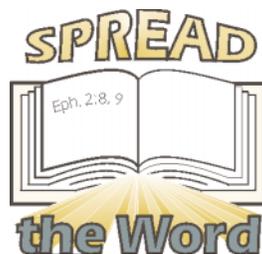


THE CAREER OF SATAN

“Three Falls to a Finish”

taken from
Revelation 12:1–10

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THE CAREER OF SATAN

We're in Revelation 12. We've covered briefly the first seven or eight verses. We're talking about basically Israel, the male child in verse 5 being Christ, ruling all nations at the Second Advent. Then we saw Michael in verse 7 and war in Heaven. In verse 9 the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the devil, or Satan, which deceives the whole world. He was cast out unto the Earth and his angels were cast out with him. Tonight we start the subject on the *Career of Satan*. This is a brief outline on the past, the present, and the future of Satan, which will help you to understand satanic activity, not only in our day, but in the days to come, like the Tribulation and so on.

Revelation, in regard to Satan, begins in that dateless period in between the perfect creation of the heavens and the Earth in Genesis 1:1 and the desolating judgment which ended that period, when the Earth became waste and empty, in Genesis 1:2. There's a time gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. That concept is brought out also in Isaiah 24:1 and Jeremiah 4:23-26.

One of the passages that we're going to study is Ezekiel 28. We'll introduce the *Career of Satan* from there. Ezekiel 28:11-19 deals at length with Satan and his relation to that age. This Scripture in Ezekiel 28 describes Satan under the specific title of the king of Tyrus. Just like some of the Messianic Psalms where in the psalmist is apparently referring to himself, like David, statements are made and conditions are described that could only be connected with the Messiah, the Son of God, David's greater Son.

So in Ezekiel 28, that which is addressed to the king of Tyrus is by its character a direct reference to the person of Satan, **because no person to whom this description could ever apply is revealed in Scripture.**

It could be possible that the reason why the Holy Spirit refers to Satan as the king of Tyrus is because one of Satan's functions is to

control rulers, like the king of Persia at one time, and the king of Grecia at another time. In other words, Satan is not omnipresent. For example, if you have a one world ruler, he can control that ruler and he can Satan-possess him. Then he can control the whole world. **That's why we have nationalism.** Individual nations can only be controlled one at a time.

So, this is possibly why the Holy Spirit uses the title the king of Tyrus. God's judgment, as you know, is always pronounced against His enemies. These are the enemies especially against the born again Jew, referred to as His chosen people. **A lot of people think that Jews per se are His chosen people. But that is no so. The born again Jew of the previous dispensation was chosen to be the disseminator and guardian of the Word of God.** Just like you in the Church Age have accepted Christ as your Saviour, we're called in 1 Peter 2 a chosen race, meaning that **we have been chosen as believers to be the custodians and the disseminators of the Word.**

So, when you talk about the enemies of God's chosen people, it's not unbelieving Jews, but it is **believing Jews**. Satan, for example, is directly numbered amongst the enemies of the Jews in 1 Chronicles 21:1. We'll also see it in other passages. Every sentence of Ezekiel 28:11-19 is a distinct revelation and is worthy of long and careful study. We're only going to have a passing reference because we're going to do the whole career. So, I'm going to read these verses and then explain a little bit about them.

It says in verse 11, *"Moreover the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets*

and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the Earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.” That is Ezekiel 28:11-19.

This passage describes much of the early and later *Career of Satan*. Twice in this section, verses 11-19, creation is referred to. In verse 15 it is stated that he was created perfect. Naturally, what God creates is perfect. In verse 13 that perfection is set forth in detail by the suggestion of symbols of precious gems. It says also that he was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, filling up the sum of perfection.

In verse 14 he is also known as the anointed cherub that covereth. By this the purpose of the Creator is revealed. The general interpretation of this verse is that **Satan was created as a guard or protector of the throne of the Most High**, like the golden cherubim covering the visible mercy seat in the Holy of Holies on the earthly tabernacle, which was a pattern of that which is in Heaven. He was created a guard, as it were, and a covering cherub for the heavenly center of glory. It is expressly stated that he was located by the Most High upon the holy mountain of God.

