

## Table of Contents

Chapter 1	Who is the man of sin?	4
Chapter 2	The devils seeks someone to tempt	6
Chapter 3	The man of sin seeks to deceive	11
Chapter 4	Don't underestimate God's mercy	15
Chapter 5	The devil is aided by demons	17
Chapter 6	Jesus has defeated the man of sin	19
Chapter 7	The devil contrasted with Jesus	23
Chapter 8	God's powers neutralizes the devil's power	28
Chapter 9	The devil hindered Paul's work	33

## Forward

Disguised as a crafty serpent, Satan came to tempt Eve. Satan at one time was an angel who rebelled against God and was thrown out of heaven.

As a created being, Satan has definite limitations. Although he is trying to tempt everyone away from God, he will not be the final victor. In Genesis 3:14-15,

God promises that Satan will be crushed by the woman's offspring, that is by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is the Messiah.

Why does Satan tempt us?

Temptation is Satan's invitation to give in to his kind of life and give up on God's kind of life.

Satan tempted Eve and succeeded in getting her to sin. Ever since then, he's been busy getting people to sin. He even tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:11). But Jesus did not sin!

How could Eve have resisted temptation? By following the same guidelines we can follow.

First, we must realize that *being tempted* is not a sin.

We have not sinned until we *give in* to the temptation. Never listen to the deceit of the man of sin.

## Chapter 1



### Who is the man of sin?

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was the shrewdest of all the creatures the Lord God had made. "Really?" he asked the woman. "Did God really say you must not eat any of the fruit in the garden?"

The serpent, Satan, tempted Eve by getting her to doubt God's goodness. He implied that God was strict, stingy, and selfish for not wanting Eve to share his knowledge of good and evil.

Satan made Eve forget that entire message God had given her and, instead, focus on the one thing she couldn't have.

We fall into trouble, too, when we dwell on the few things we don't have rather than on the countless things God has given us.

The next time you are feeling sorry for yourself and what you don't have, consider all you *do* have and thank God. Then your doubts won't lead you into sin.

To resist temptation, we must:

- (1) Pray for strength to resist.
- (2) Run, sometimes literally, and
- (3) Say no when confronted with what we know is wrong.

James 1:12 tell of the blessings and rewards for those who don't give in when tempted.

### **Job faces temptation**

One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan the Accuser came with them.

"Where have you come from?" the Lord asked Satan.

And Satan answered the Lord; "I have been going back and forth across the earth, watching everything that's going on." Job 1:6-7

The Bible speaks of other heavenly councils where God and the angels plan their activities on earth and where angels are required to give account of themselves (i.e., 1 Kings 22:19-23).

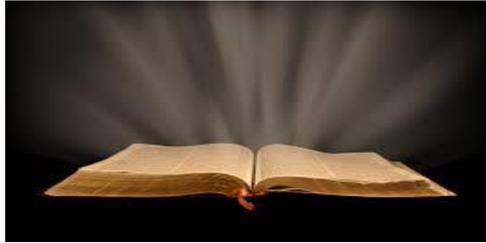
Because God is Creator of all angels—both of those who serve him and of those who rebelled—he has complete power and authority over them.

Satan, originally an angel of God, became corrupt through his own pride.

He has been evil since his rebellion against God (1 John 3:8).

Satan considers God as his enemy. He tries to hinder God's work in people, but he is limited by God's power and can do only what he is permitted (Luke 22:31-32; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:23-26).

## Chapter 2



### **The devil is looking for someone to lead into temptation**

Satan is called the enemy because he actively looks for people to attack with temptation (1 Peter 5:8-9) and because he wants to make people hate God.

He does this through lies and deception (Genesis 3:1-6). Job, a blameless and upright man who had been greatly blessed, was a perfect target for Satan.

Any person who is committed to God should expect Satan's attacks. Satan, who hates God, also hates God's people. :

Then Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted there by the Devil. Matthew 4:1

This time of testing showed that Jesus really was the Son of God, able to overcome the devil and his temptations. A person has not shown true obedience if he or she has never had an opportunity to disobey.

In Deut. 8:2 God led Israel into the desert to humble and test them. God wanted to see whether or not his people would really obey him.

We too will be tested. Because we know that testing will come, we should be alert and ready for it. Remember, your convictions are only strong if they hold up under pressure!

