



ARE YOU
HINDERED
BY
SATAN?

Leslie Rendell

Title Page

Are You Hindered By Satan

Leslie Rendell

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To God Be The Glory

Dedication

To our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ—

Our Light in the darkness, our Rock of salvation, and the Author of our faith. May the words of this message bring glory to Your name and draw hearts ever closer to You.

Romans 11:36

"For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

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Introduction

Writing and recording a book about Satan is not what I really want to do. I do not want to give him any credit, praise, or worship. God, and God alone should receive these praises. So why do I write about Satan?

Satan is a very real being and has caused, and will continue to cause, a great deal of pain and suffering for the entire human race. It is essential we “know our enemy” if we are going to learn how to overcome his influence upon us.

In this modern day and age, is it practical to believe in Satan, or has he been relegated to history and plays no part in the affairs of the world?. This question needs to be addressed, because many people no longer believe he exists. And those who may believe he exists, do not see him as any sort of a threat to their welfare.

We need to understand who he is, what he has done in the past, what he is doing today, and what he plans to do in the future. He has a great deal more power than what most people

are aware of. So it is vital to know as much as possible about him. Only then can we avoid the traps he sets for us.

Satan is known by several other names, such as “The Devil”, or “The Evil One”, or “The Prince Of The Power Of The Air”. He is mentioned over 100 times in the Bible. So he definitely exists.

Therefore it is imperative we know how to resist this evil spirit and the attitudes he broadcasts through the air. Fortunately for us, God has given us the knowledge we need to defeat Satan. The knowledge on how to fight him is in Eph 6:10-17.

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Eph 6:13 Therefore take to yourselves the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Therefore stand, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness

Eph 6:15 and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Eph 6:16 Above all, take the shield of faith, with

which you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God,

All of these pieces of armour that we need to protect us from Satan are actually the word of God. If we learn from the bible what God expects from us, and we then do our best to live according to what we learn, we are putting on the full armour of God. And if we do this, then we will overcome the Devil and all of his powers with the power of Almighty God.

Satan was a created angel, but because of his great beauty, he became proud and puffed up in his own eyes. There was a time when Satan lived in the very presence of God and was highly honoured. Then pride was found in him and he sinned greatly against God. Therefore, God cast him out of Heaven to the earth where he is present and active even in this modern age. See how Satan was created and how he corrupted himself.

Eze 28:12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Eze 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

Eze 28:14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub,

for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

Eze 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

Eze 28:16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

Eze 28:17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

Satan is a created being, in verse 15 we see he was created perfect but then iniquity was found in him. This iniquity was pride, he admired his own beauty as we see in verse 17. Therefore, because of his sins God will destroy him when the time is right according to God's own time table.

Because this sinful nature was found in him, he became an enemy of God, and has been trying to replace God on His throne ever since. He regards himself as superior to God, but the time is coming, and soon, when he will be defeated by God, bound and placed into the pit. We can see his attitude, and his plans for a universal domination of everything, including God in the following verses of scripture.

Isa 14:12 How you are fallen from the heavens, O shining star, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!

Isa 14:13 For you have said in your heart, I will go up to the heavens, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.

Isa 14:14 I will go up above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.

It is Satan's plan to be worshipped. He even had the audacity to try to tempt Jesus to worship him. But Jesus rebuked him with the following words. "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

This pride that is a major characteristic of Satan is the opposite of our Lord's character. Jesus came as a human and was humble. Even though He had much greater power than Satan, He was content with being in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!". The contrast between Jesus and Satan could not be greater.

Most people who do believe in Satan only see him as the devil in charge of a place called Hell. But as we saw earlier he is roaming the world looking for ways to distract us from our Saviour Jesus Christ. This place called Hell has a very definite purpose as we can see in

Mat 25:41 Then He also shall say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.

Satan is usually pictured as a red and fiery beast in the minds of most people. Ugly and terrifying to look at. Not the

sort of figure you would want to be seen with. But Satan and his band of demons are normally portraying themselves as apostles, as leaders of churches, as this is the best way to influence members of the human race. He tries to look good so he can lead us away from the truth of God. This is revealed to us in.

2Co 11:13 For such ones are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 Did not even Satan marvelously transform himself into an angel of light?

2Co 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works.

One of the ways Satan disguises himself is to look like an angel of light. This is not the ugly red fiery beast we may picture him as. Satan knows that the less he looks like the Devil we perceive in our minds, then the more he remains “invisible” to us. The harder it is for us to recognise him for what he is, the better he likes it.

Who Is Satan

In this chapter we will look at who Satan is and some of the names he goes under.

In the book of 2Corinthians we see Satan given the title, “god of this world”. What does this mean?

First, we realize that God alone is in full control of everything. From the vastness of the universe to the minuteness of the smallest particle we can see. God is in ultimate control, and Satan can only do as much as God allows him to do.

If you have any doubts about this, then may I suggest you read the “Book of Job”. Here you can witness God permitting Satan to bring certain troubles to Job. But Satan could do only what God allowed.

The term “god of this world” is used only once in the entire bible. Let us read and examine this passage of scripture to see why this title is given to him.

2Co 4:1 Therefore since we have this ministry, as we

have received mercy, we do not faint.

2Co 4:2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor adulterating the Word of God, but by the revelation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

2Co 4:3 But also if our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those being lost,

2Co 4:4 in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving ones, so that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ (who is the image of God) should not dawn on them.

2Co 4:5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

2Co 4:6 For it is God who said, "Out of darkness Light shall shine;" who shone in our hearts to give the brightness of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Who are those who are perishing in verse three above? They are certainly not innocent victims. Satan's blinding of them has been made possible only because of the refusal of these people to believe in Jesus Christ.

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the Light, because their deeds were evil.

