



Know your enemy

Edition 3, May 20 - 2010

We are *not*
fighting
against people
made of **flesh** and
blood, but *against*
the **evil** rulers and
authorities of the
unseen
world

And *they*
have
defeated
him because of *the*
blood of *the*
Lamb and by
their
testimony



Alive Ministries South Africa

www.aliveministries-sa.org

Dear friends,

It is a must to know your enemy, his strategy, where he is coming from, how he is organized and his tricks. Do not underestimate him, however always be aware of your position and authority in Christ Jesus: *The enemy has been defeated because of the blood of the Lamb and by our testimony (Revelation 12:11)* and *I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19)*. It is sometimes confusing to know the enemy has been defeated, while on the other hand the battle is at full blast. Come with me into the scripture and be amazed about all the ideas you had about the enemy.

1. The Garden of Eden.

¹⁵ *The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.* ¹⁶ *But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—* ¹⁷ *except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."* (Genesis 2:15-17). The man (**humans**) was planted in the Garden of Eden with a **free will** and a warning not to eat from *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*.

¹ **The serpent** was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" (Genesis 3:1). **The tempter was the devil**, in the shape and likeness of a serpent. ⁶ *The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too (Genesis 3:6).* **Satan assaulted our first parents, to draw them to sin, and the temptation proved fatal to them.**

There is a relation between the deceiver and those deceived and the responsibility of those deceived. In our study "Revolution" we have seen **our sin has caused "the fall"**, the separation between God and humans.

2. Definition of "enemy".

Our enemy is all that is preventing us to return to the situation as it was in the Garden of Eden. For now we will only have a look on what actually has become our enemy due to the fall:

1. We started to know evil. As a result our nature (flesh) became sinful.
2. Satan became our new master.
3. We became mortal.
4. We became under curses.

3.1 Our sinful nature (enemy).

We never can blame Satan, no excuse. We are responsible, with our free will, for our own choices and the consequences. This is the result: *.....all people, are under the power of sin (Romans 3:9b)*. *When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death (Romans 7:5)*. I have learned something: **never focus on your sinful deeds, but on your sinful nature, which is the power of sin!** God is restoring our sinful nature, however we still keep sinning. You will be frustrated and discouraged if you focus on your sinful deeds. Satan will try to accuse you regarding your sinful deeds, but he is a liar and not allowed to accuse you anymore after Jesus took the victory as written: *"Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself (Romans 8:33)"*, and *"For the accuser of our brothers and sisters (Satan) has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night (Revelation 12:10)"*. *You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.* ¹⁴ **He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.** ¹⁵ **In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross (Colossians 2:13-15).**

- *there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.* ² **And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.**(Romans 8:1-2).
- *Don't you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can **choose to obey God** and receive his approval (Romans 6:16).*
- *But **now you are free from the power of sin** and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life (Romans 6:22).*
- *But **you are not controlled by your sinful nature.** You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you (Romans 8:9).*
- *We know that **our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ** so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin (Romans 6:6).*
- *So you also should **consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin** and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus (Romans 6:11).*
- *Those who belong to Christ Jesus **have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.*** ²⁵ *Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives (Galatians 5:24-25).*
- *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*(Psalm 119:11)
- *For you have been called to live in freedom, not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but **freedom to serve one another in love** (Galatians 5:13).*

Take your conclusion, I will have mine: Do you ever have the courage to say: Jesus, Your work on the cross was not enough to set us free from the power of sin? If no, than please keep silent and **"consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus (Romans 6:11)".** Since **you have been raised to new life with Christ,** set your sights on the **realities of heaven,** where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² *Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.* ³ *For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.* ⁴ *And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory (Colossians 3:1_4).* **Is your sinful nature still your enemy? No, that enemy has been defeated. Do you sometimes struggle with sin? Yes.** Satan loves to see you your own sins as your main enemy, for in that case you're not focusing on your real enemy: *We are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world (Ephesians 6:12).*

Let me give you two examples of how the Lord is dealing with us:

- We all know Peter's enthusiastic and bold response on Jesus words that He must suffer and would be killed: *"Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!" (Matthew 16:22),* and we know Jesus response: **"Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's"** (Matthew 16:23). We all know Peter's denials: *The woman asked Peter, "You're not one of that man's disciples, are you?" "No," he said, "I am not."* (John 18:17). After the resurrection Jesus appeared beside the sea of Galilee. Peter suddenly recognized "It is the Lord!". Enthusiastic as Peter was he jumped into the water and swam ashore. Have you noticed the Lord's response: **Let's have a barbeque!** (John 21:12, Herman Boon). And during the barbeque Jesus challenges Peter regarding his love for the Lord and offered Peter a job. **That is our Lord! That is my Lord! Endless love beyond every human imagination!** Have you noticed here in John 21 that the Lord started already with the BBQ and had already fish and bread (verse 9). Yet He asks Peter some of the fish Peter caught (verse 10). The Lord loves our contribution, He is challenging us to contribute, but not depending on it. Stay humble, our work is done through His power, **the power of His love, the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and through us.**

- *"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends (Revelation 3:20). Amazing he, the Lord is knocking at the door of those who are already saved (the Church), and He is challenging us again here: "open the door". For what reason? To **share a meal together, to have a barbeque**. Can you imagine? He is speaking to the Church of Laodicea, by us often labeled as the lowest one of the seven churches. How does the Lord wants to have a barbeque with us? "as friends" you know, well you know how friends are during a BBQ party. I really don't know what they have discussed and done, but the results are amazing: *Those who are victorious will **sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne (Revelation 3:21)***. I have no words. **That is our Lord! That is my Lord! Endless love beyond every human imagination! Be victorious and sit with Him on His throne!***

