



Destroy the works of Evil!

Our job is to take Dominion?



“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light” (Gen 1:3). These are the first spoken

words that came out of the mouth of Almighty God! Likewise, when a human cries out “Hallelujah” (*Praise ye the LORD*), the Hebrew root word “halal” (*haw-lal'*) cries out for light!

Hal ^l uw	Yaah
הַלְלוּ	יְהוָה
1984	3050
Praise ye	the LORD

Essentially (*haw-lal'*) means to let light shine out of darkness! We can begin by getting the concept that (*haw-lal'*) means to shine; fundamentally in the mouth of a human it means to make a show, or to boast; it usually means to be **uproariously foolish in celebration** (*David (haw-lal')—ed joyously before the Ark of God as he danced uncovered when the ark was carried by the priests into Jerusalem!*)

The ancient patriarch Job used the word (*haw-lal'*); he harkened back to God’s sweet presence in his earlier life, “**When** his candle **shined** (*haw-lal'*) upon my head, and when by **his light** I walked **through darkness**” (Job 29:3). The first time that we observe (*haw-lal'*) in the scripture that word is used to describe Abram’s wife Sarai, “And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they **praised** her (*made her to shine*)” (Gen 12:15).

The Biblical concept is that there is an essence known as light, which always overcomes the darkness! Nevertheless, darkness has a strong hold over humanity, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19). When we consider deeply, we learn from the Apostle John that in the same way that light is the essence of God, darkness is the essence of evil. The Apostle James describes an interesting consequence as a result of the fall of man known as the works of evil, “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and **every evil work**” (James 3:14-16)! Jesus discussed these same malevolent results from evil, “The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil” (John 7:7). Sin and disobedience always result in evil works!

Paul depended upon and he even trusted that the Lord would deliver him from every work of evil, “And the Lord shall deliver me **from every evil work**” (2 Tim 4:18). What are these works of evil? Even more important; what are we supposed to do about these evil works? Are we simply supposed to tolerate and put up with these evil works of darkness?



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Obviously, a fallen unseen spirit world exists; this invisible world produces evil works in the earth. The main question is,

“How are we supposed to deal with these works of darkness?”

Let's Review Biblical Passages Involving Works of Evil:

Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself **to work evil** in the sight of the LORD” (1 Kings 21:20)

Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against **the workers of iniquity**. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb” (Ps 37:1-2)

“Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. 4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with **men that work iniquity**: and let me not eat of their dainties” (Ps 141:3-4)

This verse is not intended in exactly this meaning; however, the underlying concept is true,” For rulers (*those taking dominion*) are not a terror to good **works**, but **to the evil**” (Rom 13:3);

“the **works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal 5:19-21).

“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, **that he might destroy the works of the devil**” (1 John 3:8)

“Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because **his own works were evil**, and his brother's righteous” (1 John 3:12);

“For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance. 15 But judgment shall return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it. 16 Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will **stand up** for me **against the workers of iniquity**? 17 Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. 18 When I said, My **foot** slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up” (Ps 94:14-18)

The Bible teaches that only human beings are authorized to bring the earth under subjection, “The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but **the earth hath he given to the children of men**” (Ps 115:16)! From that verse we understand that the earth belongs to the human race! The Book of Hebrews teaches that man was made to exercise dominion or rulership over the physical works from God's hands, “Thou madest him (*mankind*) . . . and didst set him over the works of thy hands” (Heb 2:7). Notice however, that man was made to **govern**; we can clearly see this important Biblical principle in the Psalms, “For thou hast made him (*mankind*) . . . and hast **crowned him with glory and honour**. 6 Thou **madest him to have dominion** . . . thou hast **put all things under his feet**” (Ps 8:5-6). What does it mean that He (*God*) “**put all things** under his” (*humanity's*) feet?



