

THE WINDS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. Adam was given dominion over all the earth.

God gave Adam and Eve dominion over all the earth and over every living creature on the earth. This was His plan before creating them (Gen. 1:26). And He executed His plan after creating them (Gen. 1:27–28). Adam and Eve were crowned with glory and majesty and ruled over the works of God's hands (Psa. 8:4–8).

2. Adam lost his dominion over the earth.

Satan took the scepter from Adam and Eve at the Fall. Satan, not Adam, is now "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31). "The whole world lies in *the power of the evil one*" (1 John 5:19). God gave this authority to Satan, as he readily admits at Jesus' temptation: "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for *it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish*" (Luke 4:6 italics mine). When Adam chose to obey Satan, he became Satan's slave. "Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey?" (Rom. 6:16).

3. Satan offered his kingdom to Jesus.

Satan offered everything he had to be worshipped by Jesus (Matt. 4:8–9). This shows how important the Temptation was to Satan. Jesus, of course, rejected his offer (Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8). In God's plan there could be no crown before the cross.

4. Jesus had authority over Satan and his hosts during His earthly ministry.

At Jesus' baptism, when the dove came and remained upon Him, Jesus received power over Satan in the person of the Holy Spirit. It appears that at this time God the Father also gave Jesus authority over heaven and earth (Matt. 28:18). All things were handed over to Him (Matt. 11:27; John 3:35; 13:3), including authority over all mankind (John 17:1–2).

Jesus cast out demons (Mark 1:27; Luke 4:36) by the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:28; cf. Luke 11:20). He was stronger than Satan. He attacked, overpowered, and bound Satan and plundered his kingdom (Matt. 12:29; Luke 11:21–22).

Like the first Adam, the second Adam was given authority by God to rule over heaven and earth. He came to offer Himself as king, as the ruler of this world, to replace Satan, the incumbent ruler of this world. He came to offer the kingdom of God as a replacement for the kingdom of Satan. As a king He needed greater authority to successfully wage war against the Devil and his forces. Jesus, however, never became the ruler of this world because the Jewish people, to whom the kingdom of God

was offered, rejected Him as king. He is today a king in exile, waiting to receive and to rule over His kingdom. In rejecting Jesus, the Jews gave Satan the right to continue as the ruler of this world for the next 2000 years! And in getting the Jews to reject and kill Jesus, Satan insured his rule for another 2000 years!

5. Jesus disciples' had delegated authority over Satan and his hosts.

Jesus gave them power and authority over all the demons (Matt. 10:1; Mark 3:14–15; 6:7; Luke 9:1).

6. The seventy had delegated authority over Satan and his hosts.

Jesus gave them authority over all the power of Satan. They cast out demons in Jesus' name (Luke 10:17, 20). And by Jesus' decree, they were perfectly safe! To tread on scorpions is to crush them like bugs; to tread on snakes is to humiliate them (Luke 10:19).

7. Jesus won the scepter back for man by defeating Satan.

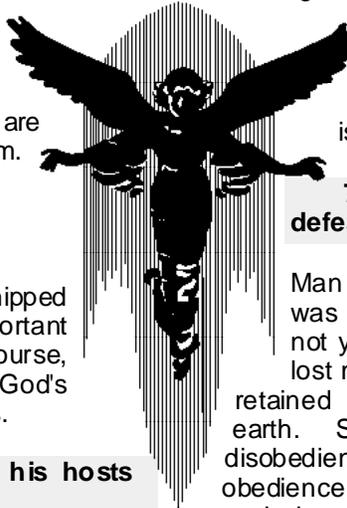
Man rejected Jesus as the ruler of this world, yet all was not lost. He successfully defeated Satan by not yielding to his temptations. Unlike Adam, who lost man's right to rule over God's kingdom, Jesus retained man's right to rule over God's kingdom on earth. Satan won his kingdom through one man's disobedience and lost his kingdom through one man's obedience (Heb. 2:14). He rules today by God's permissive will—until the Jews are willing to accept Jesus as king. We're all waiting for the day when God decides to overthrow Satan's kingdom and replace it with His own.

8. Jesus has authority over Satan and his hosts at the right hand of the Father.

After ascending to heaven, God "seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:20–22; cf. Acts 2:33; Phil. 2:9–11; Col. 2:10; Heb. 1:3–4).

9. Jesus has already triumphed over a part of Satan's kingdom.

After His ascension, Jesus, accompanied with powerful angelic armies, staged a raid on Satan's kingdom. Together, in a limited engagement, they captured perhaps a legion or two of unclean spirits, stripped them of their weapons, and paraded them in the heavenlies before God



and the holy angels, finally casting them into the Abyss (Eph. 4:8–10; Col. 2:15). These captives were the firstfruits of destruction. It's important to note that Jesus did not capture and disarm all of Satan's forces, since many are still operative and dangerous at this present hour. The time of the raid, according to Ephesians 4:8, would be after ascending on high but before giving spiritual gifts to men on the Day of Pentecost. The battle was fought sometime during this ten day period, probably after the session and exaltation. After taking "captive a host of captives," Jesus and the angelic armies descended in triumphant procession "into the lower parts of the earth" to imprison their captives in the bottomless pit. The triumph consisted solely of Jesus and angelic creatures. This initial victory awaits completion at the second coming of Christ.