The expression, “*the holy mountain of God*,” is a symbol of the center of God’s power and God’s government and eternal throne. We have this expression of mountains in Scripture referring to power, government and authority, Psalm 48:1, Psalm 68:15, Isaiah 2:2.

So, over this exalted throne, Satan, which was created, was set there as the covering, protective cherub. It also says in this section that he was in Eden, the garden of God. This is evidently another Eden than that in which Satan appeared as a serpent. It’s probably a reference to the primitive creation.

The whole passage here suggests a position of great authority, for which he was created and anointed, a position from which he fell, drawing with him, which we saw in Revelation 12, a host of demons over whom he had governing influence and power.

Again in our passage it is stated that Satan was perfect in all his ways from the day in which he was created. It’s important to notice, Ezekiel 28:11-19, both that he was **created** and that he was **created perfect**.

Since he was created, he is not self-existent and never can be exempt from his dependence on the Creator. All creatures are dependent upon their Creator. He may vainly purpose to become independent and even be permitted for a time to act under that delusion, but that would only delay the inevitable judgment that awaits him.

He was created perfect, or was a perfect fulfillment of the Creator’s intention. Satan was a free moral agent, capable of choosing evil, but he was not obliged to do so. **That he could choose evil must ever be his condemnation, for the Creator has surrounded him with sufficient motives to choose that which is good.**

In other words, we have a similar situation with Adam. Adam was created absolutely perfect. He was surrounded by perfect environment. So, the Lord actually covered him over with all that which was positive, yet he broke through with the negative. Now, here we have Satan, he’s created perfect, his

job is guardian of the Holy of Holies. He's also in a perfect environment. **We have the situation here that perfect environment is not the answer to man or angels.** Satan had it, Adam had it, the Millennium will have it. The answer is **regeneration** and *not* perfect environment.

They're telling us perfect environment in the 21st century like you can't believe. Just take this person out of this environment and move him to that environment and everything will be fine. It won't work! This is an illustration.

The crime of Satan is partially revealed in verse 16. This is followed by an exact description of his final judgment as it is predicted in the book of Revelation. The important teaching of Ezekiel 28:11-19 is of Satan's first position and power. **It was a power and wisdom sufficient to guard the throne room of God from every possible enemy and a glory and a beauty that would become the highest office in the court of Heaven.** By this revelation, his present position and power might be estimated. The whole career of Satan is found in this passage in Ezekiel 28.

His career here is depicted as **three falls**. I'll show them to you. In other words, this is the concept of three falls to a finish. I want you to see the first fall. We'll give you other passages with it so you can tie it down. The **first fall** is in verse 15. It says, "*Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created, till iniquity was found in thee.*" Now, "*till iniquity was found in thee*" is the first fall. **That's pride.** That's the ego of Satan. As we'll see later on, it's found in Isaiah 14:12-15, where he said five times, "*I will exalt myself. I will set myself over the Most High. I will be the Most High.*" So, "*till iniquity was found in thee*" is the first fall of Satan. It's pride. It's the ego of Satan. That's the five "*I wills*" of Isaiah 14.

In verse 16 we have the **second fall**. Verse 16 says, "*By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of*

the stones of fire." The second fall is "*therefore will I cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God.*" This is the second fall, **which will happen in the Tribulation.** That's found in our study, Revelation 12:1-10. That's why we're bringing this in here at this point.

So, verse 15 is the first fall. Verse 16 is the second fall. The **third fall** is verse 16b, where it says, "*I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.*" This is the third fall, **which will happen after the Millennium**, in Revelation 20 verses 1 and following.

So, we have the three falls. Verse 15, the pride, the five "*I wills*" of Isaiah 14. Then we have the second fall, casting out of the mountain of God, Revelation 12:1-10, which is our study. The third fall, "*I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire,*" that's the third fall, that's after the Millennial reign of Christ, where he's loosed and where he's thrown out, Revelation 20.

