



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

"come just as you are"

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing

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## Worship Music

"Love Comes Down"-  
Kerrie Roberts

Angel By Your Side  
Francesca Battistelli

Someday Soon-  
Francesca Battistelli

## Prayer

Lord, I ask You to help me be honest about what my finances reveal about me. I don't want anything else in my life to have a higher priority than You, so please teach me how to demonstrate my love for You with my finances. Help me to really worship You with my financial gifts and not to just casually throw them into an offering plate. Forgive me for the times I've said I didn't have enough money to give to the church or to missions, yet somehow I found a way to spend money on all kinds of material things. My priorities have obviously been wrong, so today I repent. I have made up my mind that I am going to honor You with my finances as I ought to do, in Jesus' name. Amen....

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

## Video's / New Information/ Prayer Requests

Matthew 24:36 (AMP)

36 But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

## Radio Stations

KWVE ...Calvary Chapel

KLOVE

## Bible Study Sites

Chuck Smith  
Through The Bible

Bob Coy/Teachings

Mike MacIntosh

Jon Courson

Biblos.com

Billy Graham

Charles Stanley

David Wilkerson

Greg Laurie

Virtue for Women-  
Cathe Laurie

Chapel Flock.....text a prayer..... request telephone number.....

(316) 247-3623

Or----

If you have a prayer request...please e-mail it to us so we can pray for you...or a person.....

[chapel-flock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chapel-flock@sbcglobal.net)

1 AGAIN THERE was a day when the sons of God [the angels] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan (the adversary and the accuser) came also among them to present himself before the Lord. 2 And the Lord said to Satan, From where do you come? And Satan (the adversary and the accuser) answered the Lord, From going to and fro on the earth and from walking up and down on it. 3 And the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who [reverently] fears God and abstains from and shuns all evil [because it is wrong]? And still he holds fast his integrity, although you moved Me against him to destroy him without cause. 4 Then Satan answered the Lord, Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has will he give for his life. 5 But put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse and renounce You to Your face. 6 And the Lord said to Satan, Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life. 7 So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with loathsome and painful sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself, and he sat [down] among the ashes. 9 Then his wife said to him, Do you still hold fast your blameless uprightness? Renounce God and die! 10 But he said to her, You speak as one of the impious and foolish women would speak. What? Shall we accept [only] good at the hand of God and shall we not accept [also] misfortune and what is of a bad nature? In [spite of] all this, Job did not sin with his lips. 11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, for they had made an appointment together to come to condole with him and to comfort him. 12 And when they looked from afar off and saw him [disfigured] beyond recognition, they lifted up their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe, and they cast dust over their heads toward the heavens. 13 So they sat down with [Job] on the ground for seven days and seven nights, and none spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief and pain were very great.

## Chapter 2

So back again to the heavenly scene.

Another day and again the sons of God are presenting themselves before Jehovah, and Satan is coming with them to present himself before the LORD (Job 2:1).

I have to say concerning Satan, I do... well, what do you say, admire? This guy has a lot of chutzpah. I mean, to go in and stand before God, to present himself before God takes quite a bit.

And God again said, [Hey,] where have you been? (Job 2:2)

As though God doesn't know.

He said, [Oh, I've been messing around down] in the earth going to and fro, walking up and down in it. God said, [Hey,] have you considered my servant Job? Good man. He's upright. He loves good; he hates evil (Job 2:2-3).

Satan, having failed the first philosophy of Job proving to be false, had his second philosophy. Now in the second philosophy, Satan shows his cunning understanding of human nature, because the psychologists tell us that one of man's strongest, most basic instincts is that of self-preservation. It's probably the strongest instinct that you have - self-preservation. And so Satan recognizing this to be true said,

Skin for skin, all that a man has will he give for his life (Job 2:4).

"You put limitations on what I could do to him. You didn't let me touch him. Now you let me get at him and he'll curse You to Your face." So God said, "All right, you may touch him, but spare his life." Again, God placing the restrictions and limitations upon that which Satan can do.

Now I believe that God does place upon Satan the limitations. The Bible says that God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to bear. You see, God has put the limitations. Satan didn't go so far but God says, "All right, that's as far as you go." Now as far as I'm concerned, God lets him go too far. I would just as soon God bottled the guy up and ship him off into outer space somewhere. But yet, he is acting really under the government of God, because God places the restrictions and the limitations upon what he can do.