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With the understanding that there are evil works promoted by the fallen spiritual realm, lets notice how King David characterized the Biblical concept of subjugation of his adversaries; in particular, notice David's figurative use of the feet, "Thou hast enlarged my ***steps under me***; so that ***my feet*** did not slip. 38 I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them. 39 And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen ***under my feet***" (2 Sam 22:37-39). David was so moved by the experience of subjugating his enemies that he wrote the eighteenth Psalm, "I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: ***so shall I be saved from mine enemies***. 4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. 6 In my distress I called upon the LORD . . . He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and ***darkness was under his feet***" (Ps 18:3-9). In the context David had just been delivered from his enemies including King Saul. David went so far as to envision the LORD reigning over his problems, "He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and ***darkness was under his feet***" (2 Sam 22:10). In His dominion God even held the very darkness under His feet!

King Solomon recognized this same concept that it is only God who subdues those who work iniquity, "Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until ***the LORD put them under the soles of his feet***" (1 Kings 5:3). Notice that Solomon recognized that it was the LORD who "***put them under the soles of his feet!***" In other words, Solomon described that David went through the motions; however, it was the LORD who caused the subjugation of his enemies. We learn from this that God works through earthly kings such as us, "And hath ***made us kings*** and priests" (Rev 1:6). Notice that this same method as described by King Solomon is precisely the way that the LORD will function in the process of seizing back the earth's dominion from our enemies, "For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King ***over all the earth***. (*The key point to realize here is that God reigns over the earth.*) 3 ***He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet***" (Ps 47:2-3). Remember that we earlier noted the indisputable truth that rulership of the earth belongs to humanity "***the earth hath he given to the children of men***" (Ps 115:16); however, just as indisputably we have read from Psalm 47 that, "he is a great King ***over all the earth!***" Therefore, the confluence or combination of these two different ideas means that the LORD is not planning to physically come down and snatch dominion from the devil; rather, He rules from heaven through those kings in the human family who will submit themselves under His overall authority!

Here is an important point that is especially valid for us today; we must realize that whenever Jesus entered into battle with satan, He used the written Word of God in His mouth as His main weapon! Our master instructed us to engage in battle against the devil, "***Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder***: the young lion and the dragon ***shalt thou trample under feet***" (Ps 91:13). Now who is the ***lion***, ("*your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion*") (1 Peter 5:8) the ***adder*** and the ***dragon***, "***the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan***" (Rev 12:9). Jesus' words ought to give us great cause to rejoice, "Behold, ***I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions***, and



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over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:20)! We need to realize that

when we engage in battle with the devil, we actually use our mouths to trample on the power of the enemy. It should encourage and reinforce our resolve to resist satan who has no real ability to work in our lives; Jesus “was manifested, that **he might destroy the works of the devil**” (1 John 3:8)!

Lets observe how Jesus battled against satan using the words of His mouth! Notice the exchange, “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted of the devil**. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3 And when **the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God**” (Matt 4:1-3). Notice the distrustful undertone that satan interleaved in his question, “**If thou be the Son of God!**” This was essentially a “word test” based upon what forty days earlier had been spoken to Jesus, “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt 3:17). Jesus received the “word” from heaven concerning whom He was; however, the devil came to test that word, “but **when they have heard**, Satan cometh immediately, and **taketh away (steals) the word that was sown in their hearts**” (Mark 4:15). The devil began by expressing doubt on Jesus’ divinity! Jesus was urged to cast Himself down in a test of God’s word to see if God actually meant what He said concerning His offspring. Satan tried to mislead or beguile Jesus using scripture, “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone” (Ps 91:11-12). But notice Jesus’ retort, “And Jesus answering **said** unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” (Luke 4:12). Here Jesus used the words of Scripture to do battle against the devil!

In like fashion, our mouth is the most important tool that we can make use of during every “word test.” Whenever we speak doubt, we naturally receive its resulting unproductive outcome as influenced by our own words! On the other hand, when we speak faith, even against overwhelming evidence contrary to everything that we see, then we experience the result of our faith-based words. In times like these, we begin to act like our father, “even God, who quickeneth the dead, and who **calleth those things which be not as though they were**” (Rom 4:17). We should expect that we will receive “word tests;” therefore we need to settle them right now in our hearts, “If ye **continue in the faith grounded and settled**, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, **which ye have heard**” (Col 1:23).

