

In chapter twelve we step back in time and look at the war that has been going on in the heavenly realm over the souls of mankind. We read of the dragon's attempt to stop the birth of Jesus and to persecute all who follow Him. But also read of Jesus' victory and God's protection of His people.

⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. Revelation 12:7,8 There has been a spiritual battle taking place from the time Satan fell. Once Adam and Eve sinned, the authority over the earth was assumed by Satan. Jesus called him the ruler of this world. But when Jesus defeated him at the resurrection Satan was expelled from the heavenly domain (John 12:31,32ⁱ; Luke 10:18ⁱⁱ).

Satan has always been waging war over the souls of men. In the book of Daniel, we read that there are territorial demonic angels such as the prince of Persia and Greece (Daniel 10:13ⁱⁱⁱ, 20,21^{iv}). The prince of Persia resisted the angel who was sent with an answer to Daniel's prayer and Michael had to come and assist that angel. It took 21 days to break through. But in our passage for today we are reading about what took place in heaven while verses 1 through 6 describe what was taking place on earth. Jesus said, *Now is the time for the world to be judged and the prince of the world to be driven out* John 12:31, as His death and resurrection would affect this war in heaven. We can see that is the case because Satan is referred to as the "accuser of our brothers" (v10). Satan did not want to give up his access to the courts of heaven where he accuses us before God, but **Jesus' death in our place made all his accusations baseless.** He and his minions are no longer allowed access to the throne room but are confined to the earth.

This fighting is more legal than it is physical. We fight with the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17^v). Satan uses the Word also, as in the temptation of Christ in the wilderness (Luke 4:9-11^{vi}). He twists the Word, but Jesus answered with the Scripture in the Spirit in which it was written. Michael and his angels could be victorious because the Lamb of God had taken away the sins of the world. The dragon had no legal ground to continue to accuse us, for we are sanctified by the blood of Jesus which paid our sin debt. The demands of the Law including that sin is punishable by one's life blood was met on the cross, where Jesus took all our sins upon his sinless self and died in our place (Hebrews 9:22^{vii}; 2 Corinthians 5:21^{viii}). Seven times in the Torah when God gave a command, He followed it by declaring, "I am the Lord who sanctifies you" (Exodus 31:13^{ix}; Leviticus 20:8^x etc.)! Michael and his angels could declare to Satan that the debt of every believer in Christ is paid in full, "so get out!" The dragon and his angels may have tried to use other Scripture to try to keep their access to heaven, but their efforts would be met by the finality of the cross. "It is finished" (John 19:30^{xi}). How conclusive is that phrase! Our debt is paid in full. It cannot be undone.

We must know the Scriptures if we are to fight the good fight. Some believers think the Holy Spirit is all we need to fight spiritual battles. They ignore the fact that our only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Jesus showed us how to do battle when He was tempted. (See Matthew 4.) Why would we think we could fight any other way? **It is the Spirit that gives us the hunger for the Word and who helps us interpret and apply it correctly.**

Some commentators claim that this passage is a parallel to Revelation 20 where Satan is bound at the end of the tribulation. But there is a major difference. Here in chapter 12, the dragon and his angels are cast into the earth and his time is short. In chapter 20 he is cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years (20:2^{xii}). This battle has been raging on the earth since the church was formed. We see it in all the false teaching and the animosity against loving and kind believers who proclaim the truth of God with grace but also with conviction (1 Timothy 4:1^{xiii}; John 16:2^{xiv}).

⁹ And 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. Revelation 12:9 John gives us four titles of descriptions of this one who loses his place in heaven. He is the great dragon. We previously saw the word literally means “great snake”. He is the ancient serpent. That should remind the reader of the snake in the Garden of Eden. **That snake slandered God, which is the meaning behind the term devil.** He implied that God had lied to Adam and Eve regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:4,5^{xv}). God’s Word declares that the laws of God are for our good (Deuteronomy 10:13^{xvi}). He continues to slander God by telling mankind that the laws of God are really *not* for our good. He implies we can ignore them and find satisfaction in disobeying God’s laws. Our culture’s slander of Christians in the media and education has the same source.

