

A WORD FITLY SPOKEN



THE
DEFEATED
FOE

John Avanzini

The Defeated Foe

by
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ISBN: 1-878605-32-1

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HIS Publishing Company
P.O. Box 917001
Fort Worth, Texas 76117-9001

The Defeated Foe

Contrary to popular belief, Satan is not a roaring lion! God's Word tells us something different. It says he goes about "*as a roaring lion*." He wants you to think he's a lion, but he is merely pretending.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, *as a roaring lion*, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8

Remember, the Bible tells us the devil is the master of *deception*.

... the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, *which deceiveth the whole world*:

Revelation 12:9

Take warning; Satan is capable of deceiving those who let down their guard!

. . . if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Matthew 24:24

This booklet will show you that Satan's greatest power is his ability to trick you by manipulating your imagination. You must always be on guard, ready to cast down every false image he sends your way.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God....

2 Corinthians 10:5

Popular opinion says you better watch out for old slew foot. He's a really tough customer! However, when you look beyond the surface, you find the devil is nothing more than *a defeated foe*. The Word of God tells us he is definitely *not* all powerful. It actually portrays him as *super weak*. Scripture tells us his future looks bleak, for he is headed for that awful place called "the bottomless pit." Notice that it won't take legions of angels to put him there. Instead, the Bible says one angel is all it will take to do the job.

... I saw *an angel* come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

And he [one angel] laid hold on

the dragon, that old serpent....

**And cast him into the bottomless
pit, and shut him up....**

Revelation 20:1-3

Don't misunderstand. I am not saying the devil never does any real damage. It is obvious that Christians suffer many losses at his hand. Lives are torn up; jobs are lost; precious children are led off into sin. The fact that the devil plays a part in these tragedies is obvious, but let's take another look and see if he really has the ability to cause problems without recruiting someone's help.

A Strange Phenomenon

Scripture reveals something very interesting about Satan and his so-called strength. The first biblical mention of the devil in Genesis 3:1 portrays him as *a garden snake*. However, by the time you get to the Book of Revelation, he appears to be a *ferocious dragon*.

***This great Dragon—the ancient
serpent [snake] called the devil, or
Satan, the one deceiving the whole
world....***

Revelation 12:9 TLB

Think about it. A garden snake grows into a dragon in just 66 books. How did he become so big and ferocious? The answer is simple. Someone has been feeding him. The questions that immediately come to mind are, How do you feed the devil? Who has been doing it? Is it a satanic cult or a coven of witches? Who has been his benefactor?

As amazing as it may seem, the saints of God are the ones who have been systematically increasing the devil's ability. How have they done it? It's simple—by constantly speaking of how powerful he is. It may not make much sense until you remember what Jesus told us. He said we will have whatever we *say* and *believe*.

... whosoever shall say ... and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe ... *he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Mark 11:23

Misinformed Christians have been restoring the devil's strength with their words. They do it because Satan has carefully blinded them with one of the biggest cover-ups of all time.

Remember, it used to be Lucifer's job to provide covering (security and privacy) for God.

The Bible calls him the "covering cherub."

**Thou [Satan] art the anointed
cherub that *covereth*....**

Ezekiel 28:14

However, since Satan's fall, he has become the prince of darkness who is running a *giant cover-up*.

Let's uncover some of the powerful biblical truths Satan has been hiding.

First of all, the devil is trying to cover up the fact that you belong to a superior species. God created Satan in the angel class. However, he is now even lower, for he belongs to a doomed class of creatures called "fallen angels." But when you were born-again, the Father recreated you, and you became a part of the God class. Now you are one of His sons or daughters.

**For we are members of *his body*,
of *his flesh*, and of *his bones*.**

Ephesians 5:30

Don't get me wrong. I am not saying you are a god. I am saying that if you are God's child, you must belong to the God class of creatures.

... if any man be in Christ, he is a

new creature.....

2 Corinthians 5:17

Secondly, the devil is trying to cover up the fact that your power as a son or daughter of God is far greater than his limited power as a fallen angel.

