

The Devil Is No Fairy

Like most people, as a youngster I had little knowledge about Satan or demons, beyond stories of witches and hobgoblins who had afflicted the area in history (The Pendle Witches), but then at school, I was introduced to a famous poem by Milton called Paradise Lost. Now, for the first time I learned of the audacious, awesome attempt of a group of rebellious angels to defeat the Almighty and wrest control of the universe. The scope and seriousness of this carefully planned revolt was staggering to me, and it was ironic that I learned of it from a poet, rather than from the Methodist Church, which I attended every Sunday.

For the first time, I was introduced to knowledge of a spiritual universe, a parallel world which we can't see, but which threatens our existence. What amazed me was the spiritual infrastructure, the ranks of fallen angels or demons and their planning and discussions, all designed to overcome God's Plan to replace them with humans who would have the potential to gain immortality, and membership in God's family.

It was not until some years later that I learned of the Biblical source of the poem, Isaiah 14:12-14, *'How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.***

Lucifer was one of three arch-angels, top ranking spirits close to God. Ezekiel 28:12-15, *'Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. **Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.***** Along with Gabriel and Michael, Daniel 8:16, *'And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, **Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision**'.*

Jude 1:9. *'Yet **Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.***

The revolt failed, and those angels became demons here upon the earth, led by the fallen archangel Lucifer, now re-named Satan. (adversary, or accuser). Down here they may be, but Satan still has great power, position and authority. Christ spoke of him as the prince of this world, John 14:30, *'Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.'* Elsewhere, he is referred to as the great deceiver, and even a god. 2 Corinthians 4:4, *'In whom the **god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*** Revelation 12:9, *'And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, **which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.***

God is all knowing and can travel through space and time. He knows the end from the beginning, Isaiah 46:10, *'Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, **My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.*** He could use Satan within His Plan to weed out those not qualified to take part in the 1st resurrection, and become the Bride of

Christ, Revelation 19:7, *'Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.'*

Satan, and his demons are here, and they are working to defeat the Plan of God, but God only allows them success with those who fail to obey Him, Ephesians 2:1-2, *'Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.'*

Satan is not concerned with the world. He already has them, but we who have been begotten by God's Spirit into the family of God, he hates above all, reminding him of what he has lost. 2 Timothy 3:1, 13, *'This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.'* And 1 Timothy 4:1, *'Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.'*

If you determine to obey and seriously seek God and His way, you cannot be reached by Satan, James 4:6-7, *'But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.'*

That is because, if you have repented, been baptised, and received God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), you may be clad with armour. Spiritual armour, Ephesians 6:11-18, *'Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.'*

And brethren you will need it. Satan has already entered into and corrupted most of the Churches of God. At the one extreme we have those who have given away all that they ever knew, even God's identifying sign – 'Church of God'. At the other extreme are those groups who have built the idol of man worship, hierarchy and idolatry within God's Church.

Ezekiel 8:1-6, *'And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me. 2Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber. 3And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy. 4And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain. 5Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar **this image of jealousy in the entry.** 6He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, **that I should go far off from my sanctuary?** but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.'*

To look to any man as infallible, is idolatrous, but it is the most common affliction in God's Church, and it emanates from Satan just as surely as his spiritual 'broadcast' has reached into the church, diverting many from God's word to accommodate the culture of the age we live in at the other extreme.

Each of us has our 'Achilles heel', some weakness in our character which provides that chink in our spiritual armour which Satan will make his target. Be aware of your weakness and work to overcome it, for Satan will tempt you there for sure, 1 Peter 5:8, *'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.'*

Fight him with your sword, which as we saw in Ephesians 6 is the Word of God. Only by staying close to His Word, immersing ourselves in it from day to day, and becoming aware of the predicted events before they occur, *for it is not by accident that God's word is replete with prophecy about the End-Time*, that we will know what to expect of this coming most dangerous time in earth's history – the last few years before Christ's return. Revelation 12:7-9, 12, *'And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ...12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.'*

When that time comes, make sure you know how to place yourself in the category described in Revelation 12:14, *'And to the woman [the church] were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.'* You don't want to be among those, the vast majority of 'Christians' who experience the last 3 ½ years before Christ's return – the Great Tribulation, verse 17, *'And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'*

Those days will be so dark and evil – so full of the presence of demons, that people will desire to die to escape the pain, Revelation 12:9, *'And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.'* And 9:1-6, *'And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.'*

Many, who have allowed themselves to be separated from the pure word of God now, will repent then, with all their heart, Revelation 7:14, *'And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'* And many will perish, still looking forward to a promised future, verse 15, as special servants of God, *'Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.'*

But this will not be during the millennium – the one thousand years, because only 144,000 saints actually take part in the resurrection, at the return of Christ for His Saints, described in the **previous** chapter, Revelation 6. These repentant Christians left it too late, by allowing the church to replace their one on one relationship with God. Revelation 14:1-4, *'And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [Greek – 'bought from the men'] being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.'*

Ultimately though, Satan's reign does end. The dominion of darkness, which came to fruition during the last 7 years, is over at Christ's final return with His Saints. Revelation 18:1-2, *'And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.'* And 20:1-2, *'And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, **which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.'***

The corrupt, vast spiritual infrastructure is gathered together and cast into the bottomless pit.

Let's make sure that we not asleep to the threat of its subtle influence, which has already taken over so many of the churches, where they are found, 2 Timothy 3:5, *'having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.'* *ESV.*