Jesus was fasting forty days; likewise, the devil usually inspires “word tests” when our human performance is sub-par. During these down times when our human capabilities may seem so inadequate we tend to think that we are not deserving of God’s help. However, we must realize **now** before we receive a “word test,” that our performance has nothing to do with the destiny that we have received through the grace that God has given to us!

So far we have studied the concept of trampling enemies under our feet; we have also observed how Jesus trampled satan under foot using His mouth. Now let’s observe Jesus more closely as the Bible portrays His current appearance, “And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man (*Jesus*), clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And



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his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters” (Rev 1:12-15).



There is translucency (*meaning that light can pass through*) burnished brass; you can actually see through a translucent object!

Biblically, brass is symbolic of both humanity and judgment. Brass was the only metal in the tabernacle and the temple of God that could withstand fire! Fire represents judgment of humanity. Revelation describes Jesus Christ with feet like unto fine brass! The Church is the body of Jesus on this earth. Paul writes that God “hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body” (Eph 1:22-23). Paul continued a little later in the same book, “we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones” (Eph 5:30). Just one chapter later Paul taught us about the armor of God, “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. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Eph 6:13-15). Jesus provided spiritual shoes for our battle! When we are shod with the Gospel of peace, miracles take place!

The point is that Jesus wants to direct our steps! With Jesus directing our steps we regain dominion and completely defeat our enemy! Let’s remember Abraham our father, “Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be” (Deut 11:24). Satan understands that his warfare against Christians involves much more than just the Land of Israel! Just as Abraham tread on the ground that ultimately became his territory, in like fashion, our feet shall tread-out our possession!



Moses left the children of Israel with the promise, “there shall no man be able to stand (*notice the feet*) before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you” (Deut 11:25). And, what about our enemies, “and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places” (Deut 33:29). Both Abraham and Joshua lived under this same promise, “Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you”(Josh 1:3). Just like Joshua and Abraham, we must be bold in our battle and our walk, “Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies”

But, just how much latitude do we have? How far are we supposed to go? We are to tread upon the devil and all of his demonic influences!

Yes, we will experience spiritual conflict and oppression but only as God allows that we may grow thereby! Whenever the devil tries to smite you with oppression, sickness,



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depression, fear, guilt, etc... We need to stand our ground! We need to let Jesus get into our shoes and then begin to trample



the devil under our feet!

Notice the Biblical footprint (*at right*):

- Toes – Toes are used for balance; balance gives us the ability to worship God;
- Sole – is used for advancing or walking upon new ground;
- Heel – is used for battle! The heel gets bruised, “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt **bruise his heel**” (Gen 3:15). The heel is the symbol of battle and antagonism, “He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up **his heel** against me” (John 13:18).



In order to “tread” upon any ground we must use all the various parts of our feet. God gave to us all of the earth! The scripture teaches us, “Thou madest him to have dominion over

the works of thy hands; ***thou hast put all things under his feet***” (Ps 8:6).



Now, let’s review some history; there is an interesting story out of the American past. Benjamin Franklin made a sketch of what became the first known political cartoon in American history. He sketched a snake that was disjointed. He placed the motto under the picture, “Join, or Die!” The message became clear to all of the original independent colonies of America! If they were to be successful in

the “French and Indian war, which he was referencing, they would need to unite!

Franklin’s message played off of a common superstition of the time. The superstition was that a snake that had been cut into pieces could come back to life if you joined the sections together before sunset. Soon thereafter the independent states did indeed unite. An effect from the whole episode resulted in the motto, “don’t tread on me!” Notice the Gadsden flag (*at right*). Interestingly, the re-joined snake displaying the motto, “don’t tread on me,” later became the motto of the United States Marine Corps. Later in this study we will investigate many other historical aspects regarding symbolism associated with serpents!



The point of our study is that through Jesus’ authority, Christians have literal power over the devil! Yes we must engage the devil in battle; indeed, it is a war! However, we will only experience those difficulties, which God allows for our own growth! Therefore we actually grow stronger through our various trials!