This being is also called **Satan, which means adversary.** He is constantly playing an adversarial role toward God and God’s people. This did have a legal sense of accusing those who trust in God, which we see so clearly at the beginning of the book of Job (Job 1:10,11^{xvii}). I wonder if the times we feel like a failure it is because the accuser has *our* ear. He would like us to forget that Jesus has taken all our sins and removed them as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12^{xviii}). That is because He wants our eyes on our self. If we look to Jesus, the kindness of God will lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4^{xix}), and the Adversary does not want that. Once we repent, we are effective again for the kingdom of God.

The great dragon, the ancient serpent, the devil, Satan is the deceiver of the whole world. “You are of God little children, and the whole world lies in wickedness,” John wrote in one of his letters (1 John 5:19^{xx}). We are in Christ, or we are deceived. **The deception is that the created world can satisfy our souls.** This deceiver and his fallen angels have been doing the same thing the serpent did with Eve, impugning God’s motives and claiming there is spiritual satisfaction in created things that thrill our senses. We see the deceiver’s work described in some of the letters to the churches. It has been said that Satan devotes most of his efforts to corrupting the church, as the rest of the world is already on the broad path (Matthew 7:13^{xxi}).

Beale notes that *John appears also to have chosen the image of a snake because it was the most pervasive picture of pagan divinity in Asia Minor, where the seven churches he wrote to were located. For example, the serpent image was associated with the three major cults of Asclepius, Dionysus, and Zeus. This suggests that John’s depiction of the devil as a serpent served as a polemic against the pagan religions and their gods.*^{xxii} I agree, but I would say that God chose it, not John. John is reporting the vision.

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

Revelation 12:10 Verses 10-12 is praise from the saints in heaven for what took place in verses 7-9, the expulsion of Satan and his angels from the heavenly realm. We know it is the voice of the saints because they refer to “our brothers.” They are praising God because the accuser no longer has access to God’s presence in heaven to accuse us.

Angels were cast down shortly after creation according to 2 Peter 2:4^{xxiii} and Jude 6^{xxiv}). At that time some of the angels were bound and kept in darkness until the judgment. In this passage those that are cast down are free to roam the earth. When this takes place depends on how you interpret the 1260 days mentioned in verse 6. If you see it as the church age, then it took place at the ascension; but if it is interpreted as being half of the final seven years, then this casting down happens during the tribulation. There is a third option. That is that both are true. He is cast down at the ascension of Christ, but knows he has a short time once the tribulation starts and then intensifies his persecution of the saints.

This is a courtroom battle. We know from Job 1:6-11 and Zechariah 3:1,2^{xxv} that Satan accuses those who are saved in the Old Testament of being unworthy. In other words, he is claiming God is not righteous in forgiving their sins. He had a case, as no one is worthy (Romans 3:23^{xxvi}). But his case became meritless once Jesus died for the sins of the world. He no longer has any grounds to accuse us, thus he no longer has access to the throne room. The blood of Christ paid the sin debt of all who put their faith in God. (See Romans 3:21-26^{xxvii}; 8:33,34^{xxviii}) Heaven no longer needs to hear his slanderous accusations. Satan lost any privilege to accuse believers because *the Lamb’s blood “releases them from their sins” (1:5^{xxix}), “purchases” them (5:9^{xxx}), and washes and makes white the robes of those whose names are written “in the book of life” (7:14^{xxxi}; 3:4–5^{xxxii}).*^{xxxiii} This does not exclude the possibility that what followed God’s judgment was an actual angelic battle, such as Michael’s battle with the Prince of Persia.

Regarding the Lamb’s blood conquering the serpent, I recently learned that snake antivenom is made from lamb’s blood. Sheep have a robust immune system, so a small amount of venom is injected into sheep, and the antibodies are harvested from the blood. Yes, nature does proclaim the gospel (Romans 1:20^{xxxiv})!

Hamilton sums up verse 10 as follows: *Salvation has come in the sense that all grounds of satanic accusation have been removed by Christ's death on the cross, demonstrating God's power, the righteousness of his kingdom, and the authority of Christ.*^{xxxv} That is reason for the saints of all time to praise God!

“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” Revelation 12:11 Verse 11 is the point of this chapter if not the entire book. It begins with “and.” That points us back to verse 10 in which salvation and the kingdom have come. The accuser has lost his standing and his case against all who have claimed the blood of Christ shed for their sins. Satan has lost the battle for our souls. Hallelujah! All he can do is kill our bodies. And as Jesus taught in Luke 12:4 ⁴ *“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.”* Satan cannot touch your soul. He lost. His angels lost. The battle was won when Jesus declared, “It is finished.” The legal battle and the angelic battle were won by the blood of the Lamb, the antivenom to the serpent’s venom of sin.