Brings up a problem. If God does control Satan, then why doesn't God bottle him up and ship him out of the universe? If God one day is going to cast him and his followers into this place scripturally that is known as Gehenna, into outer darkness, then why doesn't God do it now and save us all the miseries? Why does Satan have the liberties that God has granted to him? The power that God has granted to him. Why did God allow him to come into the Garden of Eden? Why does God allow him the freedom to war against us? It's all involved in why did God create you?

God created you in order that He might have an object to love and from which He might receive love. Now, in order to receive meaningful love it has to be a free will involved. You cannot be a robot. You've got to have a free will, the capacity and power of choice in order that your love for God might truly be a meaningful love. And thus, God gave us the capacity of choice, the free will. But what value is that unless there's something to choose? To have the power of choice and yet nothing to choose would be totally meaningless. So God not only had to create us with the capacity of choice, but He had to allow the opportunity of an alternate choice. And thus, Satan was allowed to rebel against God. And he was allowed to come to man and to offer man an alternate choice

in order that if man chose at that point to love God, God would know that the choice was from the heart and it was meaningful and God could then receive praise and glory from the meaningful love that was expressed to Him. Taking a chance man might make the wrong choice. You might be disappointed; you're heartbroken. Such was the case.

But God did know that down through the years there would be those who would make the right choice. And for the treasure of having the love of those who would choose to love Him and serve Him, He allowed the choice knowing that many would make the wrong choice but yet also knowing that there would be those who would choose to love Him and would express their love for Him, and He could come into a meaningful relationship of love and fellowship with those who chose to know Him and to follow Him and to love Him.

So the choice is still there and Satan is still operating in order to encourage you to take the alternate choice. But the fact that you resist the devil and the temptations and the seductions and the allurements and the enticements and those things that he seeks to place in your path to cause you to turn away from God and the Word of God and the law of God, and to follow after your own lust and desires. The fact that you resist those temptations and you still love God, and you gather and you worship God and you sing together of your love and your praise, and you spend your time in meditation in His Word and just in fellowship with Him, that fellowship is extremely meaningful, because God knows you don't have to. But it's coming from your heart. And for that reason, God created man and God has allowed the whole mess to exist in order that there might be at least within it those who would love Him with a sincere love. You don't have to love God. You don't have to serve God. There are very attractive alternate decisions, but man must make his choice and God is honored when man makes the right choice.

Now, Satan then is a tool that God uses. God has placed him under certain restrictions and still there are restrictions. However, Job is now afflicted with boils all over his body, running sores. He takes a piece of broken pottery and scrapes his body. Extremely painful, stinky, loathsome. Covered. He sits in a bed of ashes, because it's impossible to sit down or lie down anywhere without the extreme pain of this staff-type infection that covered his entire body. And his wife coming near to him, smelling the foul odors, seeing the pain and the suffering and the misery of a man who has been reduced to this, said to her husband, "Why don't you get it over with? Why don't you curse God and die?" Now that came from a heart of love. It hurt her to see her husband in such total misery. "Job, I can't stand to see you like this. Why don't you get it over with? Why don't you curse God and die?"

But he said unto her, You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we receive only good from the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all of this did not Job sin with his lips. Now there were three friends who, when they heard of the misery of Job, decided that they would come and visit with him; Eliphaz [who was from Teman] the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: and they had made an appointment to gather together and to mourn with him, and to comfort him (Job 2:10-11).

When they saw him, they didn't recognize him. They were just so shocked that they just began to weep; they tore their clothes and they just sat down weeping. And for seven days and for seven nights, they sat there, and no one said a word to him: because their grief was extremely great (Job 2:13). (Through The Bible c 2000 Series; Chuck Smith; Bible commentaries, 1979-1986)

 "Satan: Who is He?" J. Vernon McGee

This is one theme that I approach with mixed feelings. I want to avoid any superstitious and nonbiblical conceptions because there's so much abroad today concerning Satan that is not biblical. Yet I want to be realistic about it. I believe that Satan is a reality. He is a person, and I am convinced that he would like very much to see you skip this chapter. I've prayed more about the preparation of this study than any other in a long time because of that.

He is an enemy. I have never spoken on the subject of Satan when there wasn't something which interrupted in a way that tried to snatch away the seed of the Word that was sown. One thing is obvious: Satan does not want to be identified. Ignorance of his motives and his movements is his chief weapon today. He moves with all subtlety, which is the thing that characterizes him. This is the reason you see him as a serpent in the Garden of Eden. You will see him under different guises as you go through the Word of God. He does this because he does not want his true character to be known. He attempts to conceal that from man.