He is *real*, not symbolic, and is constantly fighting against those who follow and obey God. Satan's temptations are real, and he is always trying to get us to live his way or our way rather than God's way.

Jesus will one day reign over all creation, but Satan tried to force his hand and get him to declare his kingship prematurely.

If Jesus had given in, his mission on earth—to die for our sins and give us the opportunity to have eternal life—would have been lost.

When temptations seem especially strong, or when you think you can rationalize giving in, consider whether Satan may be trying to block God's purposes for your life or for someone else's life.

This temptation by the devil shows us that Jesus was human, and it gave Jesus the opportunity to reaffirm God's plan for his ministry.

It also gives us an example to follow when we are tempted. Jesus' temptation was an important demonstration of his sinlessness. He would face temptation and not give in.

Jesus was tempted by the devil, but he never sinned! Although we may feel dirty after being tempted, we should remember that temptation itself is not sin. We sin when we give in and disobey God. Remembering this will help us turn away from the temptation.

Jesus wasn't tempted inside the temple or at his baptism but in the desert where he was tired, alone, and hungry, and thus most vulnerable.

The devil often tempts us when we are vulnerable—when we are under physical or emotional stress (for example, lonely, tired, weighing big decisions, or faced with uncertainty).

He also likes to tempt us through our strengths, where we are most susceptible to pride (see the note on +Luke 4:3ff). We must guard at all times against his attacks.

The devil's temptations focused on three crucial areas:

- (1) Physical needs and desires,
- (2) Possessions and power, and
- (3) Pride (see 1 John 2:15-16 for a similar list).

Jesus did not give in. Hebrews 4:15 says that Jesus “has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.” He knows firsthand what we are experiencing, and he is willing and able to help us in our struggles.

When you are tempted, turn to him for strength.

Immediately the Holy Spirit compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness. He was there for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him. Mark 1:12-13

Temptation is bad for us only when we give in. We should not hate or resent times of inner testing, because through them God can strengthen our character and teach us valuable lessons.

When you face Satan and must deal with his temptations and the turmoil he brings, remember Jesus. He used God's Word against Satan and won. You can do the same.

The time of judgment for the world has come, when the prince of this world will be cast out. John 12:31

Satan has great power, but people can be delivered from his reign of spiritual darkness because of Christ's victory on the cross. Satan is powerful, but Jesus is much more powerful. Jesus' resurrection shattered Satan's deathly power (Col. 1:13-14).

To overcome Satan we need faithful allegiance to God's Word, determination to stay away from sin, and the support of other believers.

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 12:9

The name *Satan* means “accuser” (Rev. 12:10). He actively looks for people to attack (1 Peter 5:8-9). Satan likes to pursue believers who are vulnerable in their faith, who are spiritually weak, or who are isolated from other believers.

Even though God permits the devil to do his work in this world, God is still in control. And Jesus has complete power over Satan—he defeated Satan when he died and rose again for the sins of mankind. One day Satan will be bound forever, never again to do his evil work (see Rev. 20:10).

## Chapter 3



**The man of sin can imitate parts of God's work to deceive.**

Their staffs became snakes, too! But then Aaron's snake swallowed up their snakes. Exodus 7:12

God performed a miracle by turning Aaron's staff into a snake, and Pharaoh's magicians did the same through trickery or sorcery.

Although miracles can help us believe, it is dangerous to rely on them alone.

Satan can imitate some parts of God's work and lead people astray.

Pharaoh focused on the miracle rather than the message. We can avoid this error by letting the Word of God be the basis of our faith.

No miracle from God would endorse any message that is contrary to the teachings of his Word.

### **The man of sin cannot force people to do wrong?**

Satan rose up against Israel and caused David to take a census of the Israelites. 1 Chron. 21:1

David's census brought disaster because, unlike the census taken in the book of Numbers (Numbers 1-2) that God had ordered, this census was taken so David could take pride in the strength of his army.

In determining his military strength, he was beginning to trust more in military power than in God. There is a thin line between feeling

confident because you rely on God's power and becoming proud because God has used you for great purposes.

The Bible text says Satan *incited* David to take a census.

Can Satan force people to do wrong?

No, Satan only *tempted* David with the idea, but David *decided to act* on the temptation.

