



By Design
The Fall, Satan's Ambition, and The Victory of Jesus

One of the great mysteries of the bible is a powerful spiritual being called Satan. He is also called the Devil in the New Testament.

There are several mysteries about this spiritual being. They include...

Was he an angel?

How did he become God's adversary?

Why did God allow him to exist?

What is not a mystery is Satan's ambition.

His ambition was to rule the world.

What is also not a mystery is his strategy.

His strategy was to rule the world by ruling the rulers of this world.

What is also not a mystery is that he succeeded.

Adam and Eve were created by God in the image of God to rule the world.

[Genesis 1:26-28](#)

[26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."](#)

[27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.](#)

[28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."](#)

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This was Satan's first victory over the rulers of this world, but it would not be his last.

1. [World history confirms that Satan succeeded in ruling the world by ruling over the rulers of this world.](#)

For thousands of years, violence filled the earth. The rulers of this world ruled with fear. They executed their own citizens for petty crimes or for any accusation of disloyalty. When one ruler conquered another, they practiced genocide, rape, and slavery. There was no chance of survival without walls. Killing became a sport witnessed by the masses.

For thousands of years, the rulers of this world practiced a hedonistic life style. They practiced fornication. They practiced polygamy. They practiced sexual perversions. They practiced pedophilia. They practiced incest. The rulers of this world used the weak to satisfy their desires.

For thousands of years, the rulers of this world practiced false religions with abominable rituals. They practiced human sacrifice. They burned their children in fire as sacrifices to their gods. They practiced sex with temple prostitutes as a fertility rite of marriage to their god.

Satan ruled over the rulers of this world for thousands of years and as a result, he ruled over the world population. The general moral condition of the rulers of this world was the general moral condition of world's population.

There was nothing about the rulers of Israel that contradicts this claim. There were only a few rulers in Israel that were different from the other rulers of the world.

One word that was used repeatedly in the Old Testament to describe mankind is corrupt.

World history confirms that Satan succeeded in ruling the world by ruling over the rulers of this world.

2. The teachings of Jesus confirm that Satan succeeded in ruling the world by ruling over the rulers of this world.

- [Jesus never denied that Satan was the ruler of the kingdoms of the world.](#)
When tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Satan asserted that he would give Jesus the Kingdoms of this world if Jesus would fall and worship Him. (Matthew 4:8)
- [Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world. \(John 12:31; 14:30; John 16:11\)](#)
When Jesus prepared His disciples for His death, three times Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world

The teachings of Jesus confirm that Satan succeeded in ruling the world by ruling over the rulers of this world.

But, Jesus promised His disciples that He was going to accomplish for mankind what mankind could not do for themselves.

[John 12:31](#)

[31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.](#)

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Jesus said, the ruler of this world would be cast out.

Jesus declared He would end Satan's rule over the rulers of this world. And He did!

Jesus made a way for the rulers of this world to be free from Satan's rule.

After Jesus atoned for the sins of the world, the governments of the world began to change. There are still tyrannical rulers in different nations. Peter said Satan roams around as a roaring lion looking for those he can devour. (1 Peter 5:8).

But Satan is no longer the ruler of the rulers of this world. He has been defeated. He has been cast down.

Since Jesus atoned for the sins of the world, there is a history of rulers in the world that are unlike any rulers that lived before Jesus. There have been rulers in many nations that have seen themselves as God's servants to their citizens. There have been rulers that have made great sacrifices to serve the needs of their citizens.

Since Jesus atoned for the sins of the world, there have been rulers that implemented a new form of government that did not exist before Jesus atoned for the sins of the world. The name of this government is a democratic republic. Even the poorest and lowest citizen has power to determine who will rule them in a democratic republic. In the United States, we call it a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Satan never let that happen when he was the ruler of this world.

How should we respond to this truth?

- Receive Jesus (Romans 10:9; Romans 10:13)

If you have not received Jesus, you are under Satan's authority. Jesus told the pharisees, you are of your father the devil.

John 8:42-44

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

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Only Jesus can set you free from Satan's authority. Have you ever considered that there is not one exorcism in the Old Testament? In over 4000 years of history in the Old Testament, not one prophet of God performed an exorcism.

Only Jesus has the authority to cast out Satan.

Jesus died for your sin to save you from Satan's authority and to save you from Satan's judgment.

The victory and authority of Jesus over Satan is currently not seen as clearly as it will be. Jesus will return a second time. Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. (Phil. 2:10)

We will all see the final judgment upon Satan and his followers.

You need to respond to this truth by receiving Jesus.

- Resist Satan

James 4:7

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
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If you have received Jesus, you need to resist Satan and he will flee from you. If you have received Jesus, Satan can only be your authority with your permission. You do not want Satan ruling your life.

You give Satan authority in your life when you believe him rather than believing God. You give Satan authority in your life when you yield to sin.

You are most vulnerable to yield to Satan when you are suffering.

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

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Jesus has given us His Spirit, His Word, and His church to enable us to resist Satan. You have got to intentionally connect with all three to defeat Satan.

You need to respond to this truth by resisting Satan.

- Reach others

Matt 4:19-20

19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

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Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
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Every believer is called by God to make disciples of Jesus.

We have the way, truth, and the life that will set people free from Satan's authority and Satan's judgment. Shouldn't we share with others if we are in Christ? This is our mission. This is our life purpose.

God has given us the right strategy to make disciples. It is the way Jesus did it. We have taught the people at Western Hills the Jesus way. It works! You need to go and use this strategy to make disciples one person at a time.

A democratic republic is a better form of government than a dictatorship. But a democratic republic will not elect righteous rulers if the people in the republic are not righteous people.

Our nation is in the condition that it is in because the church has neglected its mission. We have set in the stands watching others disciple people rather than getting into the game. You need to get into the game. You need to start discipling people the way Jesus did it one person at a time.

You need to respond to this truth by reaching others.

In the end, Satan serves to magnify the character and nature of God and the glory of Jesus Christ. Jesus did for us what no one else could do for us.

We would not understand God or know Him without the story of the fall of man, Satan, and the gospel story.

Invitation

- Receive Jesus
- Resist Satan
- Reach others