Sometimes, the enemy will bring an all-out assault on our lives! In all instances we must run to the battle trusting that God is in our shoes! Jesus came down to the earth to experience everything that we humanly face, “For we have not an high priest which cannot



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be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are" (Heb 4:15).



Indeed, Jesus walked more than a mile in our shoes. For this reason, neither the devil, nor evil spirits, nor circumstances, nor sickness and diseases, nor lack and poverty are supposed to be ruling over us; instead, we are supposed to be taking back that ground, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, ***in all these things we are more than conquerors*** (GK: "hupernikao" meaning overcomers; victors; prevailers.) ***through him that loved us***. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:35-39)!

Adam was placed in the garden to rule; he was custom-made, "to dress it and to keep" (Gen 2:15) the garden. He was not left all alone; he had God's help, "for he it is that ***shall tread down*** our enemies" (Psa 60:12). Isaiah prophesied of the Lord, "I will ***tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury***; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come" (Isa 63:3-4). Adam had dominion; however, satan wanted man's place of dominion because he ultimately wanted God's authority in heaven! Notice the five "***I will***"s or confessions used by satan, "***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: 14 ***I will*** ascend above the heights of the clouds; ***I will*** be like the most High" (Isa 14:13-14). What most people fail to realize is that God, almost mockingly, spoke His own five utterances or "***I will***"s," "therefore ***I will*** cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and ***I will*** destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: ***I will*** cast thee to the ground, ***I will*** lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee . . . therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and ***I will*** bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee" (Ezek 28:16-18). Essentially, the devil's plan was to foster uncertainty and unbelief in God's word and begin his rule over this earth. Ultimately his goal was to take over God's place of authority in heaven! Satan scoffed at Eve, "Did God say?" These words infused uncertainty and disbelief in the authority of the Word of God!

What Actually Happened in the Garden?

We have learned that Adam and Eve lost precious ground; further, we have learned that it is our job is to take back that ground through the power of Jesus' name! We can only regain lost ground when we understand the answers to the following questions, "What was lost in the Garden of Eden?" and "How was it lost?" Let us learn about our enemy, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for ***we are not ignorant of his devices***" (2 Cor 2:11).

Satan spoke deception and thereby stole two important elements from mankind which ultimately resulted in the death of humans, "He was a ***murderer*** from the beginning, and abode ***not in the truth***, because ***there is no truth in him***. When he ***speaketh a lie***, he



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speake**th** of his own: for **he is a liar**, and **the father of it**" (John 8:44). Those two things stolen from humanity were:

- (1) Our faith in the authority of God's word;
- (2) Our faith in God's own identity in our very being!

We must learn through the bad example set by the devil. We can start by grasping the following two points! (1) The devil still to this very day is in the process of trying to steal our faith in God's word! When Adam and Eve lost their relationship with God they lost their authority; because, there is no authority apart from God! When Adam and Eve were lied-to by the devil they were deceived and through that deception they lost their ability to exercise true dominion. The devil essentially pilfered human authority away from them! (2) The devil still wants to steal the true identity that we have in God; the devil wants to remove our identity that we have power over demons, sickness, poverty, disease, etc.

Adam was placed in the garden to dress and to keep it. The Jewish oral tradition as stated in the Chumish says, "He brought them (*the animals*) to Adam to give them names (Chul:27b); and in the statement of the Agada (Gen R:17) we are told that this expression 'Yetzira' means domination and subjugation, like (Deut:20:19) "when thou shalt **besiege** a city, "**for he subjugated them under the power of Adam.**" In essence, Adam was

supposed to dress and to keep the Garden of Eden. Adam was intended to till and protect the garden as a king would protect his territory (*some even call the king's realm a protectorate!*) Adam should have protected the garden and taken authority to cast-out an unauthorized speaking creature! Notice the usage of the Bible term "till." It says, "there was not a man to **till** the ground" (Gen 2:5). Notice the two different examples (*to the right*). We "serve the LORD," but we are not to "serve the ground;" rather, we are to serve (*lord over or become masters of*) the ground! However, notice part of the curse