Sin? Where are you talking about? ²⁵ *"I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again (Isaiah 43:25).* ¹² *He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12).* ¹⁹ *Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean! (Micah 7:19). And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins (Hebrews 8:12).* God's anger has been satisfied for 100% at the mighty cross of Christ, already 2000 years ago. Here in Hebrews 8:12 is written that once our wickedness is forgiven He will never again remember our sins. Are you making our Lord a liar and having the courage to say that on the final day on a big screen all our sins will be projected for the whole world? What kind of father will welcome his own child at the gate of eternal life (your Father's house) with such a crazy show: Welcome my dear son or daughter, lets discuss all the sins you did in your life and show them to everyone, and 1 second after this has been done, by the way you can enter the Kingdom for I paid for you. **Once you are born again, you entered the Kingdom and you will never have to leave that!!! You are a Kingdom citizen!** For more information see our study "The Kingdom". Don't let it steal by the enemy for there is written: ¹⁶ *And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.* ¹⁷ *Love has been perfected among us in this: that **we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*** ¹⁸ ***There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love (1 John 4:16-18).*** Also remember in the Old Testament when the Israelites offered a lamb for their sins, this Lamb should be without defect. The priest was checking the lamb and not the sins of the Israelites! **Watch our Lamb, Jesus the Christ!**

Next verses out of the scripture is also making us relaxed, and looking away from our own Church dogma's. **This is the message and role of the Holy Spirit:** *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged (John 16:8-11).*

- First, we Christians do not have to convict others of sin, righteousness and judgment, but the Holy Spirit will do that. And have a look at the content of His message:
- **sin, because they do not believe in Me.** Man, is it that simple? What a manmade theory and doctrine have we made (including myself) around sin in our own lives, within the Church, and specially in our message to the world (those who don't belong to God's Kingdom). Jesus has come to save the world and not to condemn. He loves us so much that it is a sin to miss the Kingdom of God, he wants all humans on board!
- **righteousness, because I go to My Father.** You know why Jesus had to leave the earth? To sit on His throne, for He established His spiritual Kingdom on earth to reign with righteousness as written: **"The world has now become the**

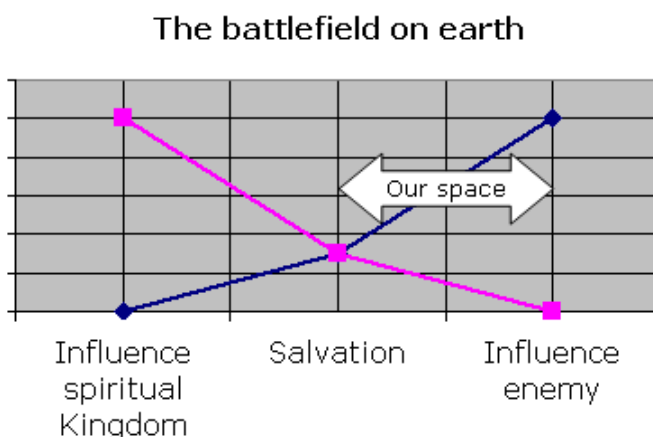
Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."

¹⁷ *And they said, "We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who always was, for now you have assumed your great power and have begun to reign (Revelation 11:15-17). We have a Kingdom message for this world. In Christ heaven and earth are reconciled!! More information in our study "The Kingdom of God".*

- **judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.** Are you still with me? Judgment, because Satan is judged when Jesus took the victory. A guarantee of the absence of evil on the new earth. That's it. I really have to change my own way of thinking regarding this topic and how I look towards others. More information in our study "God's judgments, the power of His love".
- Last but not least: The Holy Spirit is convicting the world (those who still belong to this world). This is not mend for the Church, for we are strangers in this world and are partakers in Gods Kingdom as written: *We are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God in the spiritual Kingdom of God (Ephesians 2:18-22). We are the People of God, already seated "with Him in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 2:6).*

3.2.1 Satan became our new master (enemy).

Well, we just have seen that we are freed from the power of sin and that God became our master again, so lets forget about Satan. No way, allow me to explain the process during our lives.



Allow me to explain the battlefield on earth. The (spiritual) Kingdom of God is progressively extended over the whole world until all of the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of God. *The enemy has been defeated because of the blood of the Lamb and by our testimony (Revelation 12:11).* Once we bow down for King Jesus and accept His payment for our sins we are entering the spiritual Kingdom here on earth, which is our salvation as written: *Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again,*

you cannot see the Kingdom of God." (John 3:3). Your salvation is secure as written: *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9). I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me (John 10:28).* From the moment of your salvation until you die (your earthly body), you are able to freely move (up and down) in the space as shown in the graph. This is your space in the (spiritual) Kingdom here on earth, and at the same time the battlefield. You are able to grow, but also to fall back, but never beyond your salvation. The enemy has been defeated, so you should be able to enter into the maturity of the (spiritual) Kingdom, already here on earth and taste the benefits already before you leave your earthly body. Be aware: you are never free from this conflict as written: *These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict (Galatians 5:17).* So, we still need to have knowledge about our enemy, Satan and his demon spirits, not only for our own battles, but to become a professional warrior (one who obeys and can be trusted) in the army of the Lord, to fight the battles and to **conquer in the mighty name of Christ Jesus!**

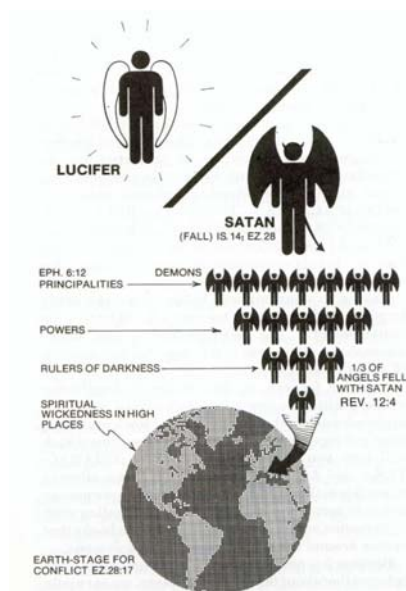
3.2.2 Satan, cursed in the Garden of Eden (enemy).

So the LORD God said to the serpent: " Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life (Genesis 3:14). The result in this world from Genesis 3 till today: **Satan became a "vacuum cleaner"**. In Dutch we say Satan became a "stofzuigslang" which means the Dutch word for hose is snake, so Satan the snake became a vacuum cleaner who have to eat the dust.

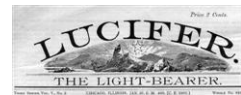
3.2.3 Satan, the organization and background (enemy).