Let me repeat, ignorance of him is his chief weapon. And if you want to know how well he's done the job, you go out on the streets of your neighborhood shopping area and ask the people who go by for their opinions. Probably one out of ten would say they believe Satan is a reality. The other nine will think that he is merely a myth. I say that he has done a super job of making the average person believe he does not exist.

Paul could write in his day, "We are not ignorant of his devices" (2Co 2:11). Well, I do not think we can say that today. The average person is ignorant of his devices, and I believe even Christians today are not really on the alert. John says in Rev 12:9 that Satan "deceives the whole world" (emphasis added). He is the one who is in the business of deception, and he has done a marvelous job at that.

Paul told the young preacher Timothy:

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. (2Ti 3:13)

They are going to deceive others because they are themselves the children of Satan, but in turn, they themselves will be deceived. The world outside, as you well know, is carrying on a racket, seeing who can take more advantage of the other, seeing who can deceive the other fellow. That is the satanic system that exists today. Paul, writing to the Corinthian believers and speaking of nonbelievers, said:

whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2Co 4:4)

Now Satan has done and continues doing a masterful job here. He has blinded the minds of multitudes concerning the gospel. That is the only subject on which he will blind the minds of people. Have you noticed that? The "god of this world," which is another name used for Satan, has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they will not believe the glorious gospel of Christ.

Actually, the human family is said to be imprisoned by Satan, so let's use this as an example. Here is a prison house, and it's absolutely invulnerable, you cannot get out any place. There is no way out except through this door—the Lord Jesus said, "I am the door," you see. The only way you get out is through Christ, and you cannot get out any other way.

Satan has a great many people thinking he is down on skid row. Do you think he is fooling around down there where they can't get out? I don't think so. Some think, Well, he is out here where sin is flagrant. No, he is not patrolling those areas—nobody is getting out there. The only place he is watching is the one place of escape, and that is through the gospel of Christ. And the only thing he is concerned about in your neighborhood and my neighborhood is that people be blinded to the gospel of Christ.

My friend, Satan has done a good job. I would estimate that last Sunday from 90 percent of the pulpits of Southern California the congregations were told to do something in order to get to heaven. Satan likes that—it's his so-called good news. He uses it in a very convincing manner. That is what he told Adam and Eve. He wanted to convince them that by doing what he said, they could become like God! He is telling folks all over the world, "Don't believe the Bible, you will be able to make it by your own efforts. You can do this yourself. You'll become as gods. Don't take the position that Christ shed His blood in order to redeem you. That's not aesthetic. You don't want this business of the gospel of the Cross." Oh, my friend, there is no other way! Jesus is the only way out, and here is where Satan blinds the human family.

I frankly believe that any preacher or any other person who declares the gospel of Christ is immediately under fire. That person is Satan's enemy. Satan uses every possible means to blind men's eyes to the gospel. He is supreme at this business of deception today.

#### Angels: Two Classes

First of all, we need to note that angels are divided into two classes, those who are obedient to God and those who belong to Satan. We are given that distinction in Rev 12:7:

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought.

So we have here good angels and bad angels, God's angels and Satan's angels. And we see Michael who is called the archangel (Jude 9). I personally believe there are other archangels, but as far as we can tell, the holy angels are under Michael. Notice in Revelation 12 that Michael and his angels fought. He is opposed to Satan. Evidently, Satan was an archangel, and when he rebelled against God some unholy angels sided with him. Some of them are already reserved in chains for judgment:

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 6)

Others of them are called demons, which go about Satan's business. They have not yet been brought to judgment. Why God has made that distinction, I don't know. I suppose there are degrees of responsibility, even among angels, and therefore the responsibility is what made it impossible for some to have any outlet at all. They are reserved in chains.

#### The Person of Satan

Now when you come to the person of Satan, there are at least forty names given him in Scripture. For instance, you have four names in this one verse in Revelation:

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev 12:9)

Notice that he's called "the old serpent"; and that, of course, here in the last book of the Bible, takes us back to Satan's first contact with man in the Garden of Eden, for he appeared there as the "shining one," so he is called the "old serpent."

He is also called "the devil," which is the Greek word diabolos, meaning slanderer or accuser. Keep that in mind because it has something to do with his present work, and apparently it also has had something to do with his entire career.

He's also called "Satan," which means adversary. He is the awful adversary of God, and he is the adversary of all God's children. We're told: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1Pe 5:8)

Even there, you see three titles given to him.