'lbduw	'et-	Yahweh
עֲבָדֵי	אֶת־	יְהוָה
5647	853	3068
Serve		the LORD

la'abod	'et-	haa'daamaah
לְעַבֵד	אֶת־	הָאֲדָמָה
5647	853	127
to till		the ground.

given to Cain, "And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; 12 **When thou tillest the ground, it shall not** henceforth **yield unto thee** (*The point is that the ground yields itself to a man who is connected to God.*) her strength" (Gen 4:11-12). Now back to our point in Adam; when he **named** (*Meaning that he gave authority to*) the various creatures, he never did authorize the snake to speak! Once the snake began to speak, Adam should have taken authority and cast the snake out from the Garden of Eden! In our modern society we ask a person who timidly confronts fearful circumstances, "Are you a man or a mouse?"



Up to that point it was only the Almighty God and the human family who had the license to speak (*Scripture teaches that to speak over something is to exercise one's authority over that thing, "God said, Let there be light: and there was light" (Gen 1:3). When Adam spoke names (authority) to the creatures he exercised his authority over those creatures! When parents name a new child they are essentially exercising their right of authority over*



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their offspring!). Adam should have understood that no creature beside the human had been given the authority to

speak! As soon as they heard the serpent speaking, they should have said, “You have no right to be speaking! Neither God nor Adam has spoken that authority into your name; therefore, you are cast from the garden!” What we need to learn in all of this is that when it comes to exercising authority, either you use it or you will lose it! Adam did not exercise his authority over the serpent and as a result the human family became servants to the spirit behind the serpent! Ever since that time, the serpent and the spirit behind the serpent have been the major archenemies of mankind.

So how are we supposed to stop evil? Whenever we observe any ***non-scriptural activity*** attempting to operate in our lives we must stand-up and say, “Hey wait a minute! I am not going to take that! I simply will not allow this or that to take place in my life!” This is my life; my flesh; my marriage; my health; my finances; my home, etc! Because Adam and Eve refused to take their proper authority they lost what they had previously possessed!

Specifics of What Adam and Eve Lost in the Garden of Eden!

When Adam and Eve fell they lost their dominion! Notice what the same devil (*or spirit being behind the serpent*) said to Jesus during the temptation, “And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said unto him, ***All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it***” (Luke 4:5-6). As a result of Satan’s dominion over the earth he suggested (*not commanded*) that Jesus bow down to him and thereby gain control of the whole world, “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36). Thankfully, Jesus allowed no part of that unauthorized (*or more precisely stated, unscriptural*) offer! Jesus rejected the very suggestion against God’s law of human dominion! Notice that Jesus’ very words speak of human dominion, “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: (*That was a command of one in authority! 1st – Jesus spoke with authority as He commanded the devil to depart!*) for it is written, (*Here Jesus demonstrated that man is only authorized to get his authority from God’s Word!*) Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve (*2nd – Jesus’ words expressed that man was supposed to be in subjection to God; further, man is to be subject only to the Word of God!*)” (Matt 4:10). We must realize that the devil believed that if he could have taken authority over Jesus then he could have taken dominion over heaven also! So what exactly have we learned here?

The *1st* concept that we need to realize is that Adam and Eve lost their ability to exercise proper dominion! Do not misunderstand; man is still the only being who enjoys authority over the earth. Getting back to our point, Adam and Eve should not have allowed the serpent even to speak! Much worse than allowing the serpent to speak, upon listening to the serpent, they actually believed the words that he spoke! Because they believed him, they became subject to the evil spirit who spoke with authority over their very lives!

The *2nd* thing that Adam and Eve lost was their access to the tree of life; therefore, they lost the eternal qualities, which were part of their own human life! Nevertheless, this actually was a good outcome; can you imagine living in sin forever? The more you practice anything the better you get at it! Adam and Eve lost their access to the tree of life



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(representative of eternal life!)

Essentially, they lost access to eternal life because God's laws do not allow eternal

sin, "Jesus hath made me free from ***the law of sin and death***" (Rom 8:2). God setup a law that when one makes the decision to sin they are subsequently required to die!



