

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

Chapter 40

Ephesians 6:12–15

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

HERE, the apostle outlines the spiritual war that exists between saints and *spiritual wickedness* in high places. The conflict that exists amongst those *rulers of darkness*, who oversee and initiate, the gloom, misery, and sorrow seen and experienced by everyone and everything on this earth. Like a military general, who oversees his army, guiding and directing his forces to attack areas of weakness in his enemy, so do evil and wicked spirits, guide those whom they have influence over, to pursue doing the most harm and spiritual destruction, to the Lord's people, as they can,¹ as well as all the other inhabitants of the earth.

The reason that Christians are instructed *to be strong in the Lord, and in the power*

of his might, (v. 10) and put on *the whole armour of God*, (v. 11) is because the true battle that they are engaged in, is in the spiritual realm. It is here where the conflict ultimately takes place between good and evil, and light and darkness. It is also here, in the higher spiritual realm, where the powers of darkness develop injurious plots, *to steal, kill, and destroy* people's lives.² Undoubtedly, this present world is dark, tenebrous, and enigmatic, and can be traced to these *rulers of the darkness*, and *spiritual wickedness in high places*.

The condemnation upon sinners is not so much that they are merely in darkness, but that they actually love and possess a preference for it. It is this absence of love for light, and ultimate rejection of it, that seals God's condemnation of sinners.³ And though many will attempt to cloak their true character and sinful nature, and display a good exterior towards others, their internal disposition shall always be revealed by the light of

1 John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

2 John 10:1–9 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.* ²*But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.* ³*To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.* ⁴*And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.* ⁵*And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.* ⁶*This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.* ⁷*Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.* ⁸*All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.* ⁹*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

3 John 3:19 *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

divine truth.⁴ It is this truth, which is able to make known the inward condition of the sinner's heart. Its power, able to both penetrate and reveal the hidden internal motives and secret intentions, of those who have chosen not to walk in the truth.⁵ (Heb. 4:12) *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

(*Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, Heb. 4:12) *And is a discerner...*—Is quick to discern, able to judge, the thoughts (reflections, conceptions, intents) of the heart. Man's word may be lifeless, without power to discriminate, to adapt itself to a changed state or varying circumstances, to enforce itself: the Spirit of God is never absent from His word. (END QUOTE)

Currently the earth is a battlefield for the hearts and minds of people, and no Christian has been given the right to spiritually sit on the sideline, and not vigorously

support Christ and His cause. It is also for the reason, that saints are described in scripture, as the *salt of the earth*, and are actually necessary for the world's preservation. (Matt. 5:13) *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

(*Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary*, Matt. 5:13) *Ye are the salt of the earth*—to preserve it from corruption, to season its insipidity, to freshen and sweeten it. The value of salt for these purposes is abundantly referred to by classical writers as well as in Scripture; and hence its symbolical significance in the religious offerings as well of those without as of those within the pale of revealed religion. In Scripture, mankind, under the unrestrained workings of their own evil nature, are represented as entirely corrupt. Thus, before the flood (Ge 6:11, 12);⁶ after the flood (Ge 8:21);⁷ in the days of David (Ps 14:2, 3);⁸ in the days of Isaiah (Isa 1:5, 6);⁹ and in the days of Paul (Eph 2:1-3; see also Job 14:4; 15:15, 16; Joh 3:6;¹⁰ compared

4 Eph. 5:13 *But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.*

Luke 8:17 *For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.*

1 Cor. 4:5 *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

5 1 Cor. 14:24-25 *But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:*²⁵ *And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.*

6 Gen. 6:11-12 *The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.*¹² *And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.*

7 Gen. 8:21 *And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.*

8 Ps. 14:2-3 *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.*³ *They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

9 Isa. 1:5-6 *Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.*

10 Eph. 2:1-3 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

Job 14:4 *Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.*

with Ro 8:8; Tit 3:2, 3).¹¹ The remedy for this, says our Lord here, is the active presence of His disciples among their fellows. The character and principles of Christians, brought into close contact with it, are designed to arrest the festering corruption of humanity and season its insipidity. But how, it may be asked, are Christians to do this office for their fellow men, if their righteousness only exasperate them, and recoil, in every form of persecution, upon themselves? The answer is: That is but the first and partial effect of their Christianity upon the world: though the great proportion would dislike and reject the truth, a small but noble band would receive and hold it fast; and in the struggle that would ensue, one and another even of the opposing party would come over to His ranks, and at length the Gospel would carry all before it.