Satan is called "the accuser of our brethren" in Rev 12:10. He is called "Apollyon" in Rev 9:11, which means "destroyer." He is called "Belial" in 2Co 6:15, meaning "worthless" or "lawless." He is called "the evil one." You remember that when our Lord taught His disciples to pray, He included "Deliver us from the evil one," which should serve as a warning. And then again Jesus Christ Himself, when He prayed the real Lord's prayer—that is, His own petition to the Father—said:

I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (Joh 17:15)

Satan is also called "Beelzebub" in Mar 3:22, where the scribes accused Christ of casting out demons by Beelzebub, the prince or ruler of the demons.

These are just some of Satan's names and titles. We won't be going into detail concerning them, though it's a very interesting study in and of itself.

Now this creature known as Satan has the unique distinction of being the originator and the promoter of evil. It is a gross assumption and entirely inaccurate to ascribe grotesque physical forms to Satan. Most of what people envision today, for instance, is Satan as a creature with horns, a forked tail, and cloven feet, which comes from the literature of the Middle Ages. Its origin is Greek mythology and is the description of the god Pan, or Bacchus, the god of pleasure. All of this has shaped the thinking of Christendom concerning Satan more than the Bible has, and it's well to get back to the Word of God and see what God really has to say about him.

Satan is a personality, definitely a personality. You will remember that our Lord, addressing the scribes and Pharisees, said: 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. (Joh 8:44)

This is the way Scripture speaks of Satan. Note that our Lord refers to him definitely as a person, a liar, and a murderer.

Let me repeat this verse:

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1Pe 5:8)  
"Satan," someone has said, "is to be dreaded as a lion; he is more to be dreaded as a serpent; and he is most to be dreaded as an angel." That's the difficulty. We think of him as being a frightful, fearful being. But he was not created a frightful creature. In fact, 2Co 11:14 tells us that Satan "transforms himself into an angel of light," and if you could see him, you would agree that he is the most beautiful creature you've ever seen. One of the reasons sin is attractive is because Satan is attractive. This idea today that he represents the seamy side of life is not true. He's very much concerned about the things of culture and refinement. He is right in the midst of the things which today are considered the best things in life. And you do not have to go down to skid row to find him at work.

### The Origin of Satan

Let's turn back to the Old Testament and see the origin of this evil one. The passage that deals with this is Ezekiel 28. It is a remarkable revelation, and I want us to look at this carefully because here we have the origin of this evil creature.

In this passage, beginning with verse 11, we see Satan behind the king of Tyre. Tyre was the great commercial center. Tyre represents the final Babylon which God will destroy because it is satanic. Notice this:

Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him...."

The things that follow could never apply to a human king of Tyre, but they do apply to the one who is behind him. This angel is the highest creature God ever created.

Notice what God Himself says about Satan:

Thus says the Lord God:

"You were the seal of perfection,

Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty."

(Eze 28:12)

He was created an instrument of music, if you please! He didn't carry around a musical instrument, he was a musical instrument—perhaps like a mighty pipe organ. Now can you imagine that kind of music, my friend, compared with some of the things we hear in our day which are classified as music? Can you imagine the effect that this creature would have upon all of God's intelligences? He is a walking symphony, and he is perfect in wisdom and perfect in beauty!

That's not all—"You were the anointed cherub" (v. 14). So you see that we're not talking about a man. The word cherub is the singular of cherubim. Cherubim are symbolic of God's holy presence and unapproachable majesty. They are celestial beings who guard and vindicate the righteousness of God. Satan was one of the cherubim. Now whether there were others equal to him, I don't know. I assume that all the cherubim are on the same par, but this one—"You were the anointed cherub who covers" (Eze 28:14)—occupied a unique position.

Now, "the anointed cherub who covers" is the picture given to us in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve had been sent out of the garden, and God placed the cherubim to guard the way to the tree of life. They were protecting that way of life so that man could come to God, so he would not be destroyed by the holiness of God nor be judged by God. And further on in history, when Moses made the mercy seat and placed it in the tabernacle's Holy of Holies, God's glory dwelt between the cherubim. The cherubim covered it (Exo 25:20).

Satan was a cherub. And his position was to guard the very throne of God in heaven. He looked down upon it as those cherubim looked down upon the mercy seat in the tabernacle. His position was that of protecting the holiness of God. Satan had occupied this highest of all positions!