Then, for repetition we see the three falls again stated in verses 17 and 18, depicting the whole *Career of Satan*, which involves three falls to a finish again. So, in verse 17 we have the first fall again. "*Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.*"

By the way, the word for "brightness" in the Hebrew language shows an inconsistency in the translation. The word "brightness" is the word "lucifering." You know that he is called the bright and shining one. Here the word "brightness" is the word "lucifer." It should be translated "*Thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy lucifering.*" "*I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.*" Verse 17, where it says, "*thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty,*" this refers again to the first fall, or the pride of Isaiah 14:12-15. "*I will. I will. I will.*" See, "heart being lifted up." That's pride.

The second fall is in verse 17, "*I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold you.*" That's the second fall which is in the Tribulation, which is

found in Revelation 12:1-10. Then in verse 18 we have the third fall, and the final fall to the finish. *"Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee to ashes upon the Earth in the sight of all them that behold thee."* The third fall is *"therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee to ashes upon the Earth in the sight of all them that behold thee."* That's the third and the final fall of Satan and the end of his career, which is found in the end of Revelation 20:1.

Here's our outline so far:

- The first fall: Ezekiel 28:15 and 17a.
- The second fall is Ezekiel 28:16a and 17b.
- The third fall is Ezekiel 28:16b and 18.

Now we have three falls again. The first fall is between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. That's the first fall, when his heart was lifted up and said, *"I will be like the Most High."* The second fall, I can't tell you the time, but it's the Tribulation. So, we can put Revelation 12. That's where it's depicted that Satan will be cast out of Heaven. The third fall is the end of the Millennium. I can't tell you the time there either, but it's Revelation 20:1. In other words, we have the Scriptures for them. One is past. Fall One is past history. Falls Two and Three are future. Fall Two is after the Church is removed and in the middle of the Tribulation. Fall Three is at the end of the Millennium.

One of the passages that really ties this down follows. **You have to remember that Satan is an angel.** You have to remember also that he is created. There's a passage that we keep on forgetting, 2 Peter 2:4, where it says, *"Remember God spared not the angels that sinned."* That goes along with Satan also. He failed. He sinned and he's not going to be spared either.

The next passage that I want you to see, naturally, is Isaiah 14. The next revelation next in importance is that of his crime. This is clearly set forth in Isaiah 14:12-20. Before reading this passage it should be noted that Isaiah the prophet and his vision of Satan is

recorded and it's from the time of his final judgment. The prophet, as it were, is looking back over Satan's whole career. All that that is future is referred to as if it were past. In other words, in God's mind, and in the Scripture, because it's in the plan of God, **Isaiah's looking at it as if it has already been accomplished.**

So, Isaiah 14:12-19 reads this way: *"How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer..."* That word "Lucifer" is the word "brightness" that we had before. *"Son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart..."* Notice that expression, when I said about pride.

"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into Heaven," one *"I will;"* *"I will exalt my throne above the stars of God,"* two; *"I will set myself upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north,"* three; *"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,"* four; *"I will be like the Most High,"* five. That's five. *"Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the Earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet."* That's Isaiah 14:12-19.

Here Satan appears under a different title. When he's seen in his primal glory as described in Ezekiel 28:11-19, he bears the title of an earthly title, the king of Tyrus or Tyre. When fallen from the sphere he bears a heavenly title, "Lucifer, son of the morning." **It's as though as being out of harmony with the Creator by his sin, he's out of harmony with every sphere in which he may appear.** This glorious heavenly title, *"Lucifer, son of the morning,"* speaks of his place in the celestial sphere.

Job 38:7 says, *“When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.”* That’s talking about angels. It indicates a position near to the unsurpassed glory of that bright and morning star and the Son of righteousness, who shall rise with healing on his wings. Then Satan, in this passage, is again said to have fallen from Heaven. Of this fall Jesus Christ spoke in Luke 10:18, *“I beheld Satan as lightning falling from Heaven.”* The reference here in both of these passages is not to Satan’s moral degeneration, but rather to a great event, when he was, because of his sin, driven from his place in glory, made to inhabit the Earth in the air. This is brought out in Ephesians 2:2, 6:12, and 1 Peter 5:8.