Joh 3:20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

These men loved the darkness where they thought they could hide their evil ways. They hated the light because this allowed others to see the works they carried out. Few people realise that Satan is causing “the whole world” to turn against the teaching of God and enticing them to follow the ways of the Devil. This truth is made evident in Rev 12:9.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, the old serpent called Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

In 2Cor 4:4 above, we see it is the minds of unbelievers that Satan has veiled from the truth. But he is also actively trying to influence the heart and thoughts of people. This is another reason he is called, “The prince of the power of the air”. Satan is powerful, and therefore he is called “The god of this age”. But notice the word god is spelled with a lowercase “g”. He can only blind those who will not believe.

Satan is the god of this world, just the same as Baal was the god to whoever worshipped him. He is not God in the real sense, because the earth is the LORD’S as we see in Psa 24:1.

Psa 24:1 Of David. A psalm. The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

Therefore, put your trust in the only true God of the Universe (not just the world) and worship Him only.

Telling lies is one of Satan’s greatest weapons against God’s chosen people. He is always using deceit to separate people from God. He uses ministers of false religions and cult

leaders to spread his lies for him. Lies such as “there is no God”, “God doesn’t care about you,” “the Bible cannot be trusted,” and one of his greatest lies is, “your good works will get you into heaven.” True Christians know this lie, they know it is only through faith in Jesus Christ that we will be saved. No amount of good works will save us.

We know Satan as the father of lies from Joh 8:44.

Joh 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan is also known as the accuser of God’s people as we see in.

Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

The influence Satan has had over this world for the last approximately six thousand years can never be under estimated. It was him who persuaded Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Therefore, by this deception he is responsible for the first sin against God, and for all sins ever since.

I must stress to all readers of this book, Satan is a

created being. Therefore, even though he has some amazing powers, they are vastly inferior to the power of God. In the previous chapter we read how Satan was created and the beauty he possessed. Then his fall from grace as the pride of his beauty overpowered him and then his disgrace and expulsion from “The Mount of God”. The one thing we can take from this is that God has always been in complete control, still is today, and always will be.

From the time Satan was thrown out of heaven, along with his band of demons who chose to follow him, he has attempted to oppose God in everything and to lead people into rebellion against God.

One of the biggest ways he brings havoc to us is via deception. If we do not see him as any sort of a threat, there is no reason to fear him and we are blinded to the ways he is bringing troubles into our lives.

He is very subtle and convincing. Look at how he deceived Adam and Eve into eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Even though God had told Adam very clearly that to eat of this tree was to surely die. But Satan told Eve that if she ate of the tree she would not die but would have knowledge of good and evil. Unfortunately Eve fell for this lie, So when they allowed Satan to influence them, they disobeyed God and ever since that time mankind has suffered at the hands of Satan and the lies he has us believe.

Satan has authority over those who are in Christ only when they give in to him and believe his lies. But we have the promise from God that Satan will be defeated and all his evil

works will be destroyed.

1Jn 3:8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

This is reinforced in the words from Joh12:31. Here we can see Jesus has triumphed over Satan by His sacrifice on the cross.

Joh 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world. Now the prince of this world will be cast out.

It is amazing how much misinformation about our adversary comes to us from the movie theatres. This is man's imaginations and no doubt influenced by Satan himself. This is why it is vital we seek the truth about him from the only reliable source of information that we can fully trust. The holy bible.

Satan has certain powers but they are infinitely less powerful than that of our Almighty God. We are informed in Jas 4:7 that the way to defeat Satan is to resist him by submitting ourselves to God. This verse also informs us what Satan will do if we submit ourselves to God. He will flee from us.

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Satan will continue to influence this world with his evil ways until Jesus returns in all power and glory. When He returns we see Satan bound with a great chain and cast into the

abyss. One thing to notice here is that it is not Jesus Himself who casts Satan into the abyss. No, it is an angel of God. So we can see here that Satan's power is overcome by an angel.

Rev 20:1 I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole inhabited earth, and bound him for a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut it, and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were finished. After this, he must be freed for a short time.

Satan has always been active in the world trying to influence us to sin and to draw us away from God. One of his names is "The Prince Of The Power Of The Air". And just like we can hear things sent out on radio waves. Satan can broadcast his attitude to anyone who is vulnerable to his thoughts, because they do not have God in their lives, The Devil is "Prince of the power of the air" and those he influence are the disobedient as we can see in Eph 2:2.

Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience;

These disobedient are being influenced by Satan to carry out his wishes and to commit every sin possible.

We are advised to put on the full armour of God that will protect us from Satan. This armour is the knowledge of God that we can only get from his written word, the bible.

We must learn all we can about our God and how He wants us to live. Overcome the powers of the Devil with the powers of Almighty God. The more we study God's holy scriptures the stronger our faith will become, and it is our faith that will give us the victory over Satan.

1Jn 5:4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

In the book of 1Peter we are given instructions on how to defeat Satan. We are told it will not be easy and we may have to suffer for a short time. But this suffering is not something new and is experienced by almost all Christians.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

1Pe 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1Pe 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1Pe 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1Pe 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you

strong, firm and steadfast.

1Pe 5:11 To him be the power for ever and ever.

Amen.

True Christians who are prepared to read and study their Bibles, know that Satan has a lot of influence over this world, and he is making things as difficult as possible for those who follow Christ.

There are many fictional characters in the world, some presumably that do good deeds like Superman, Wonder Woman, and Spider Man. Then there are the villains of the peace such as The Penguin, The Joker and Lex Luthor. Some people around the world base their lives around these make believe characters, and even though they know they are not real characters, they are still influenced by their heroes.

The sad thing is, that we have Satan, The father of all lies, who most people in the world (adults included and maybe even especially) do not believe he exists, or if they believe he exists, that he has no influence over their lives.