And will you notice:

You were the anointed cherub who covers;

I established you;

You were on the holy mountain of God;

You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

(Eze 28:14)

This is an Eden, not of green grass and trees and animals, but of stones, beautiful stones, if you please.

Now notice this very interesting verse:

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,

Till iniquity was found in you.

(Eze 28:15)

Imagine this highest of God's creatures, perfect in wisdom, beautiful beyond description—there is no way in the world for us today as human beings to conceive of the beauty of this creature—given this high, exalted position, and a musician to top off all that!

But this creature with all of these attributes also had a free will. God had created him, as He did the angels, with a free will—these created intelligences could make a choice. One day God said to this marvelous creature, "Iniquity was found in you" (Ezekiel 28:15).

What Did He Do?

What kind of iniquity could be found in him? Was he going out at night and getting drunk? What was this covering cherub doing? In the Book of Ezekiel God has let us stand with Him at the very beginning, to see the origin, the creation of Satan. But in the Book of Isaiah God lets us see his character.

Now let's look at this creature. What was it he did? What was his sin when iniquity was found in him? He must have done something horrible! Do you suppose he murdered? We could get the FBI on the case and find out if he's guilty of murder or kidnapping or something like that. But, friends, he's not guilty of those things.

How you are fallen from heaven,

O Lucifer, son of the morning!

(Isa 14:12)

He's an angel of light. He is Lucifer. When the sons of God shouted for joy at the creation, Satan was there to shout for joy also, the hypocrite! He was a liar from the beginning. Oh, that same thing is in the human heart. Will you notice it?

O Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground,

You who weakened the nations!

(Isa 14:12)

He weakens the nations. He is certainly weakening America today! Now we are going to find out his iniquity. Notice his five "I wills" here:

For you have said in your heart:

"I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High."

(Isa 14:13-14)

"I will go down to hell." What? Is that what he said? That's not the direction he wants to go! If you think he's interested in hell, you are wrong. He hasn't been there yet, and he doesn't want to go there. He will resist it until the very end. What he actually said was, "I will ascend into heaven." He is mighty interested in that direction.

Listen to his second "I will." "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God—I am going to take over." After all, he is perfect in wisdom and beauty. He has a tremendous following, and he's done some snooping around. Oh, the human heart is like Satan! I suppose he began by stirring up discontent among the angels, approaching them like this: "How do you feel about the way things are being run here? Are you satisfied with your job? Wouldn't you like to have a higher position? Don't you think that you're being a little excluded?" That is the tactic Satan used with Adam and Eve.

Now you may not believe that such a thing could be done in heaven. Well, human beings do that, and they do it right in the church. Anyone on a church staff can tell you about that. Sometimes somebody will take a member of the church staff out to lunch and in the course of the conversation ask, "How do you feel about the pastor?" He is seeing if he can run a wedge in between the pastor and the church staff.

You know, Satan is really clever. He gets into the churches—in fact, he goes to church every Sunday and he majors in sowing discord. He may cause you to feel neglected and unappreciated. Oh, how subtle that is. And how satanic it is! That is a lie which began in heaven among the angels—maybe something like this: "Wouldn't you like to have a better position? I'm thinking about setting up a little kingdom of my own, and I've got you in mind for prime minister. God hasn't given you the chance here that He should have given you. You were created for something better, yet He won't give it to you, and I don't know why He doesn't. But I'll give it to you. I'm making plans to lead a rebellion. Would you like to come with me?"

Again, how subtle! Some of the angels fell for that! You say, "How could intelligent angels fall for that?" Well, I know intelligent human beings today who fall for the same thing! It's satanic, my friend, and this thing does get into the church.

You know, we think the devil is at work when people get into sin, gross sin, or get drunk or steal something. No! They sit in the pew as pious as you please, and they sow seeds of rebellion. That's satanic, that's the way he moves. And you're no better than they are if you listen to them, because the angels who listened to Satan went with him. And in the book of Revelation we are told that Satan took a third of the angels with him when he rebelled. Think of that! A lot of them felt they could get by with it.

Now you may think that Satan's tactics do not work. They worked in the Garden of Eden. And you think they don't work today? You go to the smart men you know, the ones with the high I.Q.s, and they will tell you that they are smart enough to get what they want by themselves—they don't need God. It is the lie of Satan today that you can work out your own salvation, that you're smarter than anyone's given you credit for. All of us want a status symbol of some sort, and we all like to feel that we really are somebody. But when God saves you, He takes you as a nobody. And that's the reason it's not the popular way today. But, friends, it is God's way.

