



satan **securely** chained

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Dear friends,

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day (Jude 1:6). Jude is writing about A.D. 65, in the first century to Christians that God has securely chained the fallen angels, and satan is one of them. This has been foretold in the Old Testament: *In that day the Lord will punish the gods in the heavens and the proud rulers of the nations on earth. They will be rounded up and put in prison. They will be shut up in prison and will finally be punished (Isaiah 24:21-22).* Peter is confirming this in the New Testament also: *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 word "hell" here is not the eternal lake of fire but the Hades. **So, satan became a vacuum cleaner** in Genesis 3:14 (*On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life*) **and during the whole New Testament he is securely chained** in his own dominion, the Hades. That's good news, yippee: **For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son (Colossians 1:13), for our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).**

Now I understand, that's great news: Satan cast out of the heavenly places and as a result forced to stay (chained) in his own dominion, when Jesus took the victory during His first coming. And we? Well, He raised us up together, and made us sit in the heavenly places, the place where satan was cast out. What an amazing exchange, thanks to Jesus, a save place (heaven) for the humans on earth, during the whole New Testament period. Now I understand the introduction of Jude 1, there is a reason indeed to laugh at our enemies: *I, Jude, am a slave to Jesus Christ and brother to James, writing to those loved by God the Father, called and **kept safe by Jesus Christ. Relax, everything's going to be all right; rest, everything's coming together; open your hearts, love is on the way! (Jude 1:1-2, The Message).***

For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath!

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 12:12b). And what about this? This is scary! Come on, relax, this is not about you at all. The devil has come to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea, which are those who belong to this world and the sea (a spiritual place for demons). And yes indeed: Woe to them! But you are seated in heavenly places (where satan has been cast out), you are not of this world anymore. The first part of these verse is confirming this: **Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! (Revelation 12:12a).**

You know, the span of control of satan during the New Testament period is only in his own dominion. When Jesus took the victory, satan is buried in the grave where his followers already were: *How you are **fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, ... (Isaiah 14:12).*** 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, who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?'** (Isaiah 14:15-17).* 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).***

It is still a fight.

Does that mean that we as Christians do not have any problem at all anymore with satan? No, not at all! We are spiritual beings having a human experience ... on the journey of a lifetime. We are spirit, have a soul and live in a body:

- **Our spirit** is one with God's Spirit, which is our salvation, our identity, which is fixed.

- **Our soul** is our spiritual part and **the battlefield**: *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul* (1 Peter 2:11). Our soul is in the spiritual places.
- **Our body** is just a temporary container, under decay and also under influence of the enemy. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God!

God's solution in Christ is mainly spiritual (John 18:36), meant for our soul! There is a safe place against the enemy, you (your soul) are seated in heavenly places, a place where satan is banned out since Jesus took the victory. Draw close to God and stay away from the dark spiritual places (Hades). It is not satan who is entering the good spiritual places, for he is banned out, however it is us who are going into satan's direction. Keep your soul free, while living here on earth: *abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul* (1 Peter 2:11). In the good spiritual places God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings (peace, joy, etc.) for our soul: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ* (Ephesians 1:3). Finally, when you leave your earthly body (container), this battle is over and you will be 100% in the good spiritual places: *receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls* (1 Peter 1:9).

Don't focus on the body. We are *sojourners and pilgrims*, you know. *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*⁹ **Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.**¹⁰ *But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*¹¹ *To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen* (1 Peter 5:8-11). The power against the enemy is coming from within you, where God's Spirit became one with your spirit: *This precious treasure – this light and power that now shine within us – is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own* (2 Corinthians 4:7). **Aware of our weak bodies, impressed with His light and glorious power that shines within us and working through us!**

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death (Revelation 12:11). **The enemy has been defeated, 2000 years ago by the blood of the Lamb!** Just built on that foundation, do your part (testimony) and your victory is secure. And please don't focus on the body: *and they did not love their lives to the death.*

Final word.

Rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! (Revelation 12:12a). *Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. This He said, signifying by what death He would die* (John 12:31-33). Satan judged and cast out the heavenly places, 2000 years ago, securely chained in his own dark dominion, when Jesus took the victory. 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). By the way: have you noted "**Now is the judgment of this world**". Apparently the judgment of the world was 2000 years ago. This is also confirmed in next verse: *And when He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged* (John 16:8-11). Mhhh, be careful with all those scary so called "end times" judgment scenario's.

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. 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.** ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 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 12:7-12). While satan was cast out of heaven the Kingdom of God had come and the power of His Christ as also written: **He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne** (Acts 2:30). Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, **“You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world** (John 18:37).

Some last words about “*who accused them before our God day and night*”, satan, the accuser. In the Old Testament satan was traveling between the earth and heaven: *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). Satan accusing people, in heaven, before Jesus took the victory as also written: *Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”* (Zechariah 3:1-2). But now, since 2000 years: **the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down** (Revelation 12:10). *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).

Please, never forget: *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). Only the world around us is under the control of the evil one! **There is a chair reserved for you in heavenly places! Run to it and take up your seat in Christ! No fear, believe in the perfection of the finished work of Jesus, the Christ!**

And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 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 10:18-19).

Yours in His service,
Kees
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