They do not see him as a threat, and he rarely enters their thoughts. If they believe in him, he is just a figure that dwells in a place called hell and is the main furnace stoker, and just waiting for God to send down anyone who dares to sin against Him.

To believe this lie is to completely under estimate who Satan really is. This lie is one that he is particularly happy with because it is one of the most successful of Satan's tactics is to keep himself as invisible as possible. The fewer people who

believe that he exists, the better that he likes it. He can do a lot more damage to the people God created in His image if they are not aware of his presence, because then he is underestimated, ignored or denied.

If we are not aware of his presence and tactics, then we may feel that we are in no need to protect ourselves from this unknown enemy. But he is a very real being and is also powerful. He can, and does, cause us a great deal of trouble and pain and goes to great lengths to lead us away from the truth and the proper knowledge and understanding of God.

Unfortunately, we know Satan and his demons will have success at leading people away from the truth of God. This will be all the more evident as we come closer to the end of this present age. This will be a time when Satan and his demon friends will be most active and will have great success in accomplishing their plans. We can read of this in 1 Timothy 4:1.

1Ti 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

So Satan draws people away from God by looking like the real deal, an apostle of Christ, while all the time he leads unwary people away from God. They will influence the many false apostles and ministers who will appear as the time of Christ's return draws near. They will say to the unwary just

what they want to hear, or as is written for us in 2 Timothy chapter 4 and verse 3.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

These people are not interested in the truth, but only in what they want to hear. They have their own beliefs and are not prepared to study God's word to see if what they believe is the truth or not. They would much prefer to listen to half-truths and lies as long as they sound good. Or as the saying goes. "Don't let the truth stand in the way of a wonderful story". Satan is so clever and scheming that it's difficult to tell the truth from his lies.

The only way a Christian will be able to tell what is a lie and what is the truth is, by being a student of the Bible. Daily study and prayer are the best means of protecting ourselves from Satan and his influence.

The influence Satan has in the world can be seen clearly in today's society. Just look at the gay and lesbian movement around the world. Some of these people still attend church services where they are accepted and believe that they are going to Heaven when they die. Their itching ears want to hear these lies, especially if they come from some ministers of religion. It does not matter what the "Word of God" says, just tell me what I want to hear.

His influence can be clearly seen in the teachings of the

modern church. The leaders of these institutions tell us all religions lead to Heaven. It does not matter what you believe, just as long as you are a good person. This is contrary to the words of God.

In this day and age it's difficult to believe that evil spirits exist, and are everywhere and influencing people. But we are warned in 1 John 4:1-4 that we must be on our guard against these evil spirits.

1Jn 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1Jn 4:2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

1Jn 4:3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

1Jn 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

As Christians we must be aware of the spirit of the Antichrist that has been in the world for hundreds of years, and is causing all of our troubles today. Therefore, as children of God we are to always be on our guard against Satan, the father of lies.

Satan's Plan

Satan, Lucifer, or the Devil, whatever name we may give him, has been trying to frustrate the plan of God from the very beginning. Starting in the Garden of Eden. Satan must have watched in awe and wonder as God created everything in 6 days. But Satan was puffed up with pride. He was created as a guardian cherub, but because of his beauty, he became proud and rebelled against God as we heard earlier in Eze 28:12-17.

In that passage of scripture, we saw Satan was created perfect, very wise, and perfect in beauty. He became very proud of who he was and of his beauty. Being proud and lofty is a sin against God. So God removed him from his position of authority and cast him to the earth.

During the 6 days God took to create the earth, Satan must have watched and listened to what God told Adam he would have heard God tell Adam he would surely die if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden as we see in Gen 2:15-17.

Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

Gen 2:17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Satan was jealous of God and wanted no more then to remove God from his throne. He saw an opportunity here to bring God's plans to nothing. He told Eve she would not die if she ate of the fruit but would instead know good and evil and would be like God himself. Eve believed this lie and ate of the fruit and also gave some to Adam. This is recorded in Gen 3:1-5.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Gen 3:2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,

Gen 3:3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

Gen 3:4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

Gen 3:5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Satan must have thought Adam and Eve would die immediately, he had not planned on them living for many more years and having children. This was no doubt a major disappointment for him. Adam live to be 930 years old. He and Eve had sons and daughters. So this was Satan's first attempt to disrupt God's plans, but he obviously failed, but he never gave up trying and even to this day he is still trying to overpower God. This has always been Satan's plan and he is still trying to accomplish this today. In the following chapters I will discuss how has has tried and failed in the past, and how he will try in the future and no doubt fail again.

The Temptation Of Jesus Christ

Satan was determined to stop God's plan any way he could. He was determined to prevent Jesus from fulfilling what He had come down to the earth to do. Herod learned from the Magi, or the wise men, when Jesus was born, So he ordered all children in Bethlehem who were under the age of 2 years to be killed. In doing this he hope Jesus would be among those killed. But Joseph had been warned to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt as we see in Mat 2:13-18.

Mat 2:13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

Mat 2:14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,

Mat 2:15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Mat 2:16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Mat 2:17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

Mat 2:18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

We know that Herod (no doubt influenced by Satan) tried to have the baby Jesus killed, but Joseph had moved his family to Egypt after being told to do this in a dream from God. Then all male children up to the age of 2 years old in Bethlehem, were killed on orders from Herod to try to destroy the Messiah.

In the previous chapters, we saw some of the arrogance of Satan as he plans to remove God from his throne and occupy it himself. This arrogance is even more evident when he attempted to get Jesus to worship him. As we know he failed miserably again, but he must have thought he had a chance, otherwise he would not have tried to corrupt Jesus.

After Jesus was baptized by John The Baptist, he spent 40 days out in the wilderness and was tempted many times by Satan. Jesus rebuked him every time with a passage from scripture, from what we call the old testament. The new testament had not yet been written.