Notice again the "I wills" of Satan. Oh, this is subtle, it's satanic:

For you have said in your heart:

There is a way that seems right to a man,

But its end is the way of death.

(Pro 14:12)

Mankind sets his will against the will of God.

The will of God is coming down through this world and through His universe like a tremendous steamroller. And any creature that gets in the way of the will of God will be crushed, because God's will must prevail. And anything contrary to that is sin. The sin of Satan was that he set his will against the will of God.

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way. (Isa 53:6)

That's what sin is, basically. What is it that you want above everything else? "My way." Isn't that right? That's all that a human being wants—my way. Oh, my friend, you and I are sinners as long as we put our will against the will of God.

Now will you notice this: The cosmos, the earth, is the place where Satan today has control, and he does have charge of it. When he rebelled against God, he no longer occupied his position, but that's all he has lost. Satan has access to heaven today, as the Book of Job reveals. We find him going into the presence of God, and not an angel turned and said, "What are you doing here?" Nobody said, "You have no business here." He went there because he had a right to be there.

Not only does he have the right to be there, God may give him the right to test us. Our Lord said to Peter in Luk 22:31, "Satan has desired to have you that he might test you." Satan followed the same pattern he had used in Job's case. He went into God's presence and said, "Does Job fear You for nothing? That fellow Job, just give me a chance at him and I will show You that I can make him curse You to Your face!" (Job 1:9-11). And he got a chance at him, if you please. It was terrible what he did to Job.

When the apostle Peter was a target, I think Satan said to the Lord, "You take that fellow Simon Peter. Do You mean to tell me You've called him as an apostle? I know him as well as You know him. I've been watching him, and I can wreck him if You'll just let me get to him." And God permitted it. God said, "I'll let you have him, but only for a little while." Believe me, the time Peter was in the hands of Satan, he certainly was sifted, sifted like grain, was he not? And the experience was tragic for Simon Peter. Satan made him do a dastardly thing—deny his Lord, a thing that he regretted the rest of his life, of course.

His Influence in the Cosmos

Satan apparently lost this earth, but he gained it back when man fell. And he is called, if you please, "the god of this world." He's the prince of this world. You may recall how Jesus, at the beginning of His ministry, was tempted or tested by Satan:

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory, for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." (Luk 4:5-7)

The fall of man was Satan's gain. He gained the dominion that man lost, so that he is the prince of this world in which we live. Now when we say the world, we're not talking about the soil down here, although there's a curse upon it. Terra firma is not Satan's. The world we're talking about is a system, a cosmos, and that is the word used in Scripture. I want to bundle together a whole lot of Scriptures that I hope will help you see what we're talking about now. The cosmos is that which Satan controls today.

Our Lord Jesus said:

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler [the prince] of this world will be cast out. (Joh 12:31)

Jesus was looking to the future there, but regarding the prince of this world, this cosmos, Jesus said:

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler [the prince] of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. (Joh 14:30)

The prince of this world is Satan.

And Joh 16:11 says the Holy Spirit will convict the world

of judgment, because the ruler [prince] of this world is judged.

Satan is called the prince of the power of the air. He is also called the god of this world.

To the church in Pergamos the Lord Jesus says, "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is" (Rev 2:13). Satan reigns on this earth today. He controls the system that is known as the world system. But our Lord also says:

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

And 1Jo 5:19 says:

We know that we are of God. and the whole world [the cosmos] lies under the sway of the wicked one.

And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world [system].

Oh my, there are so many other Scriptures regarding this world system.

My friend, what I am going to say now applies to wherever you live, but I'll use Los Angeles as an example. Southern California is a lovely place, but how do you as a Christian look on it? We have fine museums and art galleries in Southern California. There are wonderful places of culture and refinement and great seats of education. How do you look at those? I am saying this carefully now: All of that is part of the cosmos, a world system under Satan's control. And all of that is judged. God has condemned it, and it will be going down with Satan when he goes down. How do you look upon it? So many Christians think, If I just don't do this and I don't do a few other little things, that makes me a nice, spiritual Christian, when in reality you may be as worldly as you can be, and Satan is leading you around by the nose. Why? Because of your attitude and relationship to this world system that we're in today. Paul says we should live like this:

... those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess. (1Co 7:30)

"Those who weep, as though they did not weep." Are you going to let some sorrow, some tragedy in your life keep you from serving God? "Those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice." Are you going to let pleasure take the place of your relationship to God, as many do? "Those who buy as though they did not possess." Will you let your business take the place of God? Many a man has made business his god. Paul continues:

... and those who use this world as not misusing it. For the form of this world is passing away. (1Co 7:31)

We're in it.