This is how we overcome. We receive God’s gracious gift of salvation merited for us by Jesus’ sacrificial blood payment for our sins. **The word of our testimony is not that**

we lived a righteous life, but rather that our Savior did and died that we might live. Our testimony is that we are sinners saved by the grace of God and now victorious in Jesus. In fact, Paul declares that in Christ we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37^{xxxvi}).

In case you do not realize what that means to us, the letters to the churches describe what the overcomers are promised: the right to eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God (2:7^{xxxvii}), that we will not be hurt by the second death (2:11^{xxxviii}), the right to eat the hidden manna and to receive a white stone with our new name (2:17^{xxxix}), authority over the nations (2:26^{xl}), clothed in white with our name never blotted out of the book of life (3:5^{xli}), have the name of God and the heavenly city and Jesus' new name written on us, and we will be a pillar in the heavenly temple (3:12^{xlii}), and sit with Jesus' on His throne (3:21^{xliii})!

Those seven letters were warnings and promises to the churches. When they heard the promises to the overcomers they also heard the conditions: return to your first love (2:4,5^{xliv}), stay faithful unto death (2:10^{xlv}), hold fast what you have until I come (2:25^{xlvi}; 3:11^{xlvii}), But here chapter 12:11, they are told *how* they can be those conquerors to whom the promises are guaranteed. It is by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, willing to love Jesus more than our very lives. If we have already died to our old nature, like the dear sister in the Columbine massacre, when the gun is to our head and we are asked if we are a Christian, we will not hesitate to declare we belong to Jesus. We will not fear the ones who can kill the body but have no more that they can do. If you know those promises that are yours in Christ, that as verse 10 declares, "the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come," then we will have nothing to fear. We do not fall for the lie that says this life and the world's pleasures are all that matters. In fact, we know that our Creator and His love for us is worth living and dying for. He laid down His life for us, and it would be our privilege to lay down our lives for Him. It comes down to what we decide to love. If it is in this life, we will struggle to be a testimony in the face of persecution. If it is set on Christ, we will be able to cling to Him and continue to testify regardless of the consequences. That is our victory over Satan realized because of Jesus' victory on the cross.

The dragon's war on the saints will be a bloody one, but we overcome just like Jesus did, by not loving our lives even unto death and the word of our testimony (the blood of the Lamb paid for our sins). Jesus said that if we love our life, we will lose it. If we lose our lives for His sake we will live eternally (John 12:25^{xlviii}). Without the blood of the Lamb, we stand before God with Satan's accusations ringing true. The justice Satan hopes to inflict on mankind will come to pass for everyone who rejects the gospel, for they have no testimony of accepting the offer of salvation.

¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!" Revelation 12:12 The heavenly realm is free of Satan's attacks, but the earth faces his destructive power. He will kill and destroy all that he can (John 10:10^{xlix}). He is angry with God and takes it out on God's creation and those whom God loves because he knows the end, and that it will be coming soon (Matthew 8:29^l). He has been restrained, but then he will be free to empower the Antichrist and wreak havoc in the world (2 Thessalonians 2:7^{li}). God will use it to divide the sheep from the goats and give people a final chance to repent.

Even now he goes about seeking those whom he can devour (1 Peter 5:8^{lii}). He is behind the drug epidemic. He inspires false religions, cult leaders, and military dictators, and despotic rulers (1 Timothy 4:1^{liii}). But he also lures individuals with false promises he can never fulfill. He promises satisfaction but deals out death.

I remember in the 70s hearing a number of conversion stories that were a result of LSD hallucinations of Satan wanting to destroy the drug user. While Satan was spreading destructive drugs, God was opening the eyes of the users to what was really going on in the spiritual realm. I am not advocating using psychedelics as some people lose their minds when they use them, but rather I am saying that God can even thwart the devil's tools to call souls into the kingdom (Genesis 50:20^{liv}).

