows* satan and the demons to do certain things- God always governs them and *restricts* his Damage. And so, in one sense- satan is “free” to roam over the whole earth and attack people. But in another sense- satan is a “slave” and a “tool” of God- so that a certain amount of Evil can come forth from him.

Now people ask me all the Time, “*Brother Blair, why would a Good and Sovereign God allow satan to bring forth Evil into the world?*” And those of you who have traveled with me on the verse-by-verse “Journey” through Matthew’s gospel Record have already heard me explain this. But let me explain it again:

There are Times, when it is God’s Will for a certain amount of Evil to be brought forth to, by, in, or through certain people; for a certain amount of Time and to a certain Extent. And so, God passively and sovereignly “steps aside” and allows satan to tempt and empower people so that the amount of Evil that God has allowed may come forth. But the Reason God allows Evil to periodically come forth- is because by allowing that Evil; to those people; to that Extent; at that Time- an infinitely greater Good will come forth- that would NOT have come forth- had God not allowed that Evil.

... and the BEST Example of this is with Judas betraying Jesus. But there are several other Examples given to us in the Bible- most notably Job. But in **Luke 10:18**, Jesus said,

I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.

... so, as fast as Lightning is- that’s how fast God Almighty ended satan’s Rebellion in Heaven. And in The Revelation 12:4- the “tail” of satan is symbolic of his Influence over the other rebellious angels. And so, when God cast satan down to the earth- those angels that followed satan into his Rebellion also fell with him.

And this is describing what the Prophet discussed in **Isaiah 14:9-17:**

9 “Sheol from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come; It arouses for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth; It raises all

the kings of the nations from their thrones.

10 “They will all respond and say to you, ‘Even you have been made weak as we, You have become like us.

11 ‘Your pomp and the music of your harps Have been brought down to Sheol; Maggots are spread out as your bed beneath you And worms are your covering.’

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!

13 “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.

14 ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

15 “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

16 “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,

17 Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’

... so, here the Prophet uses Old Testament terminology to describe the Fall of satan from Heaven and the *limitation* of his Power and Influence in the earth.

So, God sovereignly *created* Lucifer- as a beautiful and musical Arch-Angel. But evidently, Lucifer was given the ability to sin against God. And when he rebelled and sinned against God- Lucifer *became* satan or the devil. But what we need to know is that when satan was thrown down from Heaven into the earth- those angels- who numbered 1/3 of all the angels- were cast down with him. And those “fallen angels” became what we now call, “demons” or “unclean spirits”.

Now I have no idea how many demons are in existence. But I do know that satan is NOT Omni-present. So, satan can ONLY be in one physical location at a time. So, even though it *appears* that satan is all over the earth- wrecking Havok with multiple people- all at one time- he isn't. satan is limited to be in one location at a time. So, what is actually happening is there are demons roaming all over the earth doing Work that God is temporarily allowing. And so, it appears to us that satan is everywhere.

We also need to need to know that satan is also NOT Omniscient, either. So, satan does NOT know everything. He forgets. He gets frustrated. He knows that there is a Time reserved for him and the demons to be punished- but he doesn't know when that will be. So, satan has NO idea what you're thinking; or what God is dealing with you about. And he CANNOT read your mind. But since he has had

6,000 years of experience with human beings- he knows us pretty well. But he is NOT faultless. Now look again at the *last* part of **The Revelation 12:4**:

... And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

The dragon here is symbolic of satan. The Woman is symbolic of the Church; and the “child” here is symbolic of the redeemed sons and daughters of the Kingdom of God being “born”- or “coming forth” from the Church. So, since satan and all the demons have been cast down to the earth- they now do battle against the Church and her Offspring. Now remember, satan hates and despises God. But he CAN’T fight God and so, he fights us!

Now I have many other things to say to you concerning satan and demons that we will get into next time, but we need to end this first take on Demons with the Information given by John in the *last* part of verse 7 and all of verse 8 that says:

... The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

So, two things here:

1. Neither satan nor his angels were strong enough to win against God
2. There is no longer any place for them in Heaven

Satan CANNOT win against God- precisely because God is Sovereign! So, we should NOT believe or embrace the “religion of Star Wars”- that teaches that “ultimate Good” (God) is locked in a titanic and never-ending Struggle with “ultimate Evil” (satan). That is NOT what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that God is Sovereign and He has ALREADY defeated satan- totally and completely! And, every single Day as God’s people put on the “whole armor of God”; every single Day as we devote ourselves to God and to do His Will and to live in accord with His Word; every single Day as we struggle against the Lusts of our Flesh (by the Power of the indwelling Holy Spirit) to be humbly and joyfully submitted to the Authority of Scripture in our daily Lives- all to the Glory of God- satan and the demons’ Influence over us- is diminished! And while it is true that satan and the demons CAN fight and hinder and wage war against us- it is also true that because we are IN Jesus Christ- he is doomed to fail! Because genuine Christians are persecuted and they are imprisoned and killed- ONLY because the

God who loves them- has sovereignly and passively *allowed* that Evil to come about. And the Promise from a God, who cannot lie is:

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

So, if the God, who loves me and who sent His Son to die for me- has allowed satan to touch my Flesh- then the Promise is that God will “work” that “bad thing” *together* with all the other “bad and good things” that He has either sovereignly *allowed* or sovereignly *caused*- for the greater “Good” of the Glory of God and, *ultimately*, the fullness of my Joy as well!

But we should rejoice because satan does NOT go back and forth from earth to Heaven as many teach. Neither satan nor the demons can ever go back into Heaven. So, for example, when satan came to God concerning Job- that happened on the earth and NOT in Heaven! And that means at least two things:

1. Satan can ONLY fight me in this Life and on this earth
2. **Romans 8:18-23** is true

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.