As a pastor I once walked all over Nashville, Tennessee, with a visiting evangelist, because he would not eat where they served beer. So we walked and then drove up one street and down another, and we could not find a place open. Finally we found one, and I said, "Now look here, brother, I'm hungry, you're hungry, I don't drink beer, I hope you don't drink beer, let's go in and eat!" This business today of thinking, Well, if I just don't do this or that, I am a spiritual person. Oh, that makes us nothing in the world but spiritual snobs—not even knowing what this world system is.

How do you look upon things of this world? Suppose tonight the city of Los Angeles would go up in smoke—and it may very well go up in smoke! Would it break your heart? Are you so wrapped up in this world system, in your business, and in your social life that, if it all were taken out from under you as a Christian today, your heart would be broken? God have mercy on you, because it's going to be taken away from you someday. It is going to disappear. Paul says these things are passing away, and God is going to judge them. And when God judges Satan, it includes all of this world system.

#### His Influence in Spiritual Warfare

My friend, you and I are in a war, in a conflict, and we are given these instructions. This is mentioned to us at least three times, by the way: Eph 6:11—get your armor on and keep it on! Jam 4:7—submit to God before you try to resist the devil. And 1Pe 5:8—be watchful because the enemy is stalking you like a hungry lion!

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph 6:12)

Can you overcome it? No, you can't. You and I are no match for it today. What are we to do? Well, we as believers are given detailed instructions as to what we're to do. We are to "put on the whole armor of God." To fight? No sir, not to fight, because you and I are not going to be able to fight. He says, "And having done all, to stand."

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph 6:13)

There is a demonic world around us and it is manifesting itself at the present hour. If I had said this when I was a young preacher, many would not have believed it. Or they would have said as did one dear lady, "Dr. McGee, you sound positively spooky." Today, however, demonism is a popular subject and is plainly exhibited. There is a Church of Satan in many of our cities. There are strange things happening within certain of these weird, way-out groups. A man said to me recently, "Dr. McGee, this thing is real today." Who said it wasn't real? If you are an unbeliever in this area, open your eyes and see what is happening about us. People are being ensnared and led into all kinds of demonism. There are spiritual forces working in the world, evil forces working against the church. They are working against the believer, against God, against Christ.

We have the enemy located and identified. The enemy is spiritual. It is Satan who heads up his demonic forces. Now we need to recognize where the battle is. Paul identifies the arsenal which is available for the defense. Nowhere is the believer urged to attack and advance. The key to this entire section in Ephesians is the phrase "to stand."

This is an hour when my heart is sick as I see the attendance way down and the interest gone in churches that at one time were great churches. The members were blind to the fact that a battle was being fought there, a spiritual battle.

### Winning the War

Do you pray for your pastor on Saturday night? Don't criticize him, but rather pray for him. He needs your prayers. The devil gives him enough opposition. You don't need to join the crowd that crucifies the man who is preaching the Word of God. You ought to uphold his hands as Aaron and Hur upheld the hands of Moses on behalf of Israel. My heart goes out to pastors who are in need of congregations who will stand with them.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. (Eph 6:14-15)

"Stand therefore." This is the fourth time Paul has given this exhortation to the believer. This is the only place that I find him laying it on the line and speaking like a sergeant. Earlier he said, "I beseech you," but now he gives the command to stand. Not only are we to be in a standing position, but we are also to have on certain armor to protect ourselves. We are not to be outwitted by the wiles of the devil; we are to be ready for his attacks.

"Having girded your waist with truth." In the ancient garment of that day, the girdle about the waist or loins held in place every other part of the uniform of the soldier. It was essential. To tell you the truth, if the girdle was lost, you lost everything. The garments would fly open and the pants would fall down. We see this routine in comedies, and people laugh to see a man trying to run or fight with his trousers drooping. It looks funny in a comedy routine, but it is not funny in a battle. We are told to be girded with truth in the face of the enemy. Truth is that which holds everything together. What is that truth? It is the Word of God. We need people to give out the Word of God and to give it out just as it is written. We need people whose loins are girt about with truth. They need to know the Word of God. We often hear preaching coming from folks who are standing there about to lose all their spiritual garments! They are not girded about with truth, which is the Word of God.