Yet, he was granted the privilege of access to God, Job 1:6, Revelation 12:10. In Isaiah 14:12-15 we have the whole *Career of Satan*, and just like we had it in Ezekiel 28. It’s explained in the same way, the three falls again. The first fall that I want you to see is in verses 13 and 14. Verse 13, *“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.”* The first five *“I wills”* of Satan. Here is the first fall, which occurred between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2.

The second fall is found in verse 12, *“How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”* The expression that you have there, *“how art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning”* refers to the second fall of Satan in the Tribulation, found in Revelation 12:1-10, our passage.

The third falls is in verse 15, *“yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”* This refers to the third and final fall of Satan, or three falls to a finish. That’s Revelation 20:1.

We’re going to put them all together now. **First fall:** Ezekiel 28:15, 17a, Isaiah 14:13, 14. When did it happen? Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. That’s all the passages together right there for you. Tying Scripture up with Scripture.

Second fall: Ezekiel 28:16a, 17b, Isaiah 14:12, Revelation 12:1-10, that will be the Tribulation period.

Third fall: Ezekiel 28:16b, 18, Isaiah 14:15. That’s to take place in Revelation 20:1. This is after the Tribulation, after the Millennium.

In the first two chapters of the book of Job, Satan is seen appearing in the midst of other heavenly beings before the presence of the Lord. **There seems to be nothing unusual with the presence of Satan in this celestial company.** So, the question of the Lord, *“Whence cometh thou?”* Satan replied, *“from going to and fro on the Earth and from walking up and down in it.”*

From this revelation the important information is given that Satan, while inhabiting the Earth in the air, **is free to appear in the presence of God.** His occupation of the Earth and the air is taught in Ephesians 6:11, 12. There believers are addressed as follows: *“Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, and world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual host of wickedness in the heavenlies.”*

Another injunction to believers is contained in 1 Peter 5:8, where it says, *“Be sober, be watchful, for your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith.”* These two latter passages taken together restate with great emphasis the revelation in regard to the present abode of Satan.

The Earth and the air are his present abode but must be accepted on the testimony of Scripture. It is part of the most universal impression that he is now in hell. In other words, when asked about Satan, most people would say that he is in hell with a pitchfork. Whoever goes there will be stuck by Satan with the pitchfork. **But, the Scriptures teach something entirely different.**

In addition to this statement in regard to Satan’s fall, the passage in Isaiah, which has been under consideration, reveals two aspects

of his present activities. **He is first seeking to establish a throne for himself.** Then, as the promoter of confusion and terror in the Divine purpose of the world, this is followed with another statement of the certainty of his final judgment and banishment.

The crime of Satan is stated in Isaiah 14:14, as being a **purpose in his heart to become like the Most High.** In other words, his heart was lifted up because of his beauty. **The passage tells us that he doesn't look like someone with a pitchfork and a red tail** and so forth. **But, his heart was lifted up because of his beauty and he who was created and placed as the covering cherub with the high honor of guarding the throne of God, has also corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness. He has struck out at the throne he has set to protect.**

In other words, it was the purpose in his heart which would require the time of ages to wholly destroy it. This is the principle of familiarity breeds contempt. There can only be one Most High. **The purpose of Satan to become like Him could naturally be nothing less than an attempt to dethrone the Almighty.** The secret purpose in his heart reveals the method to be not violent attack upon the throne, but like Absalom, **to steal the hearts of the unfaithful in the kingdom and then through subtlety to gain his own government.** He would thus become an object of worship and attract attention from other beings to himself.

To accomplish this, a hindering attitude must be assumed towards the purpose and the projects of the Most High. No adequate appreciation can be formed of Satan's present projects and devices and the motives that prompt it without clear understanding of his age-abiding attitude towards the Person of God. **He wants the throne.**

There are two prominent events in the history of Satan, falling within the period of time when he proposed in his heart to become like the Most High and his yet further banishment and execution.