Ever since the Garden of Eden, Satan has been tempting people to sin.

David's census was not against God's law, but his reason for the census was wrong—pride in his mighty army while forgetting that his real strength came from God.

Even Joab, not known for his high moral ideals, recognized the census as sin.

From David's example we learn that an action that may not be wrong in it can be sinful if it is motivated by greed, arrogance, or selfishness. Often our motives, not the action itself, contain the sin. We must constantly weigh our motives before we act.

David fell to Satan's temptation. God provided a way out in Joab's counsel, but David's curiosity was spurred on by arrogance. His faith was in his own strength rather than in God's. If we feel self-sufficient and put confidence in ourselves apart from God, we soon fall to Satan's schemes. Self-sufficiency pulls us away from God.

**God is aware of all the man of sin does.**

Job was a model of trust and obedience to God, yet God permitted Satan to attack him in an especially harsh manner.

Although God loves us, believing and obeying him do not shelter us from life's calamities. Setbacks, tragedies, and sorrows strike Christians and non-Christians alike.

But in our tests and trials, God expects us to express our faith to the world. How do you respond to your troubles?

Do you ask God, "Why me?" or do you say, "Use me!"?

This conversation between God and Satan teaches us an important fact about God—he is fully aware of every attempt by Satan to bring suffering and difficulty upon us. While God may allow us to suffer for a reason beyond our understanding, he is never caught by surprise by our troubles and is always compassionate. Job :12

### **Can the man of sin persuade God to change his plans?**

Then the Lord asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and will have nothing to do with evil.

And he has maintained his integrity, even though you persuaded me to harm him without cause."

Satan replied to the Lord, "Skin for skin—he blesses you only because you bless him. A man will give up everything he has to save his life. But take away his health, and he will surely curse you to your face!"

"All right, do with him as you please," the Lord, said to Satan. "But spare his life." Job 2:3-6

## Chapter 4



**Don't underestimate the breadth of God's mercy. □**

Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord. Satan was there at the angel's right hand, accusing Jeshua of many things.

And the Lord said to Satan, "I, the Lord, reject your accusations, Satan. Yes, the Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from a fire."

Jeshua's clothing was filthy as he stood there before the angel.  
Zech. 3:1-3

### **The areas where he tempted Jesus**

Matthew 4:1-10

**Could the man of sin really give to Jesus the kingdoms of the World?**

Next the Devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the nations of the world and all their glory.

"I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will only kneel down and worship me." Matthew 4:8-9

Did the devil have the power to give Jesus the kingdoms of the world?  
Didn't God, the Creator of the world, have control over these kingdoms?

The devil may have been lying about his implied power, or he may have based his offer on his temporary control and free rein over the earth because of humanity's sinfulness.

Jesus' temptation was to take the world as a political ruler right then, without carrying out his plan to save the world from sin. Satan was trying to distort Jesus' perspective by making him focus on worldly power and not on God's plans.

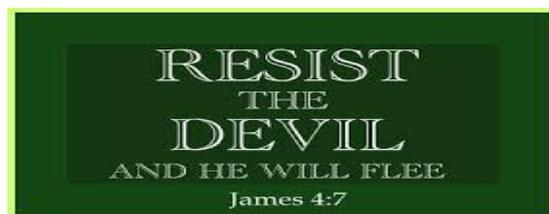
The devil offered the whole world to Jesus if Jesus would only bow down and worship him.

Today the devil offers us the world by trying to entice us with materialism and power.

We can resist temptations the same way Jesus did. If you find yourself craving something that the world offers, quote Jesus' words to the devil:

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”

## Chapter 5



### **The man of sin is aided by demons.**

When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake in the land of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They lived in a cemetery and were so dangerous that no one could go through that area. Matthew 8:28

The region of the Gadarenes is located southeast of the Sea of Galilee, near the town of Gadara, one of the most important cities of the region (see map).

Gadara was a member of the Decapolis (see the note on +Mark 5:20).

These ten cities with independent governments were largely inhabited by Gentiles, which explains the herd of pigs (Matthew 8:30).

The Jews did not raise pigs because pigs were considered unclean and thus unfit to eat.

Demon-possessed people are under the control of one or more demons.

Demons are fallen angels who joined Satan in his rebellion against God and are now evil spirits under Satan's control.