**... greater is he that is in you, than
he that is in the world.**

1 John 4:4

Satan's third cover-up is to convince you that you are supposed to be living under his feet. Just the opposite is true. *The devil is supposed to be living under your feet!*

**... the God of peace shall bruise
Satan under your feet....**

Romans 16:20

Misunderstanding John 10:10

Without realizing it, many faithful Bible teachers unconsciously feed the devil. This mistake takes place because of another cover-up. The devil hides the true meaning of John 10:10.

The thief cometh not, but for to

steal, and to kill, and to destroy.....

John 10:10

As you know, the popular interpretation of this verse is that *the thief is the devil*. Well-meaning preachers tell us the devil has the ability to kill, steal, and destroy. No doubt, this statement has been made millions of times. If the devil has such power, the Church is in a heap of trouble. However, the true meaning is quite different. In its biblical context, John 10:10 doesn't even mention the devil. The context of this section of Scripture does refer to the devil, but not as a thief. The thieves and robbers are *hireling shepherds*. Notice that John 10:12 clearly identifies the thieves as *hirelings*.

... he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

John 10:12,13

The thieves of John 10:10 are false pastors

(shepherds) who take the leadership of the Church without having a real love or concern for God's sheep or His Word.

Upon close examination, it becomes obvious that Satan is not the thief. However, he does appear in this parable. He is *the wolf* from whom the thieves (hireling shepherds) flee, leaving the sheep at his mercy.

As the Church continues to speak recklessly of Satan as a killing, stealing, destroyer, we actually give him the powers we speak, for every Christian has the power to release death or life with the words of his mouth.

Death and life are in power of the tongue....

Proverbs 18:21

If you talk about a killing, stealing devil, that is exactly the kind of devil you will face each and every day! Remember our Lord's words:

... [you] shall have whatsoever [you] saith.

Mark 11:23

Don't think I am trying to make a mountain out of a molehill. Remember, the Apostle Paul

taught the importance of keeping the Scripture in its biblical context.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15

By overlooking this admonition as it pertains to John 10:10, the Church is releasing a destructive power in our midst. Satan has skillfully covered up the real meaning of this verse, causing us to re-supply him with the ability to kill, steal, and destroy.

We all know that Jesus stripped Satan of his power to kill at Calvary. So don't miss the scripture you are about to read, for it will move you out of harm's way.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death *he might destroy him that HAD the power of death, that is, the devil.*

Hebrews 2:14

Only Six Ways to Die

As far as I have been able to discover, there are only six basic ways for a human being to die. I have studied and pondered this subject for years, and I have not discovered any other causes of death. A human being can die:

1. By his own hand.
2. By the hand of another human being or a ravenous beast.
3. By the fear of death. (Job 3:25 says the thing we greatly fear will come upon us.)
4. By breaking natural laws (such as the laws of gravity, aerodynamics, poisons, etc).
5. By succumbing to the aging process.
6. By being overcome by sickness or disease.

Satan cannot cause even one of these situations through his independent action. The only way he can be involved in any of these fatal circumstances is if others allow him to use their power or influence. On the day the Church understands this truth, we will quickly eject the devil from his deceptive position of power, and put him where he belongs—*directly under our feet!*

... the God of peace shall bruise

Satan under your feet....

Romans 16:20

Now that you are armed with this truth, it should become much easier for you to rule and reign with Jesus Christ! You may wonder how I can make this bold statement, since I have probably never met you. I can say it because the Word of God promises that once you know Satan does not have the power to kill you, that knowledge will break his bondage over you. Don't miss the powerful meaning of these verses.

**... through death he [Jesus] might
destroy him that had the power of
death, *that is, the devil;***

**And deliver them *who through
fear of death* were all their lifetime
*subject to bondage.***

Hebrews 2:14,15

The Bible tells us Jesus disarmed Satan and broke the chains of bondage he had on you. You are now free to do and be all that God intended.

The Truth You Know

According to the Word of God, something

powerful is happening as you read this booklet. You are receiving strategic knowledge that will bring you into freedom.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth [you know] shall make you free.

John 8:32

Notice this verse declares that *the truth you have just learned* is releasing new power into your life—spiritual power that will set you free!

Scripture teaches it is God's plan for you to rule and reign with Jesus. However, you must understand that our Lord is not going to share His rulership with a Satan-dominated Christian. Jesus will allow only overcomers to rule and reign with Him. Plant this truth deep within your heart. With His death on the cross, Jesus destroyed every power the devil had over you.

... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8

Not the Words of a Man

Please don't become upset if you are hearing

something new and different.

The Bible deals with this dilemma in a very straightforward and abrupt way. It tells us to "... **let God be true, but every man a liar...**" (Romans 3:4). *Traditional interpretations* of God's Word can be dangerous. Even if they come from the majority of God's teachers, they still make the Word of God of no effect.

Making the word of God of none effect *through your tradition...*

Mark 7:13

"Brother John, you don't understand. My favorite Bible teacher always quotes John 10:10 when Christians die prematurely. He says the devil killed them! Is this man of God unworthy of my attention?"

Let me make myself clear. I am not saying your favorite Bible teacher is a false teacher. However, I believe anyone who teaches that the thief of John 10:10 is the devil *is mistaken*. And according to Scripture, each time someone teaches it, the devil's strength increases.

I have personally been guilty of giving large infusions of power to the devil with my words. As a young preacher, I would carefully describe

Satan's strength. I was unwittingly doing exactly what he wanted me to do. I was re-supplying him with power Jesus had previously taken away from him.

The truth is simply this. *Satan is a defeated foe!* You might even say the devil's strength is nothing more than *tail power*. Do you know what happens when you cut off a snake's head? Most of us have seen it. For some reason, the snake's tail continues to move for a long time after you have removed his head. Jesus crushed the devil's head at Calvary. Since then, his ability to move is much like a beheaded snake. It's nothing more than tail power.

However, each time we attribute power to him, it is like kicking a dead dog. Every time you do it, the dog moves. However, he doesn't move by his own power. He moves by the energy you transfer to him with your foot. In other words, he gets his power from you.

Your Attention Transfers Strength

Whatever you spend your time talking about will draw strength from your words. As a young pastor, I was fascinated with the things that happened when I cast out demons. It was

amazing to me that when I confronted evil spirits in the name of Jesus, they would speak out. I can recall how casting out demons would sometimes take over the whole service. Each time I attempted to rebuke them, they would respond by ranting and raving.

Then I learned something. The more attention I gave to these demon spirits, the wilder and bolder they were. They became so bold that they drew attention away from the power of God. Satan, through his evil spirits, would actually take control of the services. These demonic outbursts grieved the Holy Spirit to the point that He would withdraw from our midst.

Before long God gave me instruction that I had to restore order, or He would not meet with us anymore. He said, "John, you are giving too much attention to the devil. *The demons are drawing strength from your words as you focus everyone's attention on them.*" From that day, I no longer allowed any spirit to have center stage, other than the Holy Spirit.

The following Sunday I shut off their power during the altar call. As the people began to respond, a woman brought forward a young man

in his twenties. She said, "My son needs your help!"

When I looked at him, his eyes rolled back in his head, and he began to slobber. Before he could say a word, I turned off my microphone, pulled him near, and firmly but quietly spoke these words into his ear: "In the name of Jesus, shut your mouth and don't any one of you foul devils say a single word! Now, in the name of Jesus, every one of you, come out of him and immediately go from this place!"

No sooner had I spoken these words than he became limp in my arms and fell to the floor. Then the tormented look left his face as God's peace came over him.

Notice that I gave little attention to the demons. I did not allow them to speak.

**... [Jesus] cast out many devils;
and suffered not the devils to speak....**

Mark 1:34

I spoke only a few words to them in the powerful name of Jesus, and the battle was instantly over. As to the well being of the young man, we never again saw any manifestation of demonic control in him.

It works every time. The less attention you give the devil, the less power he has over you. Keep it foremost in your mind—*the devil is a defeated foe!* And you are more than a conqueror!

Don't Wrestle Demons

I saw another graphic illustration of this truth several years ago in London. As I walked away from the platform after speaking, I saw four or five Christians trying to hold down a demoniac. It was an awful spectacle as he threw them about and filled the air with cursing and howling. As I got closer, the leader of this would-be exorcism called out in desperation for my help in casting out the demons. I stopped and said, "Take your hands off of him!" They looked at me as if I had lost my mind. However, after repeating this command several times, they reluctantly released him.