but if the salt have lost his savour—"become unsavory" or "insipid"; losing its saline or salting property. The meaning is: If that Christianity on which the health of the world depends, does in any age, region, or individual, exist only in name, or if it contain not those saving elements for want of which the world languishes, (END QUOTE)

It has always been those sent by Christ, who have accomplished the greatest victories over the dark and forbidding realm of evil spirits and the devil.¹² This was evidenced in the seventy when Jesus commissioned them to go and hold forth His message into every village and town, where He Himself would soon visit.¹³ Ultimately they returned from their deployment, filled with incredible joy and happiness, and actually amazed, that even devils were subject to them in Jesus' name.¹⁴ They knew, as most do not today, that the real power of ministry, comes from He, Who commissions men to do His work. Confirming also, that though we may be used as vessels for the Savior's purpose, the true power is always His, and to Him should all glory and praise be given.¹⁵ To also exercise any spiritual power, is both an honor and privilege, but to ever deceive ourselves to foolishly believe, that somehow we are the source of this power, is undoubtedly spiritual sin. This is also why so many, who lack deep faith in the Son of God, possess such little spiritual impact in the world. Simply because, it is

Job 15:15-16 Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. ¹⁶How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

11 Rom. 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Titus 3:2-3 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. ³For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

12 Mark 6:13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them. Acts 5:16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Acts 8:6-7 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

Acts 16:16-18 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: ¹⁷The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. ¹⁸And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Acts 19:11-12 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: ¹²So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

13 Luke 10:1 After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

14 Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

15 II Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

only through Christ, and not themselves, that true spiritual power can be accessed and walked in. Peter and John's healing at the gate Beautiful is a wonderful example of servants of the Lord, being fully aware, that the power they manifested in healing the cripple laid daily at the gate, was due to the power of their Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, and that it was surely not their own holiness or ability, which produced such a miracle as this. (Acts 3:12) *And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?*

(Benson Commentary, Acts 3:12) *Or why look ye so earnestly on us*—With that astonishment which your looks express, as though by our own power we had effected this cure; or by our own holiness had deserved that God should perform it by us. (END QUOTE)

Ultimately no pride is so intoxicating as spiritual pride, that attempts to rob the glory due to God, and transfer it to one's self.¹⁶ And you can be assured that no true servant of the Lord Jesus, whom He has filled with an abundance of spiritual gifts and power, will ever ascribe the source of his spiritual strength, as emanating from himself.

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Eph. 6:12) *Against the rulers of the darkness of this world*—The rulers that preside over the regions of ignorance and sin with which the earth abounds, compare notes on Ephesians 2:2.¹⁷ "Darkness" is an emblem of ignorance, misery, and sin; and no description could be more accurate than that of representing these malignant spirits as ruling over a dark world. The earth—dark, and wretched and

ignorant, and sinful—is just such a dominion as they would choose, or as they would cause; and the degradation and woe of the pagan world are just such as foul and malignant spirits would delight in. It is a wide and a powerful empire. It has been consolidated by ages. It is sustained by all the authority of law; by all the omnipotence of the perverted religious principle; by all the reverence for antiquity; by all the power of selfish, corrupt, and base passions. No empire has been so extended, or has continued so long, as that empire of darkness; and nothing on earth is so difficult to destroy.