Every piece of this armor really speaks of Christ. We are in Christ in the heavenlies, and we should put on Christ down here in our earthly walk. Paul has already told us to put on Christ, the One who is the truth, and we should be diligent to put Him on in our lives. Any testimony that does not glorify Jesus Christ should not be given. There are too many testimonies that glorify self. Jesus didn't get very much when He got you, and He didn't get very much when He got me. This is a day when the little fellow really does not have very much to say. We get the impression that we need to be someone great in the eyes of the world. But what we need is to have our loins girt about with truth so that we can give a testimony that glorifies Christ. Christ is the truth. Truth alone can meet error. "Having put on the breastplate of righteousness." Christ is the righteousness of the believer. I do think, however, that it includes the practical righteousness of the believer. Let's be clear that the filthy rags of self-righteousness are useless as a breastplate, but I do think that underneath there should be a heart and a conscience that are right with God. Only the righteousness of Christ can enable the believer to stand before men and before God, but the heart that is to be protected should be a heart that is clean before the Lord. It is an awful condition to have sin in our lives while we are trying to carry on the battle. We can never win it that way. "Having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace." Shoes are necessary for standing. They speak of the foundation. We need a good, solid foundation, and preparation is foundational. I remember in hand-to-hand combat we were taught to make sure our feet were anchored. Are your feet anchored on the Rock? Christ is your foundation in this world. We are to put on Christ. Oh, how we need Him today as we face a gainsaying world and spiritual wickedness in the darkness of this world! Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. (Eph 6:14-15) "Stand therefore." This is the fourth time Paul has given this exhortation to the believer. This is the only place that I find him laying it on the line and speaking like a sergeant. Earlier he said, "I beseech you," but now he gives the command to stand. Not only are we to be in a standing position, but we are also to have on certain armor to protect ourselves. We are not to be outwitted by the wiles of the devil; we are to be ready for his attacks.

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The armor of the believer is a spiritual armor because we fight against a spiritual enemy. We are to stand in that armor, and that armor is Christ, the living Christ. Satan himself, in the Book of Job, describes how God protects His own. He said:

Have You not made a hedge around him [Job], around his household and around all that he has on every side? (Job 1:10)

God has provided protection for us today in the armor He supplies.

"Above all, [take] the shield of faith." The shield covered all of the armor. The shield referred to is a large shield the size of a door. It was the shield of Greece's heavy infantry. A soldier stood behind it and was fully protected. Christ is both the door to salvation and the door that protects the believer from the enemy without. This is the picture in John, chapter 10. Christ is both salvation and security.

Faith enables us to enter the door:

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. (Joh 10:9)

That is salvation. What about security? Faith places us securely in His hands. Faith also enables us to stand behind that shield which will quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

"The fiery darts of the wicked one." He is shooting them fast and furiously. I remember that when I was in college, I had a brilliant philosophy professor who had studied in Germany. I respected his intellect, although I did not realize at the time that he was intellectually dishonest. I looked up to him but, very frankly, he was taking my feet out from under me. I would try to answer him in class when I probably should have kept my mouth shut. But we became friends, and we used to walk together across the campus after class and discuss the questions I had raised. It became clear that his philosophies opposed the Word of truth. Discouraged, I came to the place where I went to the Lord in prayer and said, "Lord, if I can't believe Your Word, I don't want to go into the ministry." Then the Lord in a very miraculous way sent me to hear a man who was the most brilliant man, I think, I have ever heard. He gave me truthful answers to my questions. Then I began to learn that when a fiery dart comes my way and I do not have the answer, I am to put up the shield of faith. And this is what I have been doing ever since. I have found that the shield of faith has batted down the fiery darts of the wicked one.

The fiery darts come fast and furiously, and they are going to continue to come. The only thing that will bat them down is the shield of faith. It is like a big door. The hoplites, the heavily armed soldiers in the Greek infantry, could move with those tremendous shields, put them out in front of them, and stand protected shoulder to shoulder while the enemy shot everything they had at them. When the enemy was out of ammunition, the hoplites would move in, certain of victory. That is the way to stand against the fiery darts of the evil one.

"And take the helmet of salvation." The helmet protects the head, and God does appeal to the mind of man. I recognize that He appeals to the heart, but God also appeals to the intellect. Throughout the Scriptures God urges man to think, for example:

"Come now, and let us reason together,"

Says the Lord,

"Though your sins are like scarlet,

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool."

(Isa 1:18)

( Amplified Bible; Joyce Meyers; 2006; Faith Words; Scripture; Commentaries; pages 761-762)

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