Satan knew exactly who Jesus was, and also knew if he

could get Jesus to worship him instead of The Father, then he would have had a major victory over God. He failed in all of his endeavours. So great was his pride. He actually thought he could change the course of God's plans. Read how he tempted Jesus and how Jesus rebuked him every time with scripture from the old testament.

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Mat 4:2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Mat 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Mat 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Mat 4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

Mat 4:6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Mat 4:7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

Mat 4:9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Mat 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Mat 4:11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Satan was unable to persuade Jesus to bow down to him and have Him comply with his wishes. So again he failed to upset God's plans. But Satan was not about to give up even after this. He failed to turn Jesus away from God, so he had another plan in mind, and that was to have the promised seed, the Messiah, murdered on the cross.

We learn from Luk 22:3-4 that Satan influenced Judas to betray Jesus to the chief priests. This was how he was going to destroy the Messiah. Have him crucified.

Luk 22:3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

Luk 22:4 And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.

So Satan thought if he could have Jesus crucified, he would accomplish his plan.

So as we see in verse 3 above, he influenced Judas to betray Jesus and have him arrested, and we know the rest of the story, how Jesus was eventually crucified on the cross. Satan must have been very pleased with himself, probably gloating with his fallen angels about how he had finally destroyed God's plan.

I would love to have seen his face three days later when Jesus rose from the tomb, appeared to many people over the next 40 days, and then ascended back into heaven. God had actually used Satan to bring about his plan, so Satan must have been rather upset with this development.

The mission that Jesus set out to do was indeed accomplished. Right before He died His last words are recorded in Joh 19:30.

Joh 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

So the plan that God had for humanity was accomplished by Christ's death on the cross. Satan tried to interfere with God's eternal plan. But God actually used Satan to bring about what he had planned all along.

The Royal Line of the Messiah

The Human Race

We all know the story of the “Garden of Eden” and how God created humans in His own image and everything was perfect until Satan came on the scene and was successful in tempting Adam and Eve to sin.

Satan must have thought that if he could get the humans to eat of the tree of Knowledge of good and evil, then God would have no choice but to kill them. Satan believed this because He had heard God speaking to Adam and Eve and declaring they would die if they ate from the tree in the middle of the garden.

Gen 2:17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

This was Satan’s first mistake, he must have assumed that their deaths would be immediate and this would have been the end of humanity. But God allowed Adam and Eve to have children and multiply upon the earth, and only then did they die.

So humans continued, and Satan failed in his first attempt to scuttle God's plans.

When Cain killed Able, he probably thought he had a victory at last, but Adam and Eve had another son, Seth, who is a part of the royal family line right up to Jesus. This is recorded in the third chapter of Luke verses 23 to 38, where Christ's genealogy is traced right back to Adam and Eve, and in verse 38, at the end of the genealogy list we see Seth is named in the list.

Luk 3:38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Seth is in the line of ancestors of Jesus. Cain and Able were not. So Satan failed in his plan to end the royal line to Jesus. This royal line from Adam to Jesus was not broken, and Satan failed again in his plans.

By the time of Noah, humanity had sunk to an all-time low, no doubt influenced by Satan, and God was tempted to destroy all life on earth. This part of the story we can read about in Gen 6:5-13.

Gen 6:5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

Gen 6:6 The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

Gen 6:7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with

them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them."

Up to this point, Satan must have been feeling happy with himself and looking forward to seeing how God would accomplish the destruction of all human life from the earth. But he was not anticipating what was to follow starting in verse 8.

Gen 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Gen 6:9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

Gen 6:10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Gen 6:11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence.

Gen 6:12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.

Gen 6:13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

So God instructed Noah how to build the ark to save himself and the animals God wanted to save to repopulate the earth after the flood. Thankfully, Noah found favour with God, and built the ark. otherwise we would not be here today, but God decided to save Noah and his family, but to destroy the rest

of earth's population. So God sent a Flood to destroy the entire world, except for Noah and his family. So humanity was spared, and Satan's dream of humanity being totally destroyed failed again.

Now Satan has to bide his time and wait for another chance to upset God's plans.

Job's Temptation

Many people do not realize that Satan travels between Heaven and the Earth. He has had this ability from the time he was created. The day is coming, and maybe not that far away, when he will be kicked out of Heaven totally and never be able to return.

The book of Job makes it very clear that Satan can actually do this. This book also reveals to us that he can do no more than what God allows him to do. We know from the story of Job that Satan had to get permission from God to bring troubles to Job. Satan accused Job of only being loyal to God because God had given him so many blessings. God knew better than this, so He allowed Satan to bring many disasters on Job in an attempt to make him curse God. We also learn from this book that he could do only what God allowed. This proves to us that God has the ultimate power and Satan is restricted in everything he does.

We can read the story of Job and see how Satan can do nothing without God's permission. Job 1:6-12 explains this

very well.

Job 1:6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

Job 1:7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

Job 1:8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Job 1:9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.

Job 1:10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

Job 1:11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

Job 1:12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

We know that Satan then went out and took everything that Job had including all of his livestock and even had Job's children killed, so Job was left with nothing, everything he owned was taken away from him, this must have been a very low

point in Job's life, and he was wondering why these calamities had come upon him. But no harm came to Job himself.

Even with everything that Job held dear was taken away from him, he never cursed God or spoke a careless word against Him.

Then Satan again came before God again and claimed that Job would curse God, if he was personally afflicted. So God gave Satan permission to bring troubles onto Job personally, to try to make him curse God. But he was not given the power to kill Job, only to cause him as much grief as he could. We see this in Job chapter 2 and verses 6 and 7:

Job 2:6 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

Job 2:7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

So Satan could not do more to Job than what God allowed. His powers to harm Job were restricted, and it is still the same today in everything. Satan is permitted just so much power and influence over the world, but no more. Ultimately, God is in complete control.