Yet the apostle says that it was on that kingdom they were to make war. Against that, the kingdom of the Redeemer was to be set up; and that was to be overcome by the spiritual weapons which he specifies. When he speaks of the Christian warfare here, he refers to the contest with the powers of this dark kingdom. He regards each and every Christian as a soldier to wage war on it in whatever way he could, and wherever he could attack it. The contest therefore was not primarily with people, or with the internal corrupt propensities of the soul; it was with this vast and dark kingdom that had been set up over mankind. (END QUOTE)

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

The reason we have included this verse in our study of *spiritual wickedness in high places*, is because the pawns that evil spirits use to deceive and distort the truth, are actually men. Hence, just as the children of God are taught by God to pursue and maintain paths of righteousness and religious integrity, the children of the

¹⁶ Acts 8:9–10 *But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:* ¹⁰*To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.*

¹⁷ Eph. 2:2 *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

devil,¹⁸ likewise are personally initiated in, how they might deceive men through sophistry and deceptive reasoning, in an attempt to lead men into sinning against God, and His will for man.

(Matthew Poole's Commentary, Eph. 4:14) *By the sleight of men*; their sophistry, whereby they easily seduce those that are unskilful, as men easily cheat children in playing at dice, from whence this metaphor is taken.

Cunning craftiness; their skilfulness in finding out ways of deceiving, whereby they can make any thing of any thing.

Whereby they lie in wait to deceive, viz. as in ambush; the word here used, is translated *wiles*, Ephesians 6:11,¹⁹ against which the apostle would have them fenced with *the whole armour of God*, and seems to signify a laying in ambush, or assaulting a man behind his back; a secret and unseen way of circumventing, a laying wait to draw them that are weak from the truth. (END QUOTE)

edness in high places, the minions they utilize for their nefarious intentions, are the men they inhabit.²⁰ (Luke 22:3) *Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.*

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Luke 22:3) *Then entered Satan into Judas*—It is not necessary to suppose that Satan entered personally into the body of Judas, but only that he brought him under his influence; he filled his mind with an evil passion, and led him on to betray his Master. The particular passion of which Satan made use was "avarice"—probably the besetting sin of Judas. To show its exceeding evil and baseness, it is only necessary to say that when it produced its "appropriate" effect in this case, it led to the betraying and crucifixion of the Son of God. We may learn, also, that when Satan "tempts" people, he commonly does it by exciting and raising to the highest pitch their native passions. He does not make them act contrary to their nature, but leads them on to "act out" their proper disposition. (END QUOTE)

As evidenced in this verse, though the believer wrestles against spiritual wick-

Thankfully Satan can only attempt to deceive and inspire men to do his evil work,²¹

18 I John 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Acts 13:10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

19 Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

20 John 13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

I Sam 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

21 John 13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

I Kgs. 22:19-23 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. ²⁰And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. ²¹And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. ²²And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. ²³Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

II Chrn. 18:18-22 Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left. ¹⁹And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner. ²⁰Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? ²¹And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

in as many, and as often, as the Lord's sovereignty allows him to.²²

Lest there is any fear that believers cannot overcome the devil, and *spiritual wickedness in high places*, and the rulers of the darkness of this world the scripture makes it abundantly clear, that He, Who dwells in the believer, is much more greater, and far more powerful, than anyone, or anything that shall oppose him. (I John 4:4) *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.* The reason that believers should never fear, nor be afraid, that they shall be overcome by spiritual wickedness in high places, is because He, Who lives within them, is infinitely greater, than any deceptive devilish and spiritually evil entity in this world.

(Benson Commentary, I John 4:4) The Son of God, who stands at the head of that interest in which you are embarked, and who aids you by the mighty communications of

his Spirit, is infinitely too strong for Satan, the great head of the apostacy, and for all his confederates. Thus, the issue of the divine government will be, that truth and virtue shall be finally victorious over error and wickedness, because God, the Patron of truth and virtue, possesseth far greater power and wisdom than the evil spirits who promote error and wickedness. (END QUOTE)

It is ultimately because the believer possesses Christ within him²³ that allows him to overcome every evil entity in this world. Because also Jesus, through His death, resurrection, and ascension *spoiled principalities and made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it*, then those who possess His Holy Spirit within them, have, by divine grace, been made to share in the Savior's triumphs. Whom he defeated, His people have also been made victorious over. (Col. 2:15) *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

out, and do even so. ²²Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee.