For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

Be aware, **its wartime!** Apparently the world (only those who belong to this world, those who did not yet bowed down for the King of Kings) is ruled by evil rulers and authorities. Those evil rulers are coming from the unseen world. They have mighty power and it is a power of darkness. We also have to fight against evil spirits in the heavenly places and the fight is not taken place in the visible world.



You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you (Ezekiel 28:15). Lucifer was the Anointed Cherub which means to be set apart for Gods divine purpose.



How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world (Isaiah 14:12). Satan (Lucifer) thrown down to the earth when Jesus took the victory at Calvary.

Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. ⁸ And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. ⁹ This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels (Revelation 12:7-9). This is not about the red dragon

(Herod), but the great dragon (Satan). He lost the battle when Jesus took the victory at Calvary. It is interesting to see the role of all parties. Jesus took the victory by shedding His blood and rising from the death. Here the angles did their job and threw Satan out of heaven. So the angels are playing an important role in the spiritual warfare. Keep also in mind: *And the dragon lost the battle!*

His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth (Revelation 12:4). When Lucifer was cast out of Heaven, one third of all the angels were cast out with him. Lucifer became Satan, and the fallen angels became Demons.

You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God (Ephesians 2:2). Satan called "the mighty prince of the powers in the unseen world".

The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler (prince) of this world, will be cast out (John 12:31). Satan called "the ruler (prince) of this world".

We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one (1 John 5:19). Be aware: **the world around us is under the control of the evil one.** Those who are not "children of God" do not have the Christian's freedom to

obey God, they are not freed from their slavery to Satan and not safe from Satan's continued attacks. They are controlled by Satan, not the Christians.

*Satan, who is **the god of this world** (2 Corinthians 4:4).* Satan is the god of those who belong to this worldly system. He is not a King, there is only one King, The King of Kings, Jesus the Christ, and Jesus is King of this world (the earth) for He is the Creator, however Satan of this earthly system.

3.2.4 Satan and his servants.

Satan is not omnipresent and using many servants. He is very well organized. He is using *evil rulers and authorities, mighty powers of darkness, evil spirits (Ephesians 6:12)*. These authorities are ruled by "spirit princes" as described: *But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with **the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia** (Daniel 10:13)*. So, Satan is also organized in regions.

There is a hierarchy in the realm of Satan:

- *The devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world (Ephesians 2:2). "cast out demons by Beelzebul, **the ruler of the demons**" (Matthew 12:24).*
- *There may be so-called gods both in heaven and on earth, and some people actually worship many gods and many lords (Greek = master, lord, prince, chief) (1 Corinthians 8:5).*
- *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment (2 Peter 2:4).* The fallen angels, securely chained during the whole New Testament.
- *evil rulers and authorities, mighty powers of darkness, evil spirits (Ephesians 6:12).*
- Demons (daimon and daimonion). Possession by demons is a realistic possibility. We better say: to be under the power of a demon. Sometimes we don't know whether the demon is in us, or harassing us, or whatever. In the NT, these are persons, afflicted with especially severe diseases, either bodily or mentally, (such as paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity, etc.) whose bodies in the opinion of the Jews demons had entered, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves; accordingly the possessed were wont to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them; and their cure was thought to require the expulsion of the demon. (see also Matthew 12:22, 15:22, Luke 4:35, 8:26-36, 9:42). Paul is warning us for these demon spirits: *Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons (1 Timothy 4:1).*

3.2.5 Satan, his residence (enemy).

Where was Satan and his demons (angels) before Jesus took the victory in the first century, the whole O.T. period? He was **travelling between the earth and heaven:** ⁷ *And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and from on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it (Job 1:7).* This verse also confirms that Satan is only able to be at one place at the same time and not omnipresent (he is a fallen angel).

Where was (is) Satan and his demons after Jesus took the victory in the first century, the whole N.T. period? Well, as seen in Isaiah: " *How you are **fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, ... (Isaiah 14:12)***. See also Ezekiel 28:15, Revelation 12:4, 7-9. To be more specific: *and **he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. (Revelation 20:3)***. Satan fallen from heaven, into the bottomless pit after Jesus took the victory in the first century. And he will be there during the whole period of the spiritual Kingdom here on

earth (thousand years). This curse will be eliminated at the very end into the eternal lake of fire. In the meantime in the bottomless pit his companions are gazing at him saying: '**Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷ Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?**' (Isaiah 14:15-17). This is also confirmed with next verse: *And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. **God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment*** (Jude 1:6). Where Satan didn't had the keys to release his followers 2000 years ago, Jesus had: *I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! **And I hold the keys of death and Hades*** (Revelation 1:18). Jesus released His ones out of the good side of the Hades (Luke 16:23-26) 2000 years ago (1 Peter 3:18-20, Ephesians 4:7-10, Psalm 68:18). This place, the prison of Satan is nothing more than the Abyss, which is the spiritual place of Satan on earth, which is the opposite of the heavenly places on earth. And Revelation 20:1 is describing that Satan is chained in that certain place.

Don't accredit Satan with too much power!! Please don't forget: The enemy has been defeated, God's solutions are not in-between. In the chapter "Satan, in the book of revelation" we will see how he is working by using his demon servants.

I personally believe those 1000 years of what man calls the "thousand years of peace" (Revelation 20:4-6) is the same period as the (spiritual) Kingdom. If you believe that, than this is for sure the same period of thousand years that Satan is in the pit (Revelation 20:3). However Satan is also the prince of the air. This seems in contradiction with each other. If we have a look on the period in the OT and the beginning of the NT Satan was really going wild. That period was a period where rulers exalted themselves as Gods. It was a period of slaughter, suppression, darkness, witchcraft and fear. We can see that also in movies like "Troy", "the Gladiator" and others for instance about the Roman Empire. That is much different now, where most of the inhabitants of nowadays world are able to know Jesus and free to choose for Him. I only know North Korea were the leader sees himself as a God. Let us pray that the mighty dark powers in the air above North Korea will be destroyed with a happy outcome of freedom in the physical world there. So to come back: I believe Satan is like a dog bonded by a chain, but in the pit. Allow me to explain this more specific next.