In one sense this war of the wrath of Satan and his forces has been ongoing since the Garden of Eden. We could credit Satan for tempting Eve resulting in the fallen nature of man and all the consequences of man's evil heart. From the Crusades to the Inquisition, so many have needlessly died. But sometimes death is on such a huge scale that I wonder if Satan was not directly involved. The Cultural Revolution in China saw millions starve. The carnage of Stalin and atrocities of Hitler and Mao killed millions. African warlords like Kony build armies of children whose hearts become hardened by the acts they are forced to commit. And in our day Islamic factions performed unspeakable acts of terror on civilian populations, such as the recent Hamas attack in Israel. And yet when the one who restrains is taken out of the way, which Paul spoke of in 2 Thessalonians 2:6^{lv}, the slaughter of Christians will be on a never before seen scale.

From a heavenly perspective the kingdom of God is about to replace the kingdoms of man. From an earthly perspective, the suffering of mankind will soon reach a climax with the wrath of God being poured out in judgment and the persecution of believers will peak. At the same time, many souls will enter the valley of decision.

This is not bad news. It is good news! Sin will be no more. Justice will be served. The trials of this life are transient (2 Corinthians 4:17,18^{lvi}). The kingdom of God is forever! The next verse begins with the word "but." Even amid Satan's rage and possession of the Lawless One who is the Antichrist, God will intervene for His own giving us strength to face whatever comes.

Questions:

- 1 What are the two ways in which this battle takes place?
- 2 In what forms is this battle played out on earth?
- 3 Go over the four descriptions of the great dragon?
- 4 Review Hamilton's summary of verse 10.
- 5 How was the battle won?
- 6 What is the word of our testimony?
- 7 What is promised to the overcomers?
- 8 Why does Satan attack the believers?
- 9 Where do we see this war in our world today?
- 10 Why is this good news?

ⁱ John 12:31-32 (ESV)

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

ii **Luke 10:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

iii **Daniel 10:13 (ESV)**

¹³ The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

iv **Daniel 10:20,21 (ESV)**

²⁰ Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come. ²¹ But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

v **Ephesians 6:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

vi **Luke 4:9-11 (ESV)**

⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,

¹⁰ for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,"

¹¹ and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

vii **Hebrews 9:22 (ESV)**

²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

viii **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

ix **Exodus 31:13 (ESV)**

¹³ "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.

x **Leviticus 20:8 (ESV)**

⁸ Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

xi **John 19:30 (ESV)**

³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

xii **Revelation 20:2 (ESV)**

² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

xiii **1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV)**

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

xiv **John 16:2 (ESV)**

² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.

xv **Genesis 3:4-5 (ESV)**

⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

xvi **Deuteronomy 10:13 (ESV)**

¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

xvii **Job 1:9-11 (ESV)**

⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

xviii **Psalms 103:12 (ESV)**

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

xix **Romans 2:4 (ESV)**

⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

xx Romans 2:4 (ESV)

⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

xxi Matthew 7:13 (ESV)

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

xxii . G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 656. So Bauckham, *Climax of Prophecy*, [195–97](#)¹

xxiii 2 Peter 2:4 (ESV)

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

xxiv Jude 1:6 (ESV)

⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

xxv Zechariah 3:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

² And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?"

xxvi Romans 3:23 (ESV)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

xxvii Romans 3:21-26 (ESV)

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

xxviii Romans 8:33-34 (ESV)

³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

xxix Revelation 1:5 (ESV)

⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

xxx Revelation 5:9 (ESV)

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

xxxi Revelation 7:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

xxxii Revelation 3:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

xxxiii G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 660.

xxxiv Romans 1:20 (ESV)

²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

xxxv James, Hamilton, *Preaching the Word - Revelation: The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*

xxxvi Romans 8:37 (ESV)

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

xxxvii Revelation 2:7 (ESV)

⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

xxxviii Revelation 2:11 (ESV)

¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

xxxix Revelation 2:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

xl Revelation 2:26 (ESV)

²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,

xli Revelation 3:5 (ESV)

⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

xlii Revelation 3:12 (ESV)

¹² The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

xliiii Revelation 3:21 (ESV)

²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

xliv Revelation 2:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

xlv Revelation 2:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

xlvi Revelation 2:25 (ESV)

²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come.

xlvii Revelation 3:11 (ESV)

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

xlviii John 12:25 (ESV)

²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

xliv John 10:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

l Matthew 8:29 (ESV)

²⁹ And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

li 2 Thessalonians 2:7 (ESV)

⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

lii 1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

liiii 1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV)

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

liv Genesis 50:20 (ESV)

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

^{iv} **2 Thessalonians 2:6 (ESV)**

⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time.

^{lvi} **2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (ESV)**

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.