²² Job 1:6-12 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. ⁷And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. ⁸And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? ⁹Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? ¹⁰Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. ¹¹But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. ¹²And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:1-7 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. ²And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. ³And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. ⁴And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. ⁵But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. ⁶And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. ⁷So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

²³ Col. 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Rom. 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. II Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

(*Barnes' Notes on the Bible*, Col. 2:15) *And having spoiled*—Plundered as a victorious army does a conquered country. Notes, Colossians 2:8.²⁴ The terms used in this verse are all military, and the idea is, that Christ has completely subdued our enemies by his death. A complete victory was achieved by his death, so that every thing is now in subjection to him, and we have nothing to fear.

Principalities and powers—Notes, Ephesians 1:21; Ephesians 6:12, note.²⁵ The “principalities and powers” here referred to, are the formidable enemies that had held man in subjection, and prevented his serving God. There can be no doubt, I think, that the apostle refers to the ranks of fallen, evil spirits which had usurped a dominion over the world, John 12:31, note; Ephesians 2:2, note.²⁶ The Saviour, by his death, wrested the dominion from them, and seized upon what they had captured as a conqueror seizes upon his prey. Satan and his legions had invaded the earth and drawn its inhabitants into captivity, and subjected them to their evil reign. Christ, by his death, subdues the invaders and recaptures those whom they had subdued.

He made a show of them openly—As a conqueror, returning from a victory, displays in a triumphal procession the kings and princes

whom he has taken, and the spoils of victory. This was commonly done when a “triumph” was decreed for a conqueror. On such occasions it sometimes happened that a considerable number of prisoners were led along amidst the scenes of triumph see the notes at 2 Corinthians 2:14.²⁷ Paul says that this was now done “openly”—that is, it was in the face of the whole universe—a grand victory; a glorious triumph over all the powers of hell. It does not refer to any public procession or display on the earth; but to the grand victory as achieved in view of the universe, by which Christ, as a conqueror, dragged Satan and his legions at his triumphal car [procession]; compare Romans 16:20.²⁸ (END QUOTE)

It is the risen and ascended Jesus, the Son of God, Who *led captivity captive*,²⁹ and as proof of this, even now, over 2,000 years later, still imparts spiritual gifts and powers unto those chosen by God, in Himself.³⁰ These spiritual gifts and/or, divine ministries, placed by Christ in the church, are actually proof of His victory over evil. Since it is the heavenly ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers³¹ and also the various gifts of the Spirit, measured out to those saved by Christ,³² which testify that Jesus spoiled,

24 Col. 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

25 Eph. 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Eph. 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

26 John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Eph. 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

27 II Cor. 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

28 Rom. 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

29 Eph. 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

30 John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

31 Eph. 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

32 I Cor. 12:4-7, 11 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. ⁶And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. ⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ... ¹¹But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

disarmed, and completely conquered the devil's evil reign and dominion.

The Greek word for *spoiled* is #554 *apek-duomai* (ap-ek-doo'-oh-my). The Topical Lexicon's Conceptual Overview of the word states, via Strong's, that it "denotes a decisive removal, as when clothing is stripped away. Scripture employs the verb to picture both Christ's triumph over hostile powers and the believer's renunciation of the old, sinful manner of life. The shared metaphor links redemption's objective accomplishment in the cross with its subjective outworking in sanctification." The reality of Christ's victory is described as "Having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15)

1. Scope of the victory: The 'powers and authorities' encompass demonic forces (Ephesians 6:12). Paul portrays them as stripped of weapons and dignity, paraded in defeat.

2. Public spectacle: In the imagery of a Roman triumph, a victorious general

displayed captives. Christ, through the shameful cross, reversed worldly expectations and displayed Satanic defeat to heaven and earth.