After all of the troubles Job went through, God blessed him again and he was once again a very wealthy man and he had 10 more children to replace those Satan had killed. Read the following verse to see just how much God blessed Job.

Job 42:10 After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as

much as he had before.

Job 42:11 All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.

Job 42:12 The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys.

Job 42:13 And he also had seven sons and three daughters.

Job 42:14 The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch.

Job 42:15 Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

Job 42:16 After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation.

Job 42:17 And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

We can all learn from Job's experience. Yes, Satan is real and has a lot of power, but he can only do what God allows him to do.

The Jewish Nation

The next target of Satan was to destroy the nation of Israel. In Gen 12:1-3 God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many people and that the earth would be blessed because of him.

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

Gen 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

God promised that the descendants of Abraham would exist forever. If the nation that came from Abraham's descendants, Israel, were ever annihilated as a nation, then the Word of God would be untrue. It is for this reason that Satan

has paid special attention to Abraham's descendants even to this very day.

Book of Esther

In the Book of Esther, we have an example of the attempted destruction of the entire Jewish nation. This book was written between the years 331bc and 560bc by an unknown author. King Xerxes was looking for a new wife and chose Esther, a Jewess, to be his new queen. Mordecai was her uncle and guardian and had instructed Esther not to tell anyone she was a Jew.

At this time Mordecai heard of a plot to assassinate the king, he warned Esther of the plot who advised the king. The plot was uncovered and the men responsible were Hanged. After this, king Xerxes honoured a man called Haman to a higher rank than any other nobleman. He passed a degree that everyone was to bow down to him when ever he passed by. But Mordecai, being a Jew who only bowed down to God, refused to bow down to Haman.

This act of defiance infuriated Haman and he had the king sign a decree and send it to all parts of his kingdom to have all Jewish people destroyed! We read this is Est 3:12 to 14.

Est 3:12 Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name

*of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring.
Est 3:13 Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the
king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and
annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and
children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the
twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their
goods.*

*Est 3:14 A copy of the text of the edict was to be
issued as law in every province and made known to the
people of every nationality so they would be ready for
that day.*

Again, Satan must have thought that he had had a victory over God by having the entire Jewish population killed.

Haman's plan came unstuck when Queen Esther (who was Jewish) threw a banquet for the King and Haman, and then revealed to the King what Haman had planned for the Jewish people, and this would have included Esther as well. We can pick up the story from Est 7:1-6.

*Est 7:1 So the king and Haman went to Queen
Esther's banquet,*

*Est 7:2 and as they were drinking wine on the second
day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your
petition? It will be given you. What is your request?
Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."*

*Est 7:3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found
favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you,
grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my
people—this is my request.*

Est 7:4 For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king."

Est 7:5 King Xerxes asked Queen Esther; "Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?"

Est 7:6 Esther said, "An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

Haman did not know Esther was a Jew, otherwise he may have acted differently. But Mordecai had advise Esther not to tell anyone that she was a Jew. Haman was out to get revenge on Mordecai for not bowing down to him as he rode past on his horse. His plan was to rid the land of all Jews including Mordecai. His greatest mistake was in not realising who Esther was. So when Esther held the banquet for the King and for Haman, she pleaded for her own life and for the lives of the Jews as verses 3 and 4 tell us.

When Esther made it known to the king that she herself was a Jew. Haman must have started to fear for his own safety and no doubt he was now regretting the plot he had planned to have all Jews killed just for revenge on Mordecai.

Subsequently, Haman was hanged on the gallows he had purposefully built for Mordecai, and the decree to have the entire Jewish nation annihilated was reversed, therefore saving them all from destruction. So the Jewish nation is still with us today.

Even today we still see Satan trying his best to eliminate the Jewish Nation. Can you imagine what would have become of the Jews if Hitler had won the second world war. He had millions of Jews murdered in the gas chambers, but could not accomplish his ultimate aim of a total annihilation of the Jewish People.

Satan failed again.

King David is Tempted by Satan

Satan Blocks Paul

When we think of the Apostle Paul, we think of a person who has great faith, who performed miracles and was not afraid of the Pharisees, but was fearless in his spreading of the gospel. He is the author of about a third of the new testament. Yet he was still blocked by the power of Satan from going to visit the Thessalonians. We read in 1 Th 2:17-20.

1Th 2:17 But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.

1Th 2:18 For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way.

1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

1Th 2:20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

It is an amazing fact that even for Paul, with his ministry

and authority that he could be blocked by Satan and not just once, but as we read in verse 18, Paul wanted to go to the Thessalonians many times, but each time he was blocked by Satan. We do not know how Satan did this, but Paul attributes the fact that he could not visit the Thessalonians to something that Satan did to impede his visits.

Even though Paul could not visit them, he got his message to these people. Simply by writing them a letter. And this is where we can be very thankful that Satan did block Paul. Without him blocking Paul, we may have never had this letter written and preserved for us today. So Satan did us a good turn by his actions, and today we have this letter to the Thessalonians with its invaluable information in our Bibles.

Satan must really regret having blocked Paul and seeing Paul's letter spread further around the world. It is amazing how when Satan tries to stop something from happening, God will use Satan's efforts to bring about an even greater good.

But Paul obviously kept on trying to visit the Thessalonians, and, in the end, he was successful. By his persistence, he could remove Satan's blockade, and he eventually got to visit with the Thessalonians.

It seems Satan was desperately trying to keep Paul and his companions away from the new church at Thessalonica, maybe he thought since they were new and relatively weak, he may be able to destroy the church.