They help Satan tempt people to sin and have great destructive powers. But whenever Jesus confronts them, they lose their power.

These demons recognized Jesus as God's Son (Matthew 8:29), but they didn't think they had to obey him. Just believing is not enough (see James 2:19 for a discussion of belief and devils).

Faith is more than belief. By faith, you accept what Jesus has done for you, receive him as the only one who can save you from sin, and live out your faith by obeying his commands.

Matthew says there were two demon-possessed men, while Mark and Luke refer only to one. Apparently Mark and Luke mention only the man who did the talking.

According to Jewish ceremonial laws, the men Jesus encountered were unclean in three ways:

They were Gentiles (non-Jews), they were demon-possessed, and they lived in a graveyard.

Jesus helped them anyway. We should not turn our backs on people who are “unclean” or repulsive to us, or who violate our moral standards and religious beliefs. Instead, we must realize that every human individual is a unique creation of God, needing to be touched by his love.

## Chapter 6



**The man of sin is defeated by Jesus’ death and resurrection.**

Let me illustrate this. You can't enter a strong man's house and rob him without first tying him up. Only then can his house be robbed! Matthew 12:29

At Jesus’ birth, Satan’s power and control were disrupted. In the desert Jesus overcame the devil’s temptations, and at the resurrection he defeated Satan’s ultimate weapon, death.

Eventually Satan will be constrained forever (Rev. 20:10), and evil will no longer pervade the earth. Jesus has complete power and authority over Satan and all his forces.

"All of you will desert me," Jesus told them. "For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' Mark 14:27;

It's easy to think that Satan temporarily gained the upper hand in this drama about Jesus' death. But we see later that God was in control, even in the death of his Son. Satan gained no victory—everything occurred exactly as God had planned.

This was the second time in the same evening that Jesus predicted the disciples' denial and desertion, which probably explains their strong reaction (Mark 14:31).

And they have defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their testimony. And they were not afraid to die. Rev. 12:11

The critical blow to Satan came when the Lamb, Jesus Christ, shed his blood for our sins. The victory is won by sacrifice—Christ's death in our place to pay the penalty for our sin, and the sacrifices we make because of our faith in him. As we face the battle with Satan, we should not fear it or try to escape from it, but we should loyally serve Christ, who alone brings victory (see Romans 8:34-39).

### **God's is in control over all things.**

Let me illustrate this. You can't enter a strong man's house and rob him without first tying him up. Only then can his house be robbed! Mark 3:27;

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law could not deny the reality of Jesus' miracles and supernatural power.

They refused to believe that his power was from God, however, because then they would have had to accept him as the Messiah. Their pride would not let them do that.

So in an attempt to destroy Jesus' popularity among the people, the teachers of the law accused him of having power from Satan. Jesus' reply showed that their argument didn't make sense. (*Beelzebub* refers to Satan.)

Although God permits Satan to work in our world, God is still in control. Jesus, because he is God, has power over Satan; Jesus is able to drive out demons and end their terrible work in people's lives.

One day Satan will be bound forever (Rev. 20:10).

Wasn't it necessary for me, even on the Sabbath day, to free this dear woman from the bondage in which Satan has held her for eighteen years?" Luke 13:16

The Pharisees hid behind their own set of laws to avoid love's obligations.

We too can use the letter of the law to rationalize away our obligation to care for others (for example, by tithing regularly and then refusing to help a needy neighbor).

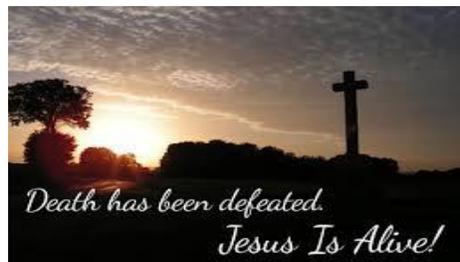
But people's needs are more important than rules and regulations. Take time to help others, even if doing so might compromise your public image.

In our fallen world, disease and disability are common. Their causes are many and often multiple—inadequate nutrition, contact with a source of infection, lowered defenses, and even direct attack by Satan.

Whatever the immediate cause of our illness, we can trace its original source to Satan, the author of all the evil in our world.

The good news is that Jesus is more powerful than any devil or any disease. He often brings physical healing in this life; and when he returns, he will put an end to all disease and disability.