Likewise, just as there are heavenly places, there are also places or regions of darkness. Both are continually active upon the land of the living. We don't have to be dead for heaven to manifest itself in our lives or for our life to become a living hell. The mission of our Lord was to unite heaven and earth again, in bringing the Kingdom of God. The goal was to make everything that belongs to the heavenly kingdom to be established in the natural world (Ephesians 1:9-10). We are never free from this conflict as written: These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict (Galatians 5:17). In chapter 3.2.1 we explained the battlefield on earth. **We** (as Christians on this side of life) **can freely move between those light and dark heavenly places**, but never beyond our salvation. **So, it is us (we) who are moving into the direction of Satan.** Jesus is on His throne in the "light" spiritual realm, and Satan is master (chained) in his dominion, the dark spiritual realm. **But don't forget: Satan is chained in his dominion and we are free to move into Satan's direction** or to be as close to Jesus, in the "light" spiritual realm, the Kingdom of God. **Satan in the NT period is not able to enter the "light" spiritual places, the Kingdom of God anymore, he is chained in his dominion, together with his own followers!** After Jesus took the victory, Satan is only able to torment his own 666 people, those who didn't bow down for Jesus the Christ! **Enter into the maturity of Gods Kingdom, already here on earth! We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one (1 John 5:19)!**

Some last words regarding Satan and his residence in the New Testament spoken by the prophet Isaiah in chapter 14. This is about one of the victories Jesus took 2000 years ago at the mighty cross:

- ***It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve, ⁴ that you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: (Isaiah 14:3-4).*** In 'the day' 2000 years ago at the mighty Cross, Jesus arranged rest from our sorrows and created a **place of safety** against the enemy and his hard bondage. This place of safety is a spiritual place, the lower heavens He brought on earth, the spiritual Kingdom, and we ***will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon***, which means take and defend our position (save place on earth) in Christ! This place of rest reminds me some verses out of the book of Hebrews: ¹ ***God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it.*** ² ***For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God.*** ³ ***For only we who believe can enter his rest.*** ⁴ ***We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: "On the seventh day God rested from all his work.*** ⁶ ***So God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God.*** ⁷ ***So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today.*** ¹¹ ***So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.*** ¹² ***For the word of God is alive and powerful.*** Well, it is up to you! **You can enter Gods place of rest (safety) today and be protected against the enemy!**
- Isaiah 14 continues how the Lord dealt with the enemy, Satan: ***"The mighty man has been destroyed. Yes, your insolence is ended. ⁵ For the LORD has crushed your wicked power and broken your evil rule. ⁶ You struck the people with endless blows of rage and held the nations in your angry grip with unrelenting tyranny. ⁷ But finally the earth is at rest and quiet. Now it can sing again! ⁸ Even the trees of the forest—the cypress trees and the cedars of Lebanon—sing out this joyous song: 'Since you have been cut down, no one will come now to cut us down!' ⁹ "In the place of the death there is excitement over your arrival. The spirits of world leaders and mighty kings long dead stand up to see you. ¹⁰ With one voice they all cry out, 'Now you are as weak as we are!' ¹¹ Your might and power were buried with you. The sound of the harp in your palace has ceased. Now maggots are your sheet, and worms your blanket.'*** (Isaiah 14:4-11). Here we are facing the transition between the OT and NT, the old covenant to the new covenant, marked by the mighty work of Jesus the Christ on the Cross already 2000 years ago. Satan, cut down to the ground, into the pit, joining the non believers in the Hades (pit). Those waiting in the Hades (humans), Satan's own followers, don't show any respect towards him!
- Isaiah 14 continues to emphasis Satan's desolate position in the New Testament: ¹² ***"How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. ¹³ For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.'*** ¹⁵ ***Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. ¹⁶ Everyone there will stare at you and ask, 'Can this be the one who shook the earth and made the kingdoms of the world tremble? ¹⁷ Is this the one who destroyed the World and made it into a wasteland? Is this the king who demolished the world's greatest cities and had no mercy on his prisoners?'*** ¹⁸ ***"The kings of the nations lie in stately glory, each in his own tomb, ¹⁹ but you will be thrown out of your grave like a worthless branch. Like a corpse trampled underfoot, you will be dumped into a mass Grave with those killed in battle. You will descend to the pit (Isaiah 14:12-19).*** Satan in the pit, during the whole NT period. Be aware this is the Hades and not yet the final

destination for Satan, the lake of fire. **Don't show respect for Satan, for his own followers don't do it either.**

3.2.6 Satan, enmity between Satan and the woman (enemy).

And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:15). This curse has been pronounced in the Garden of Eden. “You will strike his heel” refers to Satan’s repeated attempts to defeat Christ during His life on earth. “He will crush your head” foreshadows Satan’s defeat when Christ rose from the dead. A strike on the heel is not deadly, but a crushing blow to the head is. **Satan’s head has been crushed 2000 years ago, which really minimized his power.**

3.2.7 Satan, in the book of Revelation (enemy).

¹ *Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.* ² *And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.* ³ *Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.* ⁴ *They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.* ⁵ *And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.* ⁶ *In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them (Revelation 9:1-6).* When Jesus took the victory Satan, the star, has fallen from heaven and he was not able to accuse us anymore. Satan and his demons were in that period allowed to torment for a little while (five months), but not those who have the seal of God on their forehead (grass, green plants and the trees). This is interesting, for this is the first plague coming from Satan, and it is only for the unbelievers! So God is allowing Satan only to torment his own 666 people and for a short period! The bottomless pit (Abyss) is not Hell but a kind of prison for demons. Have also a look at verse 3: “*And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*” Compare this with following: *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and **nothing shall by any means hurt you** (Luke 10:19).* First it is “*power, as the scorpions*”, they are not real scorpions but demon spirits. And again, we are protected against the enemy. Cool he!

⁷ *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,* ⁸ *but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.* ⁹ *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (Revelation 12:7-9).* This is not about the red dragon (Herod), but the great dragon (Satan). He lost the battle when Jesus took the victory. It is interesting to see the role of all parties. Jesus took the victory by shedding His blood and rising from the death. Here the angels did their job and threw Satan out of heaven. So the angels are playing an important role in the spiritual warfare.

