

The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan

Through the centuries kingdoms of men have come and gone. The largest kingdom in history was the British Empire in the early 1900's. The Mongol kingdom of Genghis Khan was the 2nd largest ever. The largest kingdoms in Bible times were the Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman empires.

However, in God's way of looking at the world He created there are now only two kingdoms, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan, the kingdom of truth and the kingdom of lies.

KINGDOM OF GOD, KINGDOM OF SATAN

Matthew 12:26-28 (ESV) ²⁶And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV) ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 26:18 (ESV) ¹⁸to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

John 12:31 (ESV) ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

John 14:30 (ESV) ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,

John 16:11 (ESV) ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

DO NOT FEAR, SATAN IS POWERFUL, BUT GOD IS INFINITELY MORE POWERFUL!

1 John 4:4 (NASB) ⁴You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

- Satan's authority over world kingdoms was "delivered" to him. **Luke 4:6 (ESV)** ⁶and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.
- His power to afflict Job was limited. **Job 1:12 (ESV)** ¹²And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. **Job 2:6 (ESV)** ⁶And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."
- He had to ask permission to sift Peter like wheat. **Luke 22:31 (ESV)** ³¹"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,
- When rebuked by the messenger of Jehovah, he had to remain silent. **Zechariah 3:1-2 (ESV)** ¹Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ²And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you!"

- He can be bound by an angel of God. **Revelation 20:1-2 (ESV)** ¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ²And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.
- He can't "snatch" anyone from the Lord's hand. **John 10:29 (ESV)** ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me,[£] is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.
- When Christians resist him, he flees. **James 4:7 (ESV)** ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- When cast into hell he will be powerless to resist. **Revelation 20:10 (ESV)** ¹⁰and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

SATAN RULES BY THE POWER OF SIN AND LIES

John 8:44 (ESV) ⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Revelation 12:9 (ESV) ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV) ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Satan tries to "snare" Christians (1 Tim 3:7) with his "schemes" (Eph 6:11) and "devices" (2 Cor 2:11). He attacks us with his "flaming darts" (Eph 6:16) so that he might "devour" us like a lion (1 Pet 5:8).

2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV) ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV) ³But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

1 John 5:19 (ESV) ¹⁹We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

In Satan's kingdom, everyone is in his grip and subject to his dominion, dead in sin because of his lies.

All people, young and old, male and female, belong to one of two kingdoms: either the kingdom of light or the kingdom of darkness, the kingdom of truth or the kingdom of lies.

To NOT serve God IS to serve Satan, whether one is conscious of it or not.

THIS TRUTH EXPLAINS PAUL'S COMMAND TO DELIVER A REBELLIOUS BROTHER TO SATAN

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 (ESV) ⁴When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit

is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

TRUTH VS. LIES; WISDOM VS. FOOLISHNESS

John 17:15-17 (ESV) ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 18:36-37 (ESV) ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world....” ³⁷For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

A KINGDOM LED BY WISDOM

James 3:13-18 (NASB) ¹³Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Proverbs 2:6-11 (ESV) ⁶For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

⁸ guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;

¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

¹¹ discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you,

Proverbs 3:5-10 (ESV) ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

⁸ It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Proverbs 3:17-22 (ESV) ¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

¹⁹ The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens;

²⁰ by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew.

²¹ My son, do not lose sight of these—keep sound wisdom and discretion,

²² and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.