3. Assurance for the church: Because the hostile powers stand disrobed, believers are no longer enslaved to fear, legalistic condemnation, or occult intimidation (Hebrews 2:14-15).³³ Worship, prayer, and mission proceed from a position of victory, not of mere hopeful struggle."(END QUOTE)

Ultimately, in the various powers of the Spirit—manifested by the gift ministries, and the various gifts of the Spirit³⁴—is proven Jesus' triumphant victory over the rulers of darkness of this world. (Eph. 4:8) *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.* In the gift ministries, and the gifts of the Spirit, is Jesus' victory over principalities and powers, unmistakably made visible, even today. It was also Jesus' ascension into heaven, after His complete victory over both the devil and sin, that enabled Him, to send the promised Holy Spirit.³⁵ Through this divine gift, and His

Rom. 12:4-8 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

³³ Heb. 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

³⁴ I Cor. 12:7-11 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ⁸For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ¹¹But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

³⁵ Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Acts 1:45 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

extraordinary spiritual power, is the Son of God's victory over evil universally displayed. Because the church shares in the spoils of Christ's victory, which is proven by the powers, gifts, and manifestations of the Spirit brought forth from It, this proves Jesus' full and complete, conquest over evil and its previous hold over men.

(Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary, Eph. 4:8) The impartation of the gifts and graces of the Spirit depended on Christ's ascension (Joh 7:39; 14:12).³⁶ (END QUOTE)

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The apostle likens the time of Satan's influence on man as the *evil day*. Jesus also revealed before His crucifixion that, His own impending death in dying for sin, was but an *hour...of the power of darkness*. (Luke 22:53)³⁷ It is also comforting to spiritually understand that Jesus' death and crucifixion, was but an *hour*, where the devil only seemingly prevailed. To know that any day will pass, or even an hour, provides comfort to the soul. To know that there has been allowed by God, but one *hour*, and but one *evil day*, that saints must endure, before their ultimate deliverance, provides great hope for the future. Knowing that at the Son of God's return, shall commence, the *restitution*, and/or regeneration of *all things*.

Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

What is revealed in this verse, is that God will only keep Jesus seated at His right hand, and concealed from worldly view until the appointed and prophetic time, that He shall send His Son back, for the purpose of the *restitution of all things*. That is, bring all things back to the order and arrangement, that they were, before sin entered the human race.

The Greek word for *restitution* is #605 *apokatastasis* (ah-puh-kuh-TAS-tuh-sis) *HELPS Word-Studies* defines the word, "(from 600 / (ah-puh-kuh-thee-STAY-mee) *apokathístēmi*, "restore")—restitution, referring to the "restoration of the physical earth in the Messianic kingdom (Millennium)" (G. Archer)." The Topical Lexicon and Biblical Context states, that "Acts 3:21 records Peter's declaration that Heaven must receive Jesus Christ 'until the time of the restoration of all things, which God spoke through His holy prophets from ages past'. The phrase 'restoration of all things' translates the noun (ah-puh-kuh-TAS-tuh-sis) ἀποκατάστασις, conveying a future, divinely planned return of creation to its intended order under the rule of the risen Messiah. Its singular New Testament occurrence gives it a concentrated importance: the early church presented the resurrection of Christ not merely as personal salvation but as the pivot of cosmic renewal.

Old Testament Foundations

Peter roots the promise in 'all the prophets,' echoing themes that stretch back to:

³⁶ John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

³⁷ Luke 22:53 When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

- Isaiah 11:1-9 – universal peace under the Branch of Jesse.
- Ezekiel 37:1-14 – national and spiritual revival of Israel.
- Amos 9:11-15 – rebuilding the fallen booth of David and agricultural abundance.
- Malachi 4:5-6 – Elijah’s mission to ‘restore the hearts’ before the day of the Lord.

These prophetic streams converge in the apostolic proclamation that the same God who formed and covenanted with Israel will ultimately set right everything fractured by sin.

Christological Fulfillment

The crucified and risen Jesus is the guarantor of the coming restoration. His glorified body (Luke 24:39),³⁸ His ascension (Acts 1:9-11),³⁹ and His present session at the Father’s right hand (Hebrews 10:12-13)⁴⁰ preview the destiny of creation itself. Co-

lossians 1:20 affirms that God intends “to reconcile to Himself all things . . . making peace through the blood of His cross.” In Acts 3, Peter calls listeners to repentance precisely so they may participate in that consummate renewal (Acts 3:19-20).⁴¹

Eschatological Scope

“Restoration of all things” carries forward two interwoven horizons:

