

Satan and Demons

Christian Belief 103-6

Your awareness of having the highest spiritual authority can defeat the temptations and the attacks that Satan sends (see also Acts 19:15).

Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against God, he gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by God's grace. And he raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with him in the heavens. He did this for those in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:5-6 NCV).

- When you believe in Christ's death for your sins, God sets you free from 'spiritual death' (an endless separation from God), gives you a 'new life', and positions you to sit with Christ at the highest position in the spiritual world (see also Luke 22:69).

1. *Satan is the source of all evils*

Once was an anointed angel, Satan sinned and became the source of evils.

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 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; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High' (Isaiah 14:12-14 NKJV).

- 'Lucifer' (whom Ezekiel illustrated with the king of Tyre) was created perfect, wise and beautiful to serve as the chief musician in God's presence and as a 'cherub', a covering or protecting angel (see also Ezekiel 28:12-16).
- Given in to pride, Lucifer wanted to seize God's position to rule above the 'stars' or angels of God. He wanted 'to be like the Most High' (see also Ezekiel 28:16-18). Lucifer rebelled against God and became evil.
- Being expelled from heaven, Lucifer had lost his authority and fell to the earth on his own choice to 'weaken the nations'.
- He was called Satan (means 'the adversary') since then (see also Luke 10:18).

2. *Satan operates in Adam's lost authority*

Having no authority of his own Satan had to cheat Adam of his authority.

What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels (Heb. *Elohim*), and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet (Psalm 8:4-6 NKJV).

- 'Angels' in this verse is not correctly translated. *Elohim*, means 'God'. God gave Adam an authority that was 'a little lower than *His*'. Satan knew Adam's authority was second to God. Then the devil took Jesus and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in an instant. The devil said to Jesus, "I will give you all these kingdoms and all their power and glory. It has all been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish" (Luke 4:5-6 NCV).
- 'It has all been given to me' means Adam had forfeited all his authority and power over the earth to Satan when he gave in to the temptation.
- 'I can give it to anyone I wish' means with such derived authority, Satan has the ability to offer the 'world' to people who give in to him (see also 1 John 2:15-16).

Christ has given us an authority that is higher than that of Adam to defeat Satan.

Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. 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 NLT).

- Christ became a sinless man to shed innocent blood for removing our sins (see also 1 Peter 1:19) and to 'break the power of the Devil'.

But we see Jesus, who for a short time was made lower than the angels. And now he is wearing a crown of glory and honor because he suffered and died. And by God's grace, he died for everyone (Hebrews 2:9 NCV).

- Because man is lower than angels after Adam had surrendered his authority to Satan, Christ had to become lower than angels when He died for us.

- When Christ overcame death in His resurrection, God seated us together with Him in the spiritual realm (see Ephesians 2:6) where we can exercise a higher authority over Satan and all the demons (see Luke 9:1).

3. *The evil activities of Satan*

We have a strategic advantage over Satan. For he can only go as far as God permits.

- Satan does not have the right to terminate a life (see Job 1:12; 2:6). He can only kill by causing people to murder (see 1 John 3:12), commit suicide (see Matthew 27:5), indulge in harmful addictions (see 1 Timothy 3:3), or abort the unborn.
- He must first have God's permission to afflict a believer (see Luke 22:31-32).

a. **Temptation and deception**

Having no authority over you, Satan has to tempt you to live in sins to control you (see Ephesians 2:2).

- He tempts people to give in to 'the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life' of their sinful nature (see Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 2:16).
- He is the father of lies deceiving or swaying the world to destroy people (see John 8:44; 1 John 5:19). He perverts the truth of God to deceive Christians to disobey the Holy Spirit (see Acts 13:10; 5:3).

He who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him (1 John 5:18b NKJV).

- You cannot be tempted as long as you are on guard.

b. **Accusation and opposition**

Satan accuses Christians continually to keep them feeling guilty and condemned, not able to rise up in their testimony (see Revelation 12:10).

- The devil is an adversary opposing God's people to destroy their faith (see 1 Chronicles 21:1; 1 Peter 5:8) and ministries (see 1 Thessalonians 2:18; Romans 15:22).
My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1 NKJV).
- Christ who had died for all our sins (see also Colossians 2:13) is the Advocate or Defending Lawyer, pleading before God on our behalf. As soon as you confess your sins and come under the blood of Christ, you are forgiven (see 1 John 1:7-9; Revelation 12:11a).
- Certain demons by the name 'a thorn in the flesh' give chronic problems to keep people from rising up to do great things for God. There is more than enough grace and strength for us to overcome such attacks (see 2 Corinthians 12:7, 10).

c. **Affliction and domination**

Satan uses demons to dysfunction people physically, emotionally, and mentally.

- A third of God's angels fell together with Satan, and they became demons (see Revelation 12:4a, 9).
For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12 NKJV).
- Satan put his demons in four ranks, namely 'principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places'.
- 'Heavenly places' refers to the three realms in the spiritual world. God rules from the 'heaven of heavens' (see Psalm 68:33) or 'third heaven' where His throne is (see 2 Corinthians 12:2; Revelations 7:10), which is also called the 'paradise of God' (see Revelation 2:7). Christ went to 'paradise' and sat down at the right side of God (see Luke 23:43; 22:69). We are seated with Him there (see Ephesians 2:6).
- 'Spiritual hosts (means army) of wickedness' are warring-demons in Satan's army assigned to invade the world to promote wickedness from the 'heavenly places', the second and first heavens. These demonic 'princes' influence earthly kingdoms. By doing God's will, we defeat such territorial demons (see Daniel 10:12-13).

- 'Rulers of the darkness of this world' are demons ruling over many lower demons. One such demon replied Jesus that his name is Legion (a division in the Roman army numbering 6,000) was in command of a big gang of lower demons (see Mark 5:9). 'Of this world' means they operate in this world to cause afflictions and to possess people. 'Powers' (*exousia*, means delegated authority) are lower demons operating with a given authority and 'principalities' (*arche*, means primary) are those of the lowest rank. **Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven (Matthew 18:18 NKJV).**
- You have the spiritual authority to bind (means to immobilize) all ranks of demons. Their influences on people will stop and their evils will end.