In the same way Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection, in which we follow later (1 Cor. 15:23), so Jesus is the firstfruits of the triumph (Eph. 4:8–10; Col. 2:15), in which we, the saints (1 Thess. 3:13; 2 Thess. 2:10; Jude 14), and all the holy angels (Matt. 16:27; 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7) will return with Him at His Second Coming for the final battle, conquest, and triumphal procession. These are "the armies which are in heaven" (Rev. 19:14, 19). Now, since we share His throne, we participated positionally in this initial victory; and we will participate experientially in the final victory.

10. The apostles and early church leaders had delegated authority over Satan and his hosts.

Demons were cast out (Acts 5:16; 19:11–12) in the name of Jesus (Mark 16:17; Acts 16:18; cf. Acts 19:13). Philip was not an apostle but a former deacon in the church at Jerusalem (Acts 8:6–7; cf. Acts 6:1–6).

11. Church age believers have delegated authority over Satan and his hosts.

The baptism of the Spirit places us in the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). Through this baptism God "has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). One of our spiritual blessings is sharing the Father's throne—in this age and in the age to come. We're positionally seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father! "But God...made us alive together with Christ...and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:4–6). This is a position of authority far above our enemies. Our theater of battle is on earth and in the heavens. In the Millennium we will judge the world and fallen angels (1 Cor. 6:2–3).

12. Satan is still the ruler of this world.

Satan was the ruler of this world before the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension (Luke 4:5–6; John 12:31b; 14:30; 16:11). And he still rules the world after Jesus' session and exaltation (2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1–2; 1 John 5:19). His forces are operational and dangerous. They still have their weapons (Eph. 6:12; Heb. 2:8; 1 Peter 5:8). Today, Satan retains his power and authority, but our power and authority in Christ is greater (James 4:7b; 1 John 4:1–4).

13. The Church is now being prepared to replace Satan and his hosts.

God plans to give back to man authority over the earth. Satan and his hosts will be dispossessed of their kingdoms and replaced by the Church. The Church is now being trained, educated, and prepared for her future rule. Not all, however, will rule with Christ: thrones are for those who inherit the Kingdom. Reigning with Christ is conditioned upon steadfastness (2 Tim. 2:12) and overcoming (Rev. 2:26–27; 3:21). Our inheritance—reigning with Christ in the Millennium—may be forfeited through immoral living (1 Cor. 6:9–11).

14. Satan and his hosts will be cast out of heaven in the middle of the Tribulation.

They will be defeated in battle by Michael and his angels (Rev. 12:7–10, 12–13a).

15. Satan will delegate his authority to the Antichrist in the Tribulation.

Unlike Jesus, Satan's power, authority, and kingdom will be accepted by the Antichrist. Since the kingdoms of the world belong to Satan, God will allow the Antichrist to have authority over the whole world. God will also allow the saints to be imprisoned and killed (Rev. 11:7; 13:7, 10).

16. Jesus will come to rule the earth at His second advent.

Jesus and the armies of heaven will invade Satan's kingdom and conquer! Jesus will return to earth with His saints and many angels to destroy His enemies at Armageddon (Matt. 16:27; 25:31). The kings of the earth and their armies are killed, the beast and false prophet cast into the Lake of Fire, and Satan and his demons imprisoned in the Abyss (Rev. 19–20). The kingdom of Satan comes to an end as he and his hosts are removed from the face of the earth.

17. Jesus will rule over the earth for a thousand years.

The long awaited kingdom of God is finally established on earth. It replaces the kingdom of Satan. Peace, prosperity, justice, and longevity will characterize Jesus' reign (Isa. 2:2–4; 11:6–9; 32:1–2; 35:1–7; Rev. 20). Church age saints who have overcome the flesh, the world, and the Devil (Rev. 2:26–27; 3:21) and tribulational martyrs (Rev. 20:4, 6) will rule with Christ on David's throne. At the end of the Millennium Satan is released from the Abyss and attempts to overthrow Jesus and His co-rulers to regain his kingdom. This coup d'état fails (Rev. 20:7–9). Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire, which removes him from the earth forever (Rev. 20:10). Unbelievers are resurrected, judged, and cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11–15). Hades is destroyed when the present earth is destroyed (Rev. 21:1).

"Then *comes* the end...when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death" (1 Cor. 15:24–26).