Satan has always had a fierce hatred of the gospel, or the good news, from being preached. He also hates to see good

Christian fellowship and this would be just another reason why he tried to stop Paul from visiting the Thessalonians. Satan wants to keep Christians apart from each other where they would become much easier prey for him and his demons to corrupt. He knows that together we are stronger than we are as individuals

Satan Detains the Angel

Satan delayed Paul from visiting the Thessalonians as we saw in the last chapter. In this chapter we will see how “The prince of the kingdom of Persia” delayed an angel as he was on his way to deliver a message to Daniel. This prince may be Satan himself, or one of his evil spiritual minions who wielded some sort of authority over Persia.

The angel was delayed by this prince for 21 days. It is interesting to note here that as soon as Daniel set his heart to understand what this vision meant, the angel was sent from God as verse 12 reveals to us. But he was detained for 21 days. He finally gets the help he needs from Michael, one of the chief princes so he can continue on his journey to Daniel.

We must always remember that our main fight is not against flesh and blood as we see every day around the world. Our fight is against the spiritual wickedness in high places as we see in Eph 6:12.

Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and

blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Daniel received a vision that troubled him a great deal and he spent 21 days in mourning as he tried to understand the vision recorded in Dan 10:3.

Dan 10:3 I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

Daniel was trying to understand what this vision meant for 21 days.

In the following section of scripture, we see Satan. “The prince of the kingdom of Persia”, trying to interfere yet again with God’s work. An angel, sent from God to Daniel the prophet to reveal to him part of the future was held up for twenty-one days, and only with the help of Michael, one of God’s mighty angels, was the angel able to continue to Daniel with the message he was given by God.

Dan 10:10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

Dan 10:11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

Dan 10:12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to

gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

Dan 10:13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

Dan 10:14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

We can see from these chapters that Satan had the power to delay both Paul and this angel. Therefore, we must understand that he also has some power over Christians today to try to divert the work of God. He will try to divide us and do all he can to draw us away from our Lord. It is up to us to keep close to Jesus through regular prayers, bible studies and helping our fellow man wherever we can.

Satan Hinders Christians

If Satan could block Paul, then how much more will he be able to block us from doing what we know to be right? It is a fact that if we expect success in our Christian lives, then we should also expect to hear some rumbling from Satan in the background trying to block us.

Our path to the Kingdom is fraught with many trials and temptations. We have never been told our path would be easy, but in fact, the very opposite is true. We are told to expect troubles of all kinds in this world.

When we conclude that whatever is hindering us is from Satan, then what can, and should we do? We should do as Paul did. We should continue on our path towards our calling in God as the Holy Spirit enables us, regardless of what Satan tries to do to derail us from our destination. To stop is to give in to Satan. To continue is to please God.

I believe that when the Devil is quiet and not causing us any trouble. Then this is probably a sign that we are not doing

much to upset him. But when we are being slandered, and the world seems to hate us, and our names are mud to the rest of the world, then we must be doing something that upsets Satan.

We cannot do anything good and worthwhile to advance the gospel, and not expect opposition from our enemy. So when we feel that hindrance from Satan, we must expect to have a fight on our hands, and then we will not be disappointed. If we go through a full year with no resistance from Satan, then he probably thought that we were not worth the effort and he would find someone else worth attacking.

We must preach the gospel of Jesus Christ with all of our strength, soul and might. We can be certain if we do this we will be hated by the rest of the world. That should not worry us, it is a sure sign Satan is trying to hinder us.

We must be aware of the fact that Satan is always on the lookout for people to draw away from God. It is his ambition to destroy everything that is of God as we see in the following verse.

1Pe 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

If there is one lesson to learn from this book, then this is it. Satan is a past master at using people and circumstances to alter the path God has set out for you. John Calvin said it very well when he said. "Whenever the ungodly cause us trouble, they are fighting under the banner of Satan, and are his instruments for harassing us."

Naturally, these people will not realise they are under Satan's banner, but that does not change the fact that they are.

There will be times in your life when you may feel compelled to speak to someone. To do a certain service for a friend or neighbour. But you do not do it. This may just be Satan's way of obstructing you. This is when you must learn to resist Satan.

Satan Attacks the Church

So the plan of God has been accomplished this far despite all the efforts and strategies that Satan used to stop Him. And today we see the Church is still spreading the gospel of Jesus around the world. So now we see Satan attacking the church and using his fallen angels masquerading as ministers of light and drawing many people away from the truth. But there is still some who follow Christ faithfully, so again Satan has failed, but the church must be on its guard, especially as the end draws near because this is when Satan will be at his most powerful and will do his level best to destroy Christ's church.

In Revelation, we see how Satan is hurled to the earth and is then intent on destroying the church. Recorded in.

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."
Rev 12:13 When the dragon saw that he had been

hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

Rev 12:14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

Rev 12:15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

Rev 12:16 But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

Rev 12:17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

So far we see Satan has tried to destroy the human race. After failing this he turned his attention to the Messiah's promised line from Adam through to the birth of Jesus. Then he attempted to destroy God's chosen people, the Jewish nation. Next, he targeted the mission of Jesus on the earth, and then we see he is still actively pursuing the Church that Jesus established. In all of his planning and scheming Satan has failed to stop God's plan, he has lost, and Jesus has defeated him and his demons at every turn.

So Satan's target today is to destroy the church. He will attempt to do this by masquerading as an angel of light and deceiving people into believing false doctrine, and as the end

time draws near his powers will increase, and he will perform many amazing deeds that will convince many people throughout the world that his powers are from God, or that he is indeed God. He wants to entice us all away from following Jesus, and he will do everything that he can to accomplish this. We must always remember that we are fighting against an enemy we cannot see and whose presence we cannot feel.