The first of these was his meeting and triumph over the first Adam, when he wrestled the scepter of authority from man by securing man's loyal obedience to his own suggestion and counsel. In other words, Adam was ruling. **By Adam obeying Satan, he took the scepter away from him.** This earthly scepter Satan held by full right of conquest over the first Adam. It appeared as if there was no challenge from the Lord at that time, until the First Advent of the Second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When he met with the Second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, and Satan, being the second great event which is revealed during this period, a glimpse is revealed from time to time of these efforts of Satan to triumph over the Second Adam as he had done over the first. Remember as it were, he met Him in the wilderness in Matthew 4. He offered Him all that he had gained from the first Adam and even the kingdoms of the world. He said "I will give you the kingdoms of the world if You will bow down and worship me," so that he could become like the Most High and receive the obedient worship and adoration of the Second Adam, the Son of God. So, **he tried to do the same thing with the Second Adam but he failed.**

Again he is seen voicing his attempt to dissuade the Christ from His sacrificial death through the impetuous Peter. Still again, in the crushing attack upon the very life of Christ in the garden, where it would be seen that Satan attempted to take His life before it could be offered for the sins of the world. However victorious Satan may have been over the first Adam, **it is certain that he met a complete and final judgment and sentence from the Second Adam.** The bruising of the serpent's head was realized, which was part of the Adamic covenant.

Referring to His Cross, Jesus Christ said in John 12:31, "*Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*" That's what the Cross accomplished. Again in John 16:11 Christ said "*Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*" Again He

mentioned in Colossians 2:13-15, *“Having forgiven of you all trespasses, blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross: And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”*

Therefore, it is clear then, though Satan may have triumphed over the first Adam, thereby he became the god, the prince of this world, **he himself was perfectly and finally triumphed over and judged by the Second Adam on the Cross.** Satan defeated the first one, but the Second One defeated him.

It's quite possible however, that his sentence may be pronounced and may be made known some time before his sentence is actually executed. In other words, **when Jesus Christ went to the Cross and died for the sins of the world, that was the end of Satan. But he isn't punished yet, as it were.** During such an interval, for example a criminal is said to be under sentence waiting execution, which some higher authority had decreed. This period of sentence is that in which Satan appears in this age, which age has its beginning at the Cross. In other words, he's already been sentenced and he's been placed on trial. He's been convicted but the execution hasn't happened yet. Execution of this sentence would have banished him forever. That he is not banished is revealed in the fact that even after his judgment at the Cross, he is referred to in Scripture as still being an authority over this world.

An illustration from Scripture of Satan's present relationship to this world is taken from the history of Saul and David. It is natural that David, the first to occupy the Davidic throne, should be a type of Christ, the last and most glorious Occupant of that throne. As there was a period between the anointing of David and the final banishment of Saul, in which Saul reigned as a usurper, though under Divine sentence and David was the God-appointed king, in like manner, there is now a similar period in which Satan rules as the usurper though under sentence. The

actual occupation of the throne by Christ is still future. **In this period, Satan, the rejected monarch, still rules, hunting all those who have accepted Christ as Saviour.** He, Christ, is definitely God's anointed King.

The reason why Satan is allowed to continue his reign is partially revealed in Scripture. The real Church, which is the bride of Christ, is to sit with Christ on His throne, Revelation 3:21, 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3, Matthew 19:28. **The present age must continue until the glorious heavenly people are gathered out from this world by regeneration.** In other words, until the body of Christ is full.

Again it seems the course of Divine wisdom to make a sufficient and final trial of every claim of this adversary. When this age, with all of its developments, must pass away, every mouth will be stopped. The whole world and Satan will know their own failure and sin before God. They will stand self-condemned. Nothing could accomplish this but the testing by the actual trial of the all-sufficient claims of Satan and man.

The sin of man has brought him under sentence too, but Grace alone withholds his immediate execution. Though the day of execution is the purpose of God in its delay, it's nevertheless sure and the time is fast approaching when an awful destruction of self-enthroned beings will be executed and He alone shall reign, who's right it is to reign, for He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet, 1 Corinthians 15:25. The kingly Son shall rise and claim the nations of the Earth and break them with a rod of iron and bash them into pieces of a potter's vessel, Psalm 2:9.

