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## The Ruler of This World

*Gospel of John, Part XXXXII*

John 12:31-32

Stuart W. Bryan

### I. The God of this Age (2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2)

While Satan is the “*god of this age*” (2 Cor 4:4), some Christians speak of Satan as though he were the ruler of the world: Satan is in charge, things are progressing from bad to worse, and the only hope Christians have is to be raptured out. Is this true?

### II. The Lord Reigns (cf. Ps 99:1-5)

### III. Principalities and Powers

#### A. Held Captive (cf. Dt 32:16-17; Dan 10:12-13, 20; Mt 4:8-9; 2 Tim 2:24)

God chose to hand mankind over to Satan after we rebelled against Him in the garden. We became slaves and sons of the devil, subject to his authority. In their folly and unbelief, our fathers called these principalities and powers “\_\_\_\_\_”:

*[Israel] provoked God to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. <sup>17</sup> They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear. (Dt 32:16-17)*

In the OT period, God left the nations largely in ignorance of His power, subject to various demonic beings that the nations worshiped as “*gods*.” This is confirmed during Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. Matthew tells us that Satan showed Jesus “*all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And [Satan] said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me’*” (Mt 4:8-9).

#### B. Glad Tidings! (cf. Gen 3:15; Is 42:1-9; 52:7)

Nevertheless, God promised that one day He would break the power of Satan and his demonic forces. This promise began in the garden: one day *the Seed of the Woman would crush the head of the seed of the Serpent*. That prophecy was clarified over the years.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it [Creator], Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it [Sustainer]: <sup>6</sup> “I, the LORD, have called You [the Messiah] in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, <sup>7</sup> To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. <sup>8</sup> I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. <sup>9</sup> Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.” (Is 42:1-9)

## IV. The Messianic Kingdom

### A. Falling like lightning

#### 1. Binding the Strong Man (Mt 12:28-29)

*“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.”* (Mt 12:28-29)

#### 2. Destroying the Works of the Devil (Lk 10:18-20; Hb 2:14; 1Jn3:8)

*And [Jesus] said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”* (Lk 10:18-20)

Paul likewise announces the devil’s defeat in Hebrews 2:14-15:

*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, [Jesus] Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

#### 3. Disarming the Principalities and Powers (Col 2:15)

Paul describes this in Colossians 2:15 - *Having \_\_\_\_\_ principalities and powers, [Jesus] made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in [the cross].* Whereas the *principalities and powers* once had power over the nations, God has now through the cross broken their power. The Light has come.

### B. Times of Ignorance (Mt 28:18-20; Acts 17:30; 26:17-18)

So who is the Ruler of this world? \_\_\_\_\_ once was. But now Satan has been cast down, he has been dethroned. Jesus has wrested power over the nations from the hands of the Evil One. \_\_\_\_\_ is now the Ruler of this world.

So notice the great hope this should give us for the future of the Gospel in the world. Jesus spells out this hope. *And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.* Jesus will bring all the nations to worship and to serve Him.

## V. Conclusion