¹⁰ *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down (Revelation 12:10).* Satan had the legal rights to accuse us, before Jesus took the victory. This came finally to an end more than 2000 years ago.

¹² *Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” (Revelation 12:12).* There is a big party in heaven, and we are dwelling in this heaven as written: *and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).* There will be

terror for those who belong to this earth (not the faithful ones, for they are inhabitants of the Kingdom) and the sea (the spiritual place for Satan and his demons). This is interesting. Who is attacking who here? Satan came in great wrath, knowing he has a short time, to torment you. And who is this "you" in this verse? The inhabitants of the earth (the unfaithful ones) and the sea (his own demons). Are you still with me? How many Christians are saying: ⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8)*. But this is against his own 666 people (see also Revelation 9:1-6). Those who are living in the Kingdom are protected. Live in the Kingdom! Jesus says: ¹⁸ *I counsel you to buy from eye salve; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see (Revelation 3:18)*. Open your Eyes, Satan is the biggest liar. **You are save and free in the (spiritual) Kingdom here on earth.** Of course all of this is a steady growing process as explained in chapter 3.2.1 "The battlefield on earth".

Let's have a more precise look at the word "**devil**" in 1 Peter 5:8: *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the **devil** walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.* In the Greek Bible this word 'devil' is explained: *διάβολος, a {dee-ab'-ol-os}, prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely, a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer, metaph. applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him Satan the prince of the demons, the author of evil, persecuting good men, estranging mankind from God and enticing them to sin, afflicting them with diseases by means of demons who take possession of their bodies at his bidding.* This is about the **Diabolos**, the one who brings separation.

- Satan is accusing falsely, a lot of blabla, but no true content, so why listening to the devil?
- It is a kind of cooperation with the devil and the demons are doing the bad work (Satan is in the pit, hold there like a kind of dog hold by a chain).
- From the word "*roaring*" is written in the Greek Bible: *to roar, to howl (of a lion, wolf, dog, and other beasts), of men, to raise a loud and inarticulate cry: either of grief, or of joy, to sing with a loud voice.* This is Satan: a lot of blabla, a lot of noise, but it is inarticulate, false, empty and powerless, just trying to impress and overrule you. No the Kingdom of our God is the opposite: *For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power (1 Corinthians 4:20)*. No blabla in the Kingdom of God, just power, God's power! Cool he!!!

⁸ *And another angel followed, saying, "**Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**" (Revelation 14:8)*. What is this Babylon? And why does Babylon's fall correspond with an angel going to preach the gospel across the world? We should not think of Babylon as the city, but we should look deeper and see the power or spirit behind that city. Remember the tower of Babel, which was built to express human arrogance and pride, saying "we are on the throne, we are king, we are God", as written: ¹³ *For you have said in your heart: ' I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; (Isaiah 14:13)*. Well, those who think they are (still) sitting on the throne made a mistake: Jesus is King and took position on His throne. In Revelation 14:15-16 we will see the link to the increase of the preach of the gospel (the harvest).

² *And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.* ³ *They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: " Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints (nations)! ⁴ Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."* (Revelation 15:2-4). The Saints sing a victory song. It is interesting how John is describing the evil power here in the Throne room: *those who have the victory over **the***

beast, his image, his mark and the number of his name. Apparently those 4 characteristics are the most important of the evil power. The song of Moses celebrated Israel's deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 15), the song of the Lamb celebrates the ultimate deliverance of God's people from the power of Satan. The sea of glass is also described in Revelation 4:6.

² *So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image (Revelation 16:2).* The first judgment went and poured out, a judgment of diseases, and have a look who are the ones who suffering here? Those who had the **mark of the beast** and those who **worshipped his image**. No apocalyptic and fear driven end-view of the Church for those who have the mark of the Lamb. We are protected and even not under attack by this first judgment!

³ *Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died (Revelation 16:3).* The second judgment, and again who are the victims: The sea, which is the spiritual place of the power of darkness (demons etc.). The humans are not under attack by this second bowl.

⁵ *And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (Revelation 17:5).*

Follow me now into the depths of this spirit, this power behind Satan, called Babylon. First Satan is thrown out of heaven as already studied in the book of Revelation and seen in Ezekiel: ¹⁵ *You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you (Ezekiel 28:15).* Next we will see what this spirit (Babylon) really is: ¹⁷ *Your heart was lifted up (filled with pride) because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; (Ezekiel 28:17a).* **Pride, the sin of all sins.** We (in our old nature) want to sit on His throne!

3.2.8 Satan, his strategy (enemy).

Satan tries to blind our minds. ³ *If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing.* ⁴ *Satan, who is the god of this world (those who belong to this worldly system), **has blinded the minds** of those who don't believe (Greek = unfaithful, faithless, not to be trusted, perfidious, without trust in God) . They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).* Satan has his own preachers to deceive you as written: *Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons (1 Timothy 4:1).* Well, those who refuse to believe are giving legal grounds to Satan to blind their minds and opening doors to Satan's power. This is one of Satan's biggest weapons, be aware of that!! *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).* This is a great danger to all Christians and Churches. Too many things are under a veil in our lives and Churches. **Use your armor, the weapons the Lord gave us** as written: ³ *We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do.* ⁴ *We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to **knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.*** ⁵ *We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We **capture their rebellious thoughts** and teach them to obey Christ.* ⁶ *And after you have become fully obedient, we will punish everyone who remains disobedient (2 Corinthians 10:3-4).* Ninety-five percent of our choices are coming from our subconscious. Be aware of that. You easily could get involved with matters and wrong and false ideas and opinions you shouldn't. Satan can have a profound influence on us, often in very subtle ways. **Bad company corrupts good character** (1 Corinthians 15:33). For this reason the first weapon in the armor in Ephesians 6 is: *Stand your ground, putting on the **belt of truth** (Ephesians 6:14). You will **know the truth**, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32). **Know the truth, study His mighty***

word! *But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread **the knowledge of Christ** everywhere, like a sweet perfume (2 Corinthians 2:14). This is our prayer: *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer (Psalm 19:14).**