Therefore, we are advised to put on the full Armour of God as described in Ephesians. Putting on the full Armour of God simply means having a faithful relationship with Jesus. In Romans 13:14 Paul tells us to “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”, This is the same as putting on His Armour. When we give ourselves to Jesus and “put on” His righteousness, we are clothed in the whole armor of God.

If we do this, then we are righteous in the eyes of God, and if this is the case then we must be able to say what Paul wrote in 2Tim 4:7-8

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2Ti 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

When these times of trouble arrive (and they most definitely will) then the Christians living at that time will need to have the courage and faith to resist Satan and his demons. They must not shy away from danger, but remain loyal to God as instructed in.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

And again in

1Co 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

This will certainly be a time of testing, when Christians will have to choose who to follow. Trust God enough to die for their convictions, or give up the race halfway through and suffer the consequences.

The battle that Satan is waging is a very real one, even though it is a very one sided battle, he will never give up his ambitions to tip God off His throne, he just does not know when he has been beaten.

Satan is very active in the world today and is attacking the church in 2 ways. First he attacks from the inside while at the same time attacking the church from the outside. Satan actively attacks the church from the inside by introducing false teachings. This is made evident to us in 1Ti 4:1-2.

1Ti 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

1Ti 4:2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

Notice it is in the “latter days” that some will depart from the truth by following the doctrines of devils and seducing spirits who will speak the lies of hypocrisy. This truth is also revealed to us in 2Co 11:14-15.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

These ministers of Satan, ministers of false doctrines who speak lies of hypocrisy are active in churches today. We see cults forming and large churches teaching just what their congregations want to hear, not necessarily the truth, but only what their “itching ears” want to hear. One of the greatest lies they spread is that of a pre-tribulation rapture. Many of the large churches spread this false teaching because it is what their people want to hear, and since they are the ones supporting these churches financially, the pastors say what they want to hear.

Satan’s attacks from the outside of the church are by the non believers and the woke people who are persecuting the church simply because they do not believe in God, and they insist we all follow the liberal teachings of the world. They insist we accept people regardless of what they believe or how they live their lives. They do not see anything wrong with sins simply because they do not believe in God.

Satan leads the Whole World Astray

The vast majority of Christians who actually believe in Satan never consider he may have access to Heaven. But if you read the book of Job, you will see he can come before God.

Job 1:6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

Job 1:7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

But there is a time still to come when he can no longer move between Earth and Heaven. He will be cast out of Heaven permanently and he will come down to Earth with great wrath. He will seek anyone he can hinder from doing God's will. We see in verse nine below he is described as "the deceiver of the entire world."

Rev 12:7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and

his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Rev 12:8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

Rev 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

Rev 12:11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

Again, in Rev 20:2, Satan is portrayed as he who "deceived the whole inhabited earth."

Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Then comes some sound advice from Jesus in Mat 24:4.

Mat 24:4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one

deceives you.

Those who will lead you astray are anyone who will try to divert you away from the will of God. When you know you should do good for someone, but decline for any reason. This is when you are being led astray.

Satan is Targeting Man's Free Will

One of the greatest blessings God has given to mankind is also the one that Satan will use to attack us, and to draw us away from our God. From the very beginning, God gave Adam and Eve free will to make their own choices. So when the serpent told Eve she could eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and not die, she believed him and made her own choice to eat of the forbidden fruit. Yes, Satan tempted her, but in the end she ate of the fruit, and so did Adam. It was their own free will to do this.

God could have prevented this from happening, but then their free wills would have been taken away from them. They would have been forced to comply with God's wishes. But God did not intervene because He wants all people to come to Him, to love, worship and to obey Him of their own choosing. He will force none of us to do what is right. We make that decision for ourselves, exactly the same way Adam and Eve had to make their own decisions.

Obviously, having this same free will is going to leave

us open to make mistakes the same way Adam and Eve did. But God will have it no other way. If He set up and forced us to live within certain boundaries that we must comply with, then He would have just created another herd of cows, sheep, goats or any other animal He created. Each living by certain laws God created for their particular type of animal. Each after its own kind was recorded for us in.

Gen 1:25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Let us take one example from the animal world. Sheep can only do what all sheep do. They cannot do any of the amazing things God created humans to do. They have a very set way to live and have no free will to change their circumstances. And as Gen 1:25 tells us, each will behave according to its kind. It is only humans who have is amazing free will that allows us to pursue different things in our lives.

So how does Satan use our free will against us?

The first thing to keep in mind is that Satan is not only very real, but he also has great power. Unfortunately, many people do not think he is real, or that he may have some sort of sway over their lives. They see him as powerless and unable to influence anyone. This is exactly what he wants us to believe. If we do not see him as a threat, he can continue to draw us away from God without our even being aware of his presence. But he is real and wants nothing more than to corrupt humans. Read about his presence and his plan in the following words from

God's Bible.

Job 1:7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

Also in.

1Pe 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

In these two verses, we plainly see two very important details. First, Satan roams over the entire earth, and second, he is looking for people to devour. This means people to corrupt and draw away from God. So now let us look at how he does this.

Satan certainly understands the enormous power contained within our "free will". He used his own free will when he and his demons first rebelled against God. His pride made him make the wrong decisions and now he is determined to take over God's throne.

In this current time, we face an enormous amount of distractions designed to draw us away from God. I will name but a few here and leave you all to add whatever you like.

Lets us start with football in all of its different formats, soccer, grid iron and Aussie rules. How many people would much rather watch one of these sports, whether in person or on the television, than to study the Bible? The number would be in

the multiple millions, and I dare to suggest it will actually be in the billions. Now consider how many other sports will accomplish Satan's task of drawing people away from God. Every sport has its own band of regular followers who "religiously" follow their teams.