The young man looked at me through glazed eyes and readied himself for combat. I said firmly, "In the name of Jesus, shut your mouth and come out of him!" Nothing happened for about a half minute. Then, all of a sudden, the young man fell to his knees and began to weep softly. I put my arm around him and told him

Jesus loved him. Then those who had been wrestling with him opened a Bible and led him to Christ.

It worked before, and it still works today. *Satan is a defeated foe!* He is powerless as long as we don't allow him to tap in on our power.

The Holy Ghost Bears Witness

The following scriptures help explain the mission of the Holy Ghost.

And when [the Holy Ghost] is come, he will reprove the world of *sin*, and of *righteousness*, and of *judgment*:

Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

John 16:8,11

Verse 11 made little sense to me until I understood fully what the word *judged* means. It is the Greek word *krino*. Both *Strong's Concordance* and *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* say it means "to separate, to put asunder, *to break in pieces*. " Part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to convince the Church that Jesus has crushed the devil—literally, broken him in pieces.

We find further proof of the devil's total defeat in the following verse. Our Lord came to earth for more than just saving the lost. He also came to destroy every work of the devil.

... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8

Notice carefully the word *destroy*. It literally means "to melt or render irreparable." Jesus destroyed the devil! That is wonderful news! However, it seems the most difficult task of the Holy Ghost is convincing the Church that when Jesus Christ rose from the grave, He totally destroyed the devil!

All the Power He Has

We must now consider a verse that may give the impression that the devil is all-powerful. Upon closer examination, you will see once again that Satan has only one power—the power of deception.

... then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth,

and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with *all* power and signs and lying wonders.

2 Thessalonians 2:8,9

Notice that in the middle of verse 9, the apostle tells us the wicked one will come in the same power that Satan has ("... after the working of Satan with all power..."). Take a quick look at *The Living Bible*, which makes the verse easier to understand.

This man of sin will come as Satan's tool, *full of satanic power*, and will *trick* everyone....

2 Thessalonians 2:9 TLB

Notice this version doesn't say Satan has all power. It says the wicked one will have access to whatever power Satan has—*the power to trick you or deceive you* in the same way Satan does. He will be "**... full of satanic power...**" or deception and fake wonders.

Notice with me a little Greek word that appears in this verse. It is the word *kai*. The *King James Version* usually translates it with

the English word *and*. However, *kai* can also mean "even."

Let me paraphrase these verses using the word *even*. **"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan, with all [the] power [that Satan has, even] signs and lying wonders. [Even] with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish"** (2 Thessalonians 2:9,10).

There you have it. The apostle Paul is not saying Satan has all power. He is simply saying that all the power the devil has is the power to deceive and bring forth lying (fake) wonders.

Your Power Over the Devil

I hope you have taken your eyes off the flawed concept that the devil has the power to kill, steal, and destroy. You must now fix your attention on the ultimate power God has given you to overthrow the devil and unmask all his deception. Give your undivided attention to the following scriptures, for they will fortify your confidence in your God-given dominion over the defeated foe.

**... the God of peace shall bruise
Satan under your feet.....**

Romans 16:20

... greater is he [God] that is in you, than he [Satan] that is in the world.

1 John 4:4

Behold, I [Jesus] give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, *and over all the power of the enemy [Satan]*: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:19

... For this purpose [Jesus] was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8

... [Satan] the prince of this world is judged [broken to pieces].

John 16:11

[God] disarmed the principalities and powers ... and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them....

Colossians 2:15 Amplified

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Mark 16:17,18,20

Remember Satan doesn't have the power to kill you! In fact, he has no power other than the power of deception.

... that through death he [Jesus] might destroy him that *had* the power of death, that is, the devil.

Hebrews 2:14

Now that you have fixed this truth in your mind, you are free from the hold Satan had on you.

[Jesus delivered] them who through fear of death were all their

lifetime subject to *bondage*.

Hebrews 2:15

Thank God the thief of John 10:10 is not the devil! Now you know the real thief is the hireling shepherd—a false pastor. You must avoid these false shepherds by submitting to a good, God-ordained pastor who preaches the uncompromised Word of God. Pastors like that are easy to identify. They are full of the Holy Ghost and lay down their lives for the sheep.

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