Satan is stealing our dominion and using us. God created man to have dominion over the earth. We lost that to Satan after the fall, however this has been restored by the mighty cross of Christ. Satan, and more precisely his demon servants are using humans to perform his dark work and plans. He is mainly working through the humans! So, if we resist Satan, he doesn't have any supernatural power over us at all! **Satan is really dependant on our support and company.** I can imagine a better companion. Which company do you choose? If you sin or remain in sinning, automatically you became (or a part of you) a companion of Satan! Wow, that's not easy. It isn't! Therefore **its wartime!!** *Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that **wage war against your very souls** (1 Peter 2:11).*

Satan disguises the outcome of evil or sin. He deceives with lies and deceptions. Look at his first dealing with mankind in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3). He told Eve, the forbidden fruit was good for food; and it will make you wise. But, **he lied.** He did not tell them the end results of their eating, separation from God; pain and anguish, ultimately death. God said, "you eat and you will die." Satan said, "Ye shall not die." And Eve was deceived. **Satan is the master deceiver. He never paints the finished picture.**

Satan attacks the weakest link. We all know that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. That weak link is the most vulnerable point. In the example of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4), He had gone without food for 40 days. He was flesh as much as you or I. He was as hungry as you would be. Satan comes and attacks. Surely you are hungry, satisfy yourself, turn these stones into bread and eat. Of course, Jesus had the correct answer, *"People need more than bread for their life, they must feed on every word of God" (Matthew 4:4).* Jesus recognized that **the answer to Satan is always the Word of God.** We must always be watchful, alert, careful. Each one has an Achilles tendon, a weak spot. None are so strong they cannot be tempted. Never take Satan for granted, NEVER underestimate Satan!! Jesus said, *"Watch and pray" (Matt. 26:41).* So, we must ever be on guard, always alert, knowing that Satan can show up at any moment, and rest assured, He will be there.

Satan promises immediate satisfaction. Back to Genesis 3, Satan said, *"Eat, it will make you wise."* It is present, instant, reward. In Hebrews 11:24, the word, *"pleasure"* is used to define sin. No one has ever denied that sin is pleasurable, it is desirable; but what a price to pay. Many reason, "a bird in the hand is worth 2 in the bush." That has always been Satan's message. Look how pleasant it is! We will worry about the hangover tomorrow, let's have our party tonight. Satan's message is, "What's in it for me NOW?" Instant gratification. Do not worry about the consequences, or what might happen tomorrow. **This is short time satisfaction and not long term quality and improvement.** For instance this is also the case with Reiki healing. Satan still has the power to heal, however the fruit (price to pay) afterwards, in a later stage (very sneaky) is often isolation, loneliness, depression etc.

Satan will attempt to keep you ignorant. He knows the knowledge of God's Word is His largest enemy. So, he will keep you from studying God's Word; In Mark 4:4 we read: *As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it.* Mark 4:15 explains it: *The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.* Satan's only chance to deceive you or me is to keep us ignorant of God's word. **Knowledge will destroy sin's influence.** This is why God's Book tells you and me to **"Study for yourself."**

Satan is a master in frustrating us. Satan will do everything to get you frustrated in your environment, community, family, church etc. Don't let your peace, joy and focus steal by Satan. Frustration is never coming from God and so renew your thinking. **God has a plan for you to do the good things and be useful today and tomorrow in your generation.**

Satan is a big imitator, there will be false teachers. Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe; they will follow **lying spirits and teachings that come from demons.** ² These teachers are hypocrites and liars, **they pretend to be religious, but their consciences are dead** (1 Timothy 4:1-2). Paul said the false teachers were hypocritical liars who encouraged people to follow "deceiving spirits and things taught by demons". Satan deceives people by **offering a clever imitation of the real thing.** The false teachers here gave stringent rules. This made them appear self-disciplined and righteous. Their strict disciplines for the body, however, could not remove sin. We must not be unduly impressed by a teacher's style or credentials, we must look to his teaching about Jesus Christ. ¹ *But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves.* ² *Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of these teachers, the way of truth will be slandered.* ³ *In their greed they will make up clever lies to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed* (2 Peter 2:1-3). What are these false teachings denying?

- That Jesus was born by a virgin.
- The Godhead trinity.
- The physical resurrection of the body of Christ.
- The second coming of Jesus.
- The Kingdom and ruler ship of Jesus with Jesus first coming (Matthew 12:28).
- The ruler ship of Christians after Jesus took the victory during His first coming.
- That satan is chained during the whole NT period (1000 years)

Satan knows all the important Biblical topics and is clever enough not to attack these openly, but to introduce false doctrines. He tries to deceive the world with occultism, false religions, new age, etc. as written: ¹⁰ *There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,* ¹¹ *or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.* ¹² *For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord* (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

Satan is the Diabolos, the one who brings separation, which is the opposite of unity. One of the greatest tragedies of the century in the church has been the divisions that have remained among us. A great strategy for warfare is to divide and conquer. If it is possible to take the enemies troops and cause them to concentrate on several fronts at one time, it is possible to defeat them. There is one thing that I think Satan truly fears and works day and night to combat. It is that one thing which Jesus himself prayed for just before He went to the cross. It is the one thing that will convince people that the church has something exceptional that the world does not. **It's UNITY in the body of Christ.** ¹⁶ *Under His direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.* ² *Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.* ³ *Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.* ⁴ *For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.* ⁵ *There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,* ⁶ *and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all* (Ephesians 4:16, 2-6).