Please note here that I am not advocating that all sport is wrong. It is only wrong if it consumes all of your spare time and leaves no time for God. Sport is a healthy pastime, but it should never interfere with your time with God. Nor am I saying you should study the word of God every spare hour you have. You need to strike a healthy balance between the two. But your time with God should always be more important to you than anything else.

Next, we need to see how many of us will be distracted through our work. This one is a bit more difficult, as some are forced to work long hours just to survive. Finding time for God is not so easy when your family depends on your income so much. But there are many others who work long hours simply for the money, and for what it can buy for their own pleasures. There are many people who would rather be at work than try to get to know their God.

In this modern age, we have one of the greatest distractions of all. The one we call "social media". This one is anything but social and is one area where there is an inordinate amount of evil. The poisonous comments left on other peoples face book pages are shocking, and there are many people who spend most of their days trolling these pages to find someone to disagree with.

The Internet is a fantastic place to find just about any information you want to broaden your mind. But again, people waste their time as they search for the wrong things.

Even church will draw people away from God. This may sound like a contradiction, but there are churches who teach heresy and the teaching of men rather than the word of God. Satan is more than happy to use this as a distraction from the truth. Consider the following passage of scripture.

2Co 11:13 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2Co 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2Co 11:15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

Satan will do whatever it takes to entice you away from God and the amazing reward you will get if you stay loyal to Him. He is even happy to look like he is a religious leader as long as he can inject heresy and false teachings along the way. We are instructed to resist the devil, and the only way we can do this is by seeking knowledge and understanding from the scriptures. There is no other way.

We all have our own free will for how we will spend our time. It is our choice to watch sport, work harder than we should just to earn more money. We can spend hours every day on computers to find someone we can disagree with and leave evil comments on their pages. Or we can use any spare time

to get to know God from His written word, the Bible.

This is a decision we must all make for ourselves. I sincerely hope you choose to spend time in God's words. There is a great deal to learn, so do not be discouraged, but learn a little every day and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The Good News

I could not possibly end the book here without some encouraging words from the bible. Satan has great power and is using it to influence us all away from God. He may be known as the prince of this world, but Jesus Christ is “THE KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS”. He has the ultimate power in the universe.

We know from the book of Jeremiah that God has good plans for us as we see in.

Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jer 29:12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Therefore, if you want to defeat Satan, all you need to do is to put on the full armour of God. This will not always be an easy

task to do as you will get a great deal of opposition from your family, friends, and these days even from Governments and churches. It may sound strange to say some opposition will come from within the church, but there is a great deal of heresy creeping into the modern-day church. How many churches accept gay and lesbian couples into their fellowship, or condone the murder of children in the womb?

These practices we must steer clear of and always conform to what God expects from us, and not conform to the ways of this world. To defeat the tactics of Satan we must remember.

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Do not seek God half-heartedly, but seek him with your whole heart. This is the only way to resist Satan, and to be sure you are not being hindered by him. This world is full of distractions designed to draw us away from God. One last piece of advice I can give you is from Rom 12:1-2.

Rom 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Rom 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Resist the Devil

Conclusion

Satan is referred to in the Bible as the “Prince of the Earth” and also as “the prince of the power of the air”. He has much power here on the Earth. But remember, Jesus Christ is “THE KING OF KINGS and THE LORD OF LORDS.”

Therefore, he trumps Satan in all things. He is the ultimate power and authority. And when he returns, which will be soon, Satan will be bound and put into a pit where he can no longer influence anyone.

So, put your faith in Jesus Christ who is “forever”. Resist Satan, who is temporary.

Deu 4:29 But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deu 4:30 When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him.

Deu 4:31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God;

he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.

Seeking God with your whole heart is the only way to be sure you are not being hindered by Satan. So trust Almighty God and believe him and in the many promises he has made to all of us in his holy scriptures.

About The Author

Leslie Rendell is a devoted believer in God, whose faith is the foundation of his life and work. He holds the firm conviction that the Bible is the ultimate source of truth, surpassing all human wisdom, opinions, and teachings. For Leslie, no doctrine or interpretation from any man—regardless of status or influence—can ever take precedence over the inspired Word of God.

His writings are the product of his own diligent research and personal study, undertaken not to conform to popular thought, but to deepen his own understanding of biblical truths. Leslie does not rely on external sources or human interpretations; instead, he turns solely to the Scriptures for guidance, allowing God's Word to speak for itself. Every topic he explores is examined through the lens of the Bible, ensuring that his work remains free from the influence of human tradition or denominational bias.

Leslie's desire is not to impose his own views but to encourage others to seek the truth within the pages of the Bible. His hope is that his writings will inspire readers to

engage in their own scriptural study, leading them to a deeper, more personal relationship with God.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Bibliography

All scriptures quoted in this book are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

The King James Version (KJV) occupies a unique and revered position in the history of Christian scripture, often regarded by its advocates as the most accurate and faithful English translation available. Commissioned by King James I of England and first published in 1611, the KJV was the result of the collaborative effort of 47 distinguished biblical scholars, all highly proficient in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. These scholars approached their task with deep reverence, striving to preserve the integrity of God's Word while rendering it in a majestic and poetic style that has profoundly shaped both Christianity and English literature.

One of the reasons many consider the KJV superior is its reliance on the Textus Receptus manuscripts for the New Testament, which were widely regarded as reliable by scholars of that era. Advocates of the KJV often argue that modern translations deviate from these ancient texts and incorporate contemporary interpretations that risk diminishing the Bible's

original meaning. Additionally, the language of the KJV, though more complex than that of modern translations, is praised for its precision, reverence, and reflection of the sacred nature of Scripture.

The historical impact of the KJV on English-speaking Christian communities further underscores its importance as a foundational text. For those who value both doctrinal fidelity and linguistic beauty, the King James Bible continues to be a cherished and authoritative version of Scripture.