The 3rd element that Adam and Eve lost was their image of God. God had said, "Let us make man ***in our image***" (Gen 1:26)! Instead of their original ***God image*** (*Which is character, reputation, disposition, and nature.*), they took on a strange ***evil*** nature, Jesus said, "Ye are of ***your father the devil***, and ***the lusts of your father ye will do***" (John 8:44). Have you ever noticed that we never need to teach a baby how to fight or lie? They just learn these improper or evil things naturally! It is the nature of humans to sin! Children automatically know how to throw tantrums and steal things and fight with others! What we find in humanity is that people naturally sin against themselves and each other! They do this because they have lost their image of God and replaced that righteous image with an evil nature! Originally, Adam and Eve possessed only the righteous Image of God; however, that pure and holy image was stolen from them!

The 4th element that Adam and Eve lost was their idyllic surroundings! As a result of their disobedience they were cast forth from the Garden of Eden, "Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, ***to till the ground*** from whence he was taken. 24 So ***he drove out the man***" (Gen 3:23-24). The LORD set Cherubim or angels to guard the way! Notice in V-23 that man is still supposed to till or protect and rule over the ground!

We must realize the reason why all of this transpired! Adam lost it all because he did not exercise his rightful dominion! The lesson is that when it comes to dominion, if we don't use it we loose it! Everyone say that, "If we don't use it we loose it!"

Let's recap what Adam lost:

1. His Dominion
2. His Access to Tree of Life
3. His righteous Image of God
4. His Perfect Environment!

However, God had already anticipated man's fall and He had prepared a solution. He told the serpent (*or more precisely, He told the evil spirit behind the serpent*), "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy ***seed*** and her ***seed***; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen 3:15). That verse speaks of a bruise on the head of satan; it also speaks of a bruise to the heel of humanity! The "head" is symbolic of authority! In essence, God told the devil that ***the seed of the woman would use his foot to crush the devil's authority***! Jesus crushed the devil's authority, "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might ***destroy the works of the devil***" (1 John 3:8). Therefore you and I need to get into agreement with that fact! Essentially, we must act in the capacity of the body of Christ, "So ***we . . . are one body in Christ***" (Rom 12:5). Now get this point; the church is the actual Body of Jesus Christ upon this earth!

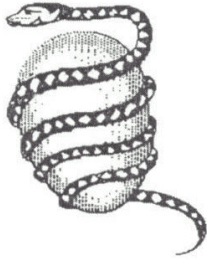
When we stand in that authority we must be strong! The word is what gives us our authority; "they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and ***by the word of their testimony***" (Rev 12:11). We must stand fast in our faith! Whenever we speak to our



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mountain of problems we must keep telling it that it must move in the name of Jesus!
By faith we stand in authority, even when the facts seem to imply that we have no authority!



The snake has a mysterious dynamism! It possesses an extraordinary vitality and a seeming essence of immortality! Periodically the snake experiences rejuvenation by shedding its old skin and being born anew. This seeming rejuvenation instilled a sense of awe and invoked a powerful response in the human family. Consequently, the snake was mythologized (*as we see in the image at left.*) It is often attributed with powers to control the universe. We find the snake throughout human artifacts with its spiral representation on primitive pottery. In many instances, vases show gigantic snakes winding over the whole universe, or over the sun, moon and stars. The snake became the symbol of energy and of immortality. Respect and worship of the serpent by human beings is clearly evident from man's historical past.

The serpent has long been the symbol of medicine and healing (*see - cross shaped? - caduceus right – see ancient Greek coin far right.*) We must consider the serpent's seeming immortality as it periodically sheds the covering over its entire body without any bleeding or injury. In accomplishing this “miraculous” function the serpent liberates itself from scars, ticks, and external diseases. It is clear that early connection between the serpent and healing became a permanent facet of serpent worship.