Some more phrases out of the mighty Word to know and recognize the enemy:

-so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11). **Know your enemy. We are familiar with his evil schemes!**
- For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). Satan **loves to do evil things**, he is a **murderer from the beginning**, he **always hated the truth** because **there is no truth in him** and he is a **liar and the father of the lies**.
- Satan is **fighting against people made of flesh and blood** (Ephesians 6:12). Be aware, **its wartime!** An important deceive from Satan is **to let you believe its peace and not war**.
- *But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.* ¹⁵ So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). Satan and his servants **shows up (disguise) as an angel of light**. Satan **wants you to be religious**, but **without Christ**.
- Satan is **the biggest thief** of our peace, our time, our joy, our freedom, our marriages, etc. Stand firm and don't let all these gifts steal away from you. *The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, but then the devil comes and steals it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved (Luke 8:12).* Satan **wants you to be active in things you can't do anything about and passive in things you can!**
- For everyone practicing evil **hates** the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed (John 3:20).
- Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of **the devil, who had the power of death** (Hebrews 2:14).
- The **thief** does not come except to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly (John 10:10).
- The **serpent was the shrewdest** of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden? (Genesis 3:1). **Manipulation!**
- I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High** (Isaiah 14:14). **Rebellion**.
- And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me (Matthew 4:9). **Pride, haughtiness**.
- A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock (John 10:12). **Satan Chases and scatters**.
- Satan will try to **accuse you** regarding your sinful deeds, but he is a liar and not allowed to accuse you anymore after Jesus took the victory as written: "Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself (Romans 8:33)", and "For the accuser of our brothers and sisters (Satan) has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night (Revelation 12:10)".
- **Who belongs to who?** We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one (1 John 5:19). The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you (John 15:19). The "world" means those who belong and put their trust in this earthly system.
- Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to **fasting and prayer**; and **come together again so that Satan does not tempt you** because of your lack of **self-control** (1 Corinthians 7:5).

- ²⁶ And "don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for **anger gives a foothold to the devil** (Ephesians 4:26-27).
- and that they may **come to their senses and escape** the snare of the devil, having been taken **captive by him to do his will** (2 Timothy 2:26).
- I was afraid that **the tempter** had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless (1 Thessalonians 3:5). Satan, the tempter.
- "destroyed by **the destroyer**" (1 Corinthians 10:10). Destroyer: Greek *olothreutes*.
- **Satan as darkness** (Acts 26:18; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:13) or death (Hebrews 2:14) implies an active spiritual antagonist.
- **Satan is a derivative being** - not independent, autonomous, self-existent, or self-generative.
- **Satan takes that which is of God** and falsifies and relativizes; distorts and aborts; misuses and abuses; perverts and inverts; pollutes and convolutes.
- **Satan is a personal-being**: speaks (Luke. 4:3), knows (Revelation 12:12), works (Ephesians 2:2), disputes (Jude 9), desires (John 8:44), requests (Luke 22:31), schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11), conceit (1 Timothy 3:6), wills (2 Timothy 2:26), wrath (Revelation 12:12), deceives (Revelation. 20:2).
- **Satan is malicious** (1 Timothy 3:11, Titus 2:3) and **self-exalting** (Matthew 16:23, Mark. 8:33, 1 Timothy 3:6).
- **Satan controls the unregenerate**: works in (Ephesians 2:2), dominates (Acts 26:18, Colossians 1:13), enslaves (2 Timothy 2:26, Romans. 6:17), blinds their minds (2 Corinthians 4:4), source of sin (1 John 3:8,10,12), basis of death (Hebrews 2:14), not necessarily possession, oppression or control - ex. Judas (Mark. 8:33; Luke 22:3, John. 6:70, 13:2,24).
- **Collective expression of his activity in the "world of evil"** (Luke 4:5, John 12:31, 1 Corinthians 2:12, 1 John 4:4, Revelation 12:9, 20:3).
- **Activity toward Christians individually**: tempts (1 Corinthians 7:5, 1 Thessalonians 3:5, James 1:14), accuses (Revelation 12:10), snares (1 Timothy 3:7), takes advantage (2 Corinthians 2:11), persecutes (Revelation 2:10), thwarts (1 Thessalonians 2:18), seeks to create apostasy (1 Timothy 1:20; 5:15).
- **Opposition to Christians collectively**: opposes kingdom of God (Matthew 12:28,29), antichrist activity (1 John 2:18, 22, 4:3), counters evangelism (Mark 4:15, Luke 8:12), fosters religion (2 Corinthians 11:14, Revelation 2:9, John 8:44, Colossians 2:20-23), counterfeit believers (Matthew 13:30), occult, magic, witchcraft (Acts 13:10).
- To what extent should **illness** and **adversity** be attributed to Satan's work? (Luke 13:16, John 9:2, 3, Acts 10:38, 1 Corinthians 11:30, 2 Corinthians 12:7, Hebrews 12:6).

3.2.9 Satan, has been defeated (enemy).

- *In this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ (Colossians 2:15). The enemy has been defeated by the mighty cross of Christ.* Though Satan is the ruler of this world, whenever you call upon the mighty name of Jesus he will immediately disappear. **Stand firm in the victory** which is ours in Christ!
- *And they have **defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony** (Revelation 12:11a).* The enemy has been defeated by the blood of the Lamb (the mighty cross). To stay in that process here on earth we have to build on the work of Jesus (the foundation) by our testimony. The absence of evil on the new heaven and earth is fixed by the mighty cross, however we have to do something to keep our freedom here on earth.
- *And **the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven.** (Revelation 12:8).* Satan lost from the beginning.
- *And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely*

chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment (Jude 1:6). No doubt, they will be punished.

- *"Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons (Matthew 25:41). The **hell has been prepared for Satan and his demons** and not for humans.*
- *Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10).*
- *¹⁵ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. ¹⁶ Everyone there will stare at you and ask, 'Can this be the one who shook the earth and made the kingdoms of the world tremble? ¹⁷ Is this the one who destroyed the world and made it into a wasteland? Is this the king who demolished the world's greatest cities and had no mercy on his prisoners?' (Isaiah 14:15-17).*
- *In James 4:7, we read, "**Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.**" Satan can be resisted. The apostle Peter tells us to withstand steadfast in your faith (1 Peter 5:8-9). Paul tells to **stand firm against the strategies of the devil** (Ephesians 6:11-13). Try as he might, **Satan cannot gain entrance without our permission.** We must invite him in.*
- *¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ In this way, **he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross (Colossians 2:13-15).***
- *¹⁴ Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he **break the power of the devil**, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying (Hebrews 2:14-15).*
- ***Never try to fight Satan one to one:** But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, "**The Lord rebuke you!**" (Jude 1:9).*
- *"the ruler of this world shall be cast out" (John. 12:31), "the ruler of this world **has been judged**" (John. 16:11).*