## Chapter 7



### **The man of sin's goals contrasted with Jesus'.**

Then the spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. Mark 5:10

Mark often highlights the supernatural struggle between Jesus and Satan. The demons' goal was to control the humans they inhabited;

Jesus' goal was to give people freedom from sin and Satan's control.

The demons knew they had no power over Jesus; so when they saw Jesus, they begged not to be sent out of the area ("into the Abyss" in Luke 8:31).

Jesus granted their request to enter into the herd of pigs (Mark 5:13) but ended their destructive work in people.

Perhaps Jesus let the demons destroy the pigs to demonstrate his own superiority over a very powerful yet destructive force.

He could have sent them to hell, but he did not, because the time for judgment had not yet come. In the end, the devil and all his angels will be sent into eternal fire (Matthew 25:41).

### **Our ongoing battle with the man of sin**

And whenever this evil spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground and makes him foam at the mouth and grind his teeth and become rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it." Mark 9:18

Why couldn't the disciples drive out the evil spirit? In Mark 6:13 we read that they drove out demons while on their mission to the villages. Perhaps they had special authority only for that trip, or perhaps their faith was faltering.

Mark tells this story to show that the battle with Satan is a difficult, ongoing struggle. Victory over sin and temptation comes through faith in Jesus Christ, not through our own efforts.

### **The man of sin hoped to divert Jesus from his mission.**

Luke 4:6-7 The Devil told him, "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them—because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will bow down and worship me." Luke 4:6-7

The devil arrogantly hoped to succeed in his rebellion against God by diverting Jesus from his mission and winning his worship. “This world is mine, not God’s,” he was saying, “and if you hope to do anything worthwhile here, you’d better recognize that fact.” Jesus didn’t argue with Satan about who owns the world, but Jesus refused to validate Satan’s claim by worshiping him. Jesus knew that he would redeem the world through giving up his life on the cross, not through making an alliance with a corrupt angel.

### **The man of sin misinterpreted the Scripture.**

Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

'He orders his angels to protect and guard you. Luke 4:9-11

Here the devil misinterpreted Scripture. The intention of Psalm 91 is to show God’s protection of his people, not to incite them to use God’s power for sensational or foolish displays.

### **The man of sin underestimated significance of Jesus’ death.**

Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, Luke 22:3

Satan's part in the betrayal of Jesus does not remove any of the responsibility from Judas. Disillusioned because Jesus was talking about dying rather than about setting up his kingdom, Judas may have been trying to force Jesus' hand and make him use his power to prove he was the Messiah. Or perhaps Judas, not understanding Jesus' mission, no longer believed that Jesus was God's chosen one. (For more information on Judas, see his Profile.) Whatever Judas thought, Satan assumed that Jesus' death would end Jesus' mission and thwart God's plan. Like Judas, he did not know that Jesus' death and resurrection were the most important parts of God's plan all along.

### **The man of sin's role in Judas's betrayal of Jesus.**

As soon as Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, "Hurry. Do it now." John 13:27

Satan's part in the betrayal of Jesus does not remove any of the responsibility from Judas.

Disillusioned because Jesus was talking about dying rather than setting up his kingdom, Judas may have been trying to force Jesus' hand and make him use his power to prove he was the Messiah. Or perhaps Judas, not understanding Jesus' mission, no longer believed Jesus was God's chosen one.

Whatever Judas thought, Satan assumed that Jesus' death would end his mission and thwart God's plan. Like Judas, Satan did not know that Jesus' death was the most important part of God's plan all along.

John describes these few moments in clear detail. We can see that Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen. He knew about Judas and about Peter, but he did not change the situation, nor did he stop loving them.

In the same way, Jesus knows exactly what you will do to hurt him. Yet he still loves you unconditionally and will forgive you whenever you ask for it.

Judas couldn't understand this, and his life ended tragically. Peter understood, and despite his shortcomings, his life ended triumphantly because he never let go of his faith in the One who loved him.

## Chapter 8



### **Obeying God neutralizes the power of the man of sin.**

"I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the prince of this world approaches. He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come let's be going. John 14:30-31

Although Satan, the prince of this world, was unable to overpower Jesus (Matthew 4), he still had the arrogance to try. Satan's power exists only because God allows him to act. But because Jesus is sinless, Satan has no power over him. If we obey Jesus and align ourselves closely with God's purposes, Satan can have no power over us.