Many claim that Caduceus (*the winged symbol associated with doctors and pharmacies*) is not the same serpent of the Judeo-Christian culture, which is viewed as a symbol of evil. They claim that Caduceus is merely the serpent of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Nevertheless, none can ignore the fact that to the ancient Greeks and Romans, the ability of the snake to shed its' skin was a powerful image for renewal and healing. In Greek mythology, Asklepios the son of the god Apollo and the mortal Coronis, had the ability to metamorphose into a snake. In mythological accounts, he was a potent healer who was attributed with the ability to bring the dead back to life. This power was supposed to have angered the “god” of the underworld known as Hades. To many throughout history, the ability of the serpent to shed its skin and so renew its youth has made it the





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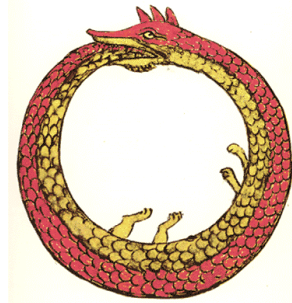
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master of the secret of death and rebirth. We see through the moon's cycle of waxing and waning that it too is

continually being renewed. The moon, long associated with the life-creating rhythm of the female, and therefore of time itself has become the celestial lord of the mystery of birth and death while the serpent has become its earthly counterpart. In early pagan rites of initiation where the candidate was seen to die and be reborn, the moon was the goddess mother and the serpent became the divine father.

Biblically, the serpent is emblematic of wisdom, "be ye therefore *wise as serpents*" (Matt 10:16); secondly the serpent is emblematic of subtlety, "Now *the serpent was more subtle* than any beast of the field" (Gen 3:1). Among the Egyptians, it was even a symbol of "divine wisdom;" further; when depicted with its tail in its mouth, the serpent became the symbol of eternity. Pagans in practically every era of history have worshipped the serpent! The symbol of the snake devouring its own tail is called "Ouroboros."



The Serpent became symbolic:

- Of deity;
- Of eternity: forming a circle with tail in mouth;
- Of renovation and resurrection: the old becomes young;
- Of guardian spirits: Greek and Roman temple altars.

Let's Learn from the Enemy's Past Practices!

As soon as satan learned that the seed of the woman was prophesied to destroy his authority, he set out to destroy the woman's seed! Notice how the woman's seed is continually the focus of satan's attack:

- Satan believed that Abel was the prophesied seed; therefore he caused Abel's death! The very fact that satan moved so quickly should show us just how observant satan is of God's word! The concept is that we need to recognize is how satan instigated the death of Abel, "Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him" (Gen 4:8). This example portrays an important piece of information about spiritual warfare! How did satan do his bidding? He used a human being who lived according to his fleshly desires and emotions, "Cain was *very wrath*, and *his countenance fell*" (Gen 4:5). The devil could only have used Cain because Cain's father Adam had earlier lost his dominion; therefore, Adam and his children were under the evil influence (*dominion*) of the serpent or more precisely, the devil spirit behind him!
- Later in the story of mankind, satan realized that through faith Abraham's seed would become powerful! For over 100 years the devil watched as Abraham gave birth to two sons through Hagar and Sarah. The devil sowed a great deal of strife and confusion in the lives of these two boys! This strife and confusion has abounded in the descendents of Ishmael and Isaac until our very day! The Islamic peoples and the Judeo-Christian peoples are in constant and unending strife!
- Isaac's two sons (*seed*) Jacob and Esau were also targets of satan's strife and confusion! From the womb, the devil tried to stir up strife between these brothers, "Rebekah his wife conceived. 22 And *the children struggled together within her*" (Gen 25:21-22). Their strife grew to the point where even Rebecca got involved in



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their dispute! Esau finally rose up and was going to kill Jacob! However, Jacob had an all night

prayer meeting! In the process, Jacob became Israel! Israel prevailed and took his position of authority! At that point satan was powerless!



Other Righteous Examples of Our Forefathers Who Took Authority Over the Devil!