Some more Christian response to Satan:

1. Recognize conflict of spiritual warfare with spiritual enemy (Ephesians 6:10-18)
2. Avoid idleness (1 Timothy 5:13-15)
3. Consistent marital relations (1 Corinthians 7:5)
4. Resist (James 4:7)
5. Receptivity of Christ's activity - Faith – (1 Peter 5:9)
6. Affirm identity in Christ - cf. (Luke 4:3)
7. Reckon on the victory in Christ:
 - a. overcome the evil one (John 16:33, 1 John 2:13, Revelation 12:11)
 - b. greater is He in you (1 John 4:4)
 - c. kept from evil one (John 17:15)
 - d. untouched by evil one (1 John 5:18)
 - e. authority over (Luke 10:19)

So, stand firm, the enemy has been defeated, however it's still wartime as written: *Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us (1 Thessalonians 2:18).* If Satan bothers and hinders you, shake it off, in the mighty name of Jesus. *But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3).*

The end of Satan:

A. Overcome by the work of Christ

1. cast out (John 12:31)
2. judged (John 16:11)
3. rendered powerless (Hebrews 2:14)
4. works destroyed (1 John 3:8)
5. triumph over (Colossians 2:15)
6. defeat by Christ (Revelation 12:5-12)
7. head crushed (Genesis 3:15)

B. Restrained activity in enigma of the interim

1. strong man bound (Matthew 12:29)
2. devil bound (Revelation 20:2,3)
3. to be crushed under feet of Christians (Romans 16:20)

C. Eventual terminus

1. all rule, authority, power abolished (1 Corinthians 15:24)
2. eternal fire prepared for devil and agents (Matthew 25:41)
3. thrown into lake of fire (Revelation 20:10)

I like this one: *And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly (Romans 16:20)*. O yeah, in the mighty name of Jesus! Amazing he!

3.3 We became mortal (enemy).

- Sin brought death: *When Adam (and eve) sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned (Romans 5:12)*.
- *For Christ must reign until He humbles all his enemies beneath his feet.*²⁶ **And the last enemy to be destroyed is death** (1 Corinthians 15:25-26).
- ⁴² *It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever.*⁴³ *Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength.*⁴⁴ *They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)*.
- ⁵⁴ *Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory."*⁵⁵ *O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*⁵⁶ *For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power.*⁵⁷ **But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)**.
- *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years* (this is the spiritual Kingdom and the same period of thousand years that Satan is in the bottomless pit) (Revelation 20: 6).

Well, my dear friends, what more can I say? This enemy has been defeated. **The death is dead! Long live the King!**

3.4 We became under curses (enemy).

Due to the fall, the human race became under many curses. We lost our authority, we became mortal, the purity of human love and intimacy was damaged, the curse upon women, the curse upon man, generational curses, the curse on Canaan, we were banished from the Garden of Eden (Heavenly places), spoken (self) curses, etc. But also Satan became under a curse, he became a vacuum cleaner. Also in our study "Curses upon the beautiful Rainbow Nation" you will find more detailed information regarding this

curses, the serious impact and how to handle. **It is my strong desire that you are not only saved, but walk in freedom during your stay here on earth!**

Curses are real: Some people don't like talking about curses and not at all about long term consequences of them. Some people ignore them or just deny, but that wouldn't help you. So, please look again for instance on the curse on men: "***Cursed is; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.***" (*Genesis 3:17-19*). Because of your sin, you became mortal, and you can't escape from this long term curse. It is reality! Get away from all those curses, enter the (spiritual) Kingdom, be saved and grow into the maturity of the Kingdom, already here on earth.

The only curse that has been restored by your Salvation is death, which is amazing grace and only grace. Work on the rest of the curses, already here on earth, also by the power of the cross and the Holy Spirit!

Curses are an underestimated enemy in the lives of many Christians. You know what is strange with us humans. We trust the Lord for our salvation and than most of us stop. If we need a good husband or income or whatever, we just start walking alone or only ask the Lord "please give me....., or help me". Do you only trust Him for your salvation? Don't you think that the great "I AM", the NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES" is able to give you joy and peace and a husband etc. If you don't trust Him for this, you make Him a liar. Of course He is not able to help you in that case, you will only benefit the maturity of the Kingdom after your death. Give the Lord space! **Jesus is more than a Savior! He is also your Deliverer and your King!**

Get away from all those curses, receive the fullness of what you already have in Christ Jesus, be a blessing *and without question, the person who has the power to give a blessing is greater than the one who is blessed (Hebrews 7:7)*.

3.5 Prayer.

O Lord, release your mighty power in the heavenly realms, send your mighty warriors and destroy the dark powers of the mighty prince in the air above this beautiful Rainbow Nation. Give us a clear sky, a beautiful view and an unhindered entrance into your spiritual Kingdom here on earth.

Let your living water
flow over my soul
Let your Holy Spirit come
and take control
of ev'ry situation
that has troubled my mind
All my cares and burdens
unto You, I roll

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
Father, Father, Father
Spirit, Spirit, Spirit

Come now Holy Spirit
And take control
Hold me in your loving arms
And make me whole
Wipe away all doubt and fear
and take my pride
Draw me to your love and
keep me by your side

Amen.

3.6 Final word.

But if you are careful to obey Him, following all my instructions, then I will be an enemy to your enemies, and I will oppose those who oppose you (Exodus 23:22).

"There is no one like the God of Israel. He rides across the heavens to help you, across the skies in majestic splendor. ²⁷ The eternal God is your refuge, and his everlasting arms are under you. He drives out the enemy before you; he cries out, 'Destroy them!' ²⁸ So Israel will live in safety, prosperous Jacob in security, in a land of grain and new wine, while the heavens drop down dew. ²⁹ How blessed you are, O Israel! Who else is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is your protecting shield and your triumphant sword! Your enemies will cringe before you, and you will stomp on their backs!" (Deuteronomy 33:26-29).

Yahweh-nissi, "The Lord is my banner" (Exodus 17:15).

Yours in His service,

Kees

www.aliveministries-sa.org