"Come now; let us leave" suggests that John 15-17 may have been spoken en route to the Garden of Gethsemane. Another view is that Jesus was asking the disciples to get ready to leave the upper room, but they did not actually do so until John 18:1.

### **The man of sins overthrown in the future is inevitable.**

Then Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. Acts 5:3

Even after the Holy Spirit had come, the believers were not immune to Satan's temptations.

Although Christ defeated the man of sin at the cross, he was still actively trying to make the believers stumble—as he does today (Ephes. 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8).

Satan's overthrow is inevitable, but it will not occur until the last days, when Christ returns to judge the world (Rev. 20:10).

The sin Ananias and Sapphira committed was not stinginess or holding back part of the money—it was their choice whether or not to sell the land and how much to give.

Their sin was lying to God and God's people—saying they gave the whole amount but holding back some for themselves and trying to make themselves appear more generous than they really were.

This act was judged harshly because dishonesty, greed, pride, and covetousness are destructive in a church, preventing the Holy Spirit from working effectively.

All lying is bad, but when we lie to try to deceive God and his people about our relationship with him, we destroy our testimony about Christ.

### **The man of sin rules the evil spiritual world.**

You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. Ephes. 2:2

The ruler of the kingdom of the air” was understood by Paul’s readers to mean Satan. They believed that Satan and the evil spiritual forces inhabited the region between earth and sky.

Satan is thus pictured as ruling an evil spiritual kingdom—the demons and those who are against Christ. *Satan* means “the accuser.” He is also called the devil (Ephes. 4:27).

In the resurrection, Christ was victorious over Satan and his power. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the permanent ruler of the whole world;

Satan is only the temporary ruler of the part of the world that chooses to follow him.

### **How to withstand the attacks from the man of sin**

A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power.

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil.

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 wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.

Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared.

In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephes. 6:10-17;

In the Christian life we battle against rulers and authorities (the powerful evil forces of fallen angels headed by Satan, who is a vicious fighter, see 1 Peter 5:8).

To withstand their attacks, we must depend on God's strength and use every piece of his armor.

Paul is not only giving this counsel to the church, the body of Christ, but to all individuals within the church. The whole body needs to be armed.

As you do battle against "the powers of this dark world," fight in the strength of the church, whose power comes from the Holy Spirit.

These who are not "flesh and blood" are demons over whom Satan has control. They are not mere fantasies—they are very real.

We face a powerful army whose goal is to defeat Christ's church. When we believe in Christ, these beings become our enemies, and they try every device to turn us away from him and back to sin.

Although we are assured of victory, we must engage in the struggle until Christ returns, because Satan is constantly battling against all who are on the Lord's side.

We need supernatural power to defeat Satan, and God has provided this by giving us his Holy Spirit within us and his armor surrounding us.

If you feel discouraged, remember Jesus' words to Peter: "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18).

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, I ask you to pray for us. Pray first that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.

Pray, too, that we will be saved from wicked and evil people, for not everyone believes in the Lord. But the Lord is faithful; he will make you strong and guard you from the evil one. 2 Thes. 3:1-3

Beneath the surface of the routine of daily life, a fierce struggle among invisible spiritual powers is being waged. Our main defense is prayer that God will protect us from the evil one and that he will strengthen us.

The following guidelines can help you prepare for and survive satanic attacks:

- (1) Take the threat of spiritual attack seriously;
- (2) Pray for strength and help from God
- (3) Study the Bible to recognize Satan's style and tactics;
- (4) Memorize Scripture so it will be a source of help no matter where you are;
- (5) Associate with those who speak the truth; and
- (6) Practice what you are taught by spiritual leaders.

**We do not need to fear the man of sin.**

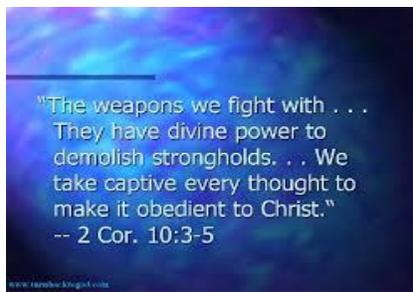
For he has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and he has brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. Col. 1:13

The Colossians feared the unseen forces of darkness, but Paul says that true believers have been transferred from:

Darkness to light,  
From slavery to freedom,  
From guilt to forgiveness, and  
From the power of Satan to the power of God.