It would seem that Satan cherishes the expectation of actually accomplishing his purpose until the end of his career, though the demon testimony of Matthew 8:29 is suggestive at this point, preceding his banishment to the pit, **he is violently cast out of Heaven into the Earth.** This is according to Revelation 12:7-12. His activity from that time on is limited to that sphere. **He is no longer granted access to God.**

In Revelation 12:7-12 it reads this way, *“And there was war in Heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in Heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the Earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the Earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”*

Notice this last phrase, *“he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”* **That’s one of the reasons for the viciousness of the Tribulation,** that last phrase. Satan is cast out of Heaven. **He’s now confined to the Earth and he knows that he just has a short time to exist.** So he breaks out.

Here is Satan, in Revelation 12:7-12, pictured as being in great wrath as he is banished from Heaven into the Earth, knowing that he has but a short time. After this short time, which is the terrible Tribulation on the Earth, Satan is bound and cast into a pit. This being an event in the glorious return of Christ to the Earth where He’ll reign on the throne of His father David for a 1,000 years.

Satan is then confined to the pit during the same period, at the end of which he is released for a little season. He then gathers an army for a last and terrible attack upon the government and the people of God, which ends in his being banished to the Lake of Fire where he meets his final and long-predicted doom. That’s the third fall of Satan, the final fall. Three falls to a finish!

These events are clearly stated in the 19th and 20th chapters of Revelation. So, Satan is

thus revealed as having been first created perfect in all of his ways, mighty in power and full of beauty and wisdom. Now, that’s a description of Satan in original creation.

Remember that principle *“to whom much is given, much is required.”* That’s a tribute to here. While thus privileged, he purposed a stupendous project in his heart, to become like the Most High God – pride. Though cast down, the first fall, yet having access to God, after the first fall he still had access to God, he is seen wresting the world’s scepter from man, Adam in the garden, and ruling as the god of this world, until the judgment of the Cross, the Second Adam. After that he still rules as a usurper. At the end of the age he is cast down out of his access to Heaven to the Earth, the second fall, the Tribulation. From thence to the pit and then finally he is banished to the Lake of Fire forever, the third, final fall, end of the Millennium.

The study of Satan’s career is made at this point in order to call attention to the direct and mighty influence that Satan exerts over the affairs of the world, according to his varying positions and freedoms. **After Satan rebelled, humanity too, was thrown into an abnormal and almost universal attitude of independence towards God.** This continues beyond the Cross with increasing confusion and darkness until the end of the age.

The only exception to this rebellion is a little company of believers. How truly real is the tendency of the self-governed life of the old sin nature, even among those who are born again. When Satan is cast out of Heaven and limited to the Earth, there is Tribulation upon the Earth, which Jesus Christ speaks of in Matthew 24:21 and is also referred to in Daniel 12:1.

When Satan is bound and put in a pit, and the promised kingdom of Christ has come, there is peace covering the Earth in the Millennium as waters cover the face of the deep. Can there be any doubt that this mighty being is a living power and acting directly over the affairs of men, even in this self-glorifying age? But, *“He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world.”* Revelation 12:10.

Now there's a principle found in James 4:7, with one final shot at Satan, we'll take up some more of the activities of him, but I wanted to give you a little more of his career background. **Mere resisting of Satan is not enough.** James 4:7 says, "*Resist the devil and he shall flee from you.*" It has long been proved fruitless unless the place of resistance be the right one. How many believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have resisted the devil, only to find that instead of fleeing, he is attacking all the more boldly?

One of the problems with that is the first half of the verse. That is the Truth that brings us the victory. The first half of the verse everyone forgets about. "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Then, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" But the first half of the verse is important. **The resistance follows the submission.**

"Submit yourselves therefore to the Lord." That brings the resistance. The submission is our true testimony that we have. The testimony when we submit ourselves unto God, that means that we have no other hope, we have no other strength. So, **the weakest believer in the Lord Jesus Christ can submit to the Lord. That's fellowship. That's claiming the Promises of God. That's acknowledgment of his own lack of strength and taking by faith the bold stand of victory in Christ.** And then Satan flees immediately because he is fleeing Christ.