We are supposed to trample our enemies (*those who work evil*) under our feet! But how? The simple truth is that throughout history, whenever a human takes up his image of authority that was lost in Adam he essentially takes dominion over those circumstances that the devil is trying to control. In these instances, satan has no power! Notice the examples of our righteous forefathers who took authority over and trampled the devil underfoot:

- the devil tried to get pharaoh to drown all the male Israeli babies, however, one mother alone was willing to stand up and take authority over her situation, “And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and **when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months**” (Ex 2:2). The result was Moses;
- the devil tried to get Herod to kill all the babies in the area of Bethlehem; however, one set of parents named Joseph and Mary took authority over their situation, “And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, **they departed into their own country another way**” (Matt 2:12). The result was Jesus;
- the devil realized that the Lord’s promise to the King meant that one of David’s sons would become the prophesied one; therefore, the devil caused those in authority to go after David’s seed, “when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and **destroyed all the seed royal.**” (2 Kings 11:1). Nevertheless, one brave woman was willing to take authority over her situation, “2 But **Jehosheba**, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah **and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain.** 3 And **he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years.** And Athaliah did reign over the land” (2 Kings 11:2-3). The result was Jesus;
- the devil realized that from the disbursed Israelites who had been taken captive and lived in the Medo-Persian Empire that the prophesied one would come. Therefore, the devil stirred up an evil man named Haman; he caused him to make the first attempt to annihilate the entire Jewish nation. Haman originated a plan for the destruction of all of the Jews; nevertheless, one brave woman was willing to take authority over her situation. Esther decided even against the real possibility of her own death that she needed to go before the king and ask for his help. She said, “Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and **if I perish, I perish**” (Est 4:16). Esther’s bravery ultimately stopped the annihilation of her kinsmen the Jews. The result was the nation of Israel;
- the devil, at long last found the Messiah (*who is the one who became the prophesied seed!*) After some time the devil succeeded in his evil schemes to get Jesus crucified! However, during the crucifixion, the devil sensed that something had



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gone dreadfully wrong! The devil realized his mistake; he was actually playing into the hands of



God! In response, the devil literally tried to get Jesus to come down from the cross, "And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; ***let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God***" (Luke 23:35). Crucifixion proved to be the biggest mistake that the devil ever made; secretly, he realized that it was not nails but love that held Jesus to the cross! Satan's problem grew; since Jesus never sinned, He could not be held by death or the grave! As a result of His selfless sacrificial act of offering Himself as our sacrifice for sin, Jesus took dominion not only of heaven and earth but also death and the grave, "***All power is given unto me*** in heaven and in earth!" (Matt 28:18).

Jesus has great authority and He shares that authority with His disciples, "and ***gave them power and authority*** (1) over all devils, and (2) to cure diseases. 2 And he sent them (3) to preach the kingdom of God, and (4) to heal the sick" (Luke 9:1-2). Jesus' disciples clearly have authority in His name; however, like Adam, we must use it, or we too will lose it! We are supposed to reign (*take dominion*) in this lifetime! Through His sacrifice, Jesus gave back to us four things that were lost in Adam:

1. Dominion – "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall ***reign in life by one, Jesus Christ***" (Rom 5:17);
2. Access to tree of life – "our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and ***hath brought life and immortality*** to light through the gospel" (2 Tim 1:10);
3. Image – "put on the new man, ***which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness***" (Eph 4:24); "as we have borne the image of the earthy, ***we shall also bear the image of the heavenly***" (1 Cor 15:49)
4. His Perfect Environment, "ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, ***I will dwell in them, and walk in them; (God's garden is in us)*** and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2 Cor 6:16)

Christians are no longer under the authority of the devil, "ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: ***walk as children of light***" (Eph 5:8). This means that we like our LORD are supposed to make the light shine in the darkness! When we encounter the darkness and we insist on light shining in the darkness, we are essentially taking our authority over evil! It is only the Word of God that has authority to form the basis of our faith. Only the Word of God has authority to describe our life's conditions. Even when facts seem to be showing us something different from the Word of God we must stand fast in our belief in God's Word!

When we successfully stand in faith, speaking the Word of God, we take dominion and cause light to shine; when we do this we ***destroy the works of evil*** and gain the victory over darkness!

Hallelujah! Let Light Be!

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