Let the light of Christ shine in your hearts. We have been rescued from a rebel kingdom to serve the rightful King. Our conduct should reflect our new allegiance.

## **Chapter 9**



## **The man of sin hindered Paul's work.**

We wanted very much to come, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us. 1 Thes. 2:18

Satan is real. He is called “the god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4) and “the ruler of the kingdom of the air” (Ephes. 2:2). We don't know exactly what hindered Paul from returning to Thessalonica—opposition, illness, travel complications, or a direct attack by Satan—but Satan worked in some way to keep him away. Many of the difficulties that prevent us from accomplishing God's work can be attributed to Satan (see Ephes. 6:12).

## **What it means to give someone over to the man of sin.**

Hymenaeus and Alexander are two examples of this. I turned them over to Satan so they would learn not to blaspheme God.

1 Tim. 1:20

We don't know who Alexander was—he may have been an associate of Hymenaeus. Hymenaeus' error is explained in 2 Tim. 2:17-18. He weakened people's faith by teaching that the resurrection had already occurred.

Paul says that he handed Hymenaeus over to Satan, meaning that Paul had removed him from the fellowship of the church.

Paul did this so that Hymenaeus would see his error and repent. The ultimate purpose of this punishment was correction.

The church today is too often lax in disciplining Christians who deliberately sin. Deliberate disobedience should be responded to quickly and sternly to prevent the entire congregation from being affected.

But discipline must be done in a way that tries to bring the offender back to Christ and into the loving embrace of the church. The definition of discipline includes these words: strengthening, purifying, training, correcting, perfecting.

Condemnation, suspicion, withholding of forgiveness, or permanent exile should not be a part of church discipline.

### **How the man of sin is depicted in the book of Revelation.**

Suddenly, I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads.

His tail dragged down one-third of the stars, which he threw to the earth.

He stood before the woman as she was about to give birth to her child, ready to devour the baby as soon as it was born. Rev. 12:3-4

The enormous red dragon, Satan, has seven heads, ten horns, and Seven crowns, representing his power and the kingdoms of the World over which he rules.

The stars that plunged to earth with him are usually considered to be the angels who fell with Satan and became his demons.

According to Hebrew tradition, one-third of all the angels in heaven fell with Satan.

### **The work of the man of sin has become more intense.**

Rejoice, O heavens! And you, who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea. For the Devil has come down to you in great anger, and he knows that he has little time."

Rev. 12:12

### **The man of sin has two evil accomplices in end times.**

And now in my vision I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. Rev. 13:1

Because the beast, the antichrist, is a false messiah, he will be a counterfeit of Christ and will even stage a false resurrection (Rev. 13:14).

People will follow and worship him because they will be awed by his power and miracles (Rev. 13:3-4).

He will unite the world under his leadership (Rev. 13:7-8), and he will control the world economy (Rev. 13:16-17).

People are impressed by power and will follow those who display it forcefully or offer it to their followers. But those who follow the beast will only be fooling themselves: he will use his power to manipulate others, to point to himself, and to promote evil plans.

God, by contrast, uses his infinitely greater power to love and to build up.

Don't be misled by claims of great miracles or reports about a resurrection or reincarnation of someone claiming to be Christ.

When Jesus returns, he will reveal himself to everyone (Matthew 24:23-28).

### **The man of sin is released by God**

The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he would be released again for a little while. Rev. 20:3

### **The man of sin meets his doom in lake of fire.**

Then the Devil, who betrayed them, was thrown into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Rev. 20:10

Satan's power is not eternal—he will meet his doom. He began his evil work in mankind at the beginning (Genesis 3:1-6) and continues it today, but he will be destroyed when he is thrown into the lake of burning sulfur. The devil will be released from the Abyss ("his prison," Rev. 20:7), but he will never be released from the fiery lake. He will never be a threat to anyone again.

Pray to be released from the powers of the man of sin in order to bring glory to God.

**References:**

**Holy Bible: King James Translation**

**Holy Bible: New Living Bible translation.**

**Additional comments and charts are taken from:**

***Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print**