The Greek word that is used to describe the overcoming is the same word that is used elsewhere to describe the victory of Christ Himself in John 16:33, "*Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*" This is the quality of the overcoming victory which is promised to us when it says, "*faith that overcometh the world.*"

Revelation 12:10, "*I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*" The accuser is Satan. Here is the announcement in Heaven. The first announcement concerning salvation, "*Now has come salvation.*"

But I want you to notice something. Salvation is a **Person**. There is a definite article here, HO SOTERIA. The translation is "*now is come salvation.*" Actually the definite article refers to Christ. It would be like "*the Saviour who is salvation.*" In other words, in 1 John 5:11, 12, salvation is a Person. When it says, "*now is salvation come,*" or the Saviour come, that's the Second Advent, every eye shall see Him. That's the first announcement.

The second announcement is concerning His strength. "*And strength.*" The word "*strength*" is DUNAMIS, where we get dynamite. That definitely is a word for strength. This refers to Christ again. **Salvation refers to Christ and strength refers to Christ.** So, it's not only the power of God unto salvation, but He's the most powerful Person in the universe. There are not too many people that depict Him as that.

The third announcement is the announcement of the kingdom, the kingdom of our God. That's the eternal right of Jesus Christ the Messiah. The word for "*kingdom*" is BASILETA.

The fourth announcement is the authority. See, you have strength there, DUNAMIS, that's power. Then in the middle of the verse you have "*the power of His Christ.*" "*The power of His Christ*" is EXOUSIA, and that means authority. So, the fourth announcement is the authority. **His authority to reign is based on the virgin birth and His character as the Son of God, On His death at Calvary's Cross, His resurrection, His ascension and His session at the right hand of the Father.**

So you have, SOTERIA, which is Saviour, salvation, then you have His power, He's the most powerful Person in the universe, DUNAMIS. Then you have His kingdom. He's qualified. He's the King of kings and Lord of lords, in BASILEIA. Finally you have the word authority. Authority is based on virgin birth, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

So, the great voice from Heaven now speaks its last words. We're taken back to the

great picture of victory found in verse 10. In other words, the downfall of Satan, and the establishment of the empire of God through the authority of Christ gives ground for rejoicing. In other words, when Satan is cast out of Heaven, he's no longer in Heaven, and those in Heaven can say "good riddens to bad rubbish." See, that's the first time. That's something to rejoice over.

Therefore, all of the angelic host are commanded now and bidden to rejoice. Their warfare, for example, that battle is over, with the enemy which has waged over a wide front for so many ages, is now restricted to the Earth as the last battle ground of the enemy. In other words, they don't have that contest any more.

Satan, who was cast out of the Heaven of God into the heavens of which he is said to be the prince of the power of the air, now is on Earth alone. He's confined. Soon he'll be even further restricted. See, before he had the throne room, then he's cast out of there but has access to God and also to the heavens and the Earth, and now he's relegated to the Earth and then he will be under the Earth. He's going down like an elevator.

Satan was cast out of the Heaven of God into the heavens, of which he is said to be the prince of the power of the air. He went from the third Heaven to the second and first heaven. Now he's on the Earth alone confined. Soon he'll be further restricted. How wonderful for all of those angels, for those close to God, for those saints also, that the satanic struggle, the unseen conflict is at the time so restricted to the Earth.

The word "*old serpent*" refers to Genesis 3:1, 4. The word "*devil*" is the Greek word for accuser or slanderer. The word "*Satan*" is the Hebrew word for adversary, especially in a court of justice. The two-fold designation, Greek and Hebrew, marks the two-fold object of his accusation and temptation, which is both Gentiles and Jews. He's not selective.

Now that Satan has been cast out of Heaven, Christ returns, Israel is restored.

"*Kingdom come*" is literally "*has come to pass.*" Our Lord and His Christ, the result of Israel resuming her place. Verse 11, "*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*" That's a tremendous verse. Here is the announcement of victory on Earth.

We just had in verse 10 the announcement of victory in Heaven because Satan is now cast out of Heaven and he is now confined to the Earth so there is rejoicing in Heaven. But now there is victory on the Earth, too, even with him here. In spite of Satan's confinement to the Earth in the last half of the Tribulation, **believers can still overcome him.** Satan is defeated not only in Heaven in this passage, but after that, even though he is confined to the Earth, he is also defeated on the Earth by believers. There is a three-fold means of victory over Satan while he is confined to the Earth.

I want you to notice here in verse 11, he is more powerful than humans. **He has a power that is beyond our power. Our power comes from the Lord.**

I want you to see a three-fold means of victory for those in the Tribulation when he's confined there. First we have "*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.*" That's number one. Then the second is "*by the Word of their testimony,*" which is the announcement concerning Jesus Christ. The third is in verse 11, "*they loved not their lives unto the death.*" In other words, they were occupied with Christ. The love of Christ more than the love of life. That's an expression for a martyr here.

So, there's a three-fold means of victory: The blood of Christ, the announcement concerning Christ, and the love of Christ more than the love of life. They overcame, that's emphatic in the Greek, they in particular, they and they alone overcame. They were the persons who overcame.

It's the same victory over Satan and the world that the Gospel of John describes in the life of Christ, it is an epistle in the life of each

believer, and it is a revelation in the life of the Church.

Then it says, in the Greek, “*by,*” which is on account of, or on the grounds of. The blood of Christ, because of its virtue and because of its having been shed, and the fact is that had **He not died on the Cross, then Satan’s accusations would have been unanswerable.** So, the death of Christ meets every charge. One of the rabbinical teachings is very interesting. It says that Satan accuses men all days of the year, except the Day of Atonement. That’s the day that they go in and blow that horn.

The expression that you have here, “*by the Word of their testimony*” is literally “*on account of the Word of their testimony,*” on the ground of their faithful testimony unto death, they are constituted victorious. In other words, their testimony verified their victory over him by virtue of their testimony of the blood of the Lamb. In other words, hereby they confess themselves worshippers of the same Lamb and overcome the beast.

**Here’s an interesting thought:
The slain Lamb defeats a live beast.**

Then it says “*unto,*” even as far as they carried their, not love as life, as far even death. Here is an interesting summation here in our closing section. **There is power in the death of Christ.** There is power and strength in a Christian testimony concerning their relationship with Christ and Him living His life in us. No false testimony or exaggeration statement will honor and glorify God. **When believers are truthful in giving testimony to the Lord and willing to lay down their lives if necessary for Him, then they will be energized by the Holy Spirit and live for Him.** There is such a thing as victory in Christ.

“*Through Christ we conquer,*” I triumph. “*I can do all things in Him that strengthens me.*” In

other words, we have we have been made more than conquerors through Him that love Him and who lives His life in us.

We’ve seen Satan cast out of Heaven, and he’s like an animal that was dangerous enough when he roamed through the whole forest and is now limited to a stockade, as it were. He will be faced with the restrictions that he sees around him, and will be raging because he feels the end is near, so he throws his insane strength of the death struggle into all his movements.

We would think that though a signal of defeat in Heaven would cure him of all his malignity, or at least induce him to refrain from any such attempts against God and those are in the Lord. **But Satan is hopelessly depraved and nothing but absolute force can quell his old devil nature.** There is no cure for being so totally perverted. Yet, there are those who teach that Satan will be ultimately saved. There are those who assert that the day will come when all punishment will cease and all of Satan’s followers together with himself will be brought repentant to Heaven.

The fact is that **Satan’s malignity grows with his continuous rebellion.** So it is, with those who constantly and continually reject Christ. Jesus Christ said, “*You will not come unto Me that ye might have life.*” To those who rejected Him it was also necessary to say, “*if ye die in your sins, whither I go, you cannot come.*” In other words, people teach that everybody will be saved and that Satan also will be saved. There’s a book out about that. We’ll see as we go through the book of Revelation that no matter what the circumstances are, good, bad, or indifferent, people still do not want Jesus Christ. Here is Satan still getting worse and worse, even though he knows his time is up.