1. National—Israel’s promised restoration to covenant blessing (Romans 11:25-27).⁴²

2. Cosmic—the liberation of creation from “bondage to decay” (Romans 8:19-23).⁴³

The word signals neither annihilation nor mere spiritualized hope, but a tangible reordering of the physical universe under Christ’s lordship, culminating in the “new heavens and a new earth” (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1).⁴⁴

Since the earliest of times, the Lord, by His inspired prophets, has assured His

38 Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

39 Acts 1:9-11 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; ¹¹Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

40 Heb. 10:12-13 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; ¹³From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

41 Acts 3:19-20 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. ²⁰And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

42 Rom. 11:25-27 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. ²⁶And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

43 Rom. 8:19-23 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, ²¹Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. ²³And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

44 II Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Rev. 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

beloved, that He would restore both the heavens and the earth.⁴⁵ But what was not known, was that the Messiah's ascension, and then ultimate return to this world, is what will issue in this prophetic fulfillment of God's promise.

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Acts 3:21) *Whom the heavens must receive*—The common belief of the Jews was, that the Messiah would reign on the earth forever, John 12:34.⁴⁶ On this account they would object that Jesus could not be the Messiah, and hence, it became so important for the apostles to establish the fact that he had ascended to heaven. ... The words "whom the heaven must receive" also convey the idea of "exaltation" and "power"; and Peter doubtless intended to say that he was clothed with power, and exalted to honor in the presence of God. See Psalm 115:3.⁴⁷ Compare 1 Peter 3:22, "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels, and authorities, and powers being made subject unto him." See the notes on Acts 2:33.⁴⁸ ...

The times of the restitution of all things—The noun rendered *restitution* ἀποκατάστασις (ah-po-kah-TASS-tah-seh-ohss) *apokatastataseōs*, does not elsewhere occur in the New Testament. The verb from which it is derived occurs eight times. It means properly "to restore a thing to its former situation," as restoring a "strained" or "dislocated" limb to its former soundness. ... In this sense the

passage means that the heavens must receive the Lord Jesus until all things spoken by the prophets in relation to his work, his reign, the spread of the gospel, the triumph of religion, etc., shall have been fulfilled. It also conveys the idea of the predicted recovery of the world from sin, and the restoration of peace and order; the consummation of the work of the Messiah, now begun, but not yet complete; slow it may be in its advances, but triumphant and certain in its progress and its close. (END QUOTE)

At Jesus' return, when He is fully revealed to the world as *the Lord of glory*,⁴⁹ His second appearance to the earth will announce, and set in motion the restitution and renewal of all things. This future time the scripture states, the whole of creation both waits and longs for.⁵⁰ Ultimately Jesus shall, with His return, fully restore all authority and power, back into, and fully under, the Father's control. (I Cor. 15:28) *And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.*

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, I Cor. 15:28) *And when ...*—In this future time, when this shall be accomplished. This implies that the time has not yet arrived, and that his dominion is now exercised, and that he is carrying forward his plans for the subjugation of all

45 Isa. 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isa. 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain.

Matt. 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory; ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

II Pet. 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Rev. 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

46 John 12:34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

47 Ps. 115:3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

48 Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

49 I Cor. 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

50 Rom. 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

things to God.

Shall be subdued unto him—Shall be brought under subjection. When all his enemies shall be overcome and destroyed; or when the hearts of the redeemed shall be entirely subject to God. When God's kingdom shall be fully established over the universe. It shall then be seen that he is Lord of all. In the previous verses he had spoken of the promise that all things should be subjected to God; in this, he speaks of its being actually done.

Then shall the Son also himself be subject ...—It has been proposed to render this, “even then shall the Son,” etc.; implying that he had been all along subject to God; had acted under his authority; and that this subjection would continue even then in a sense similar to that in which it had existed; and that Christ would then continue to exercise a delegated authority over his people and kingdom. ... (a) His kingdom will be perpetual, in contradistinction from the kingdoms of this world. They are fluctuating, changing, short in their duration. His shall not cease, and shall continue to the end of time.

(b) His kingdom shall be perpetual, because those who are brought under the laws of God by him shall remain subject to those laws forever. The sceptre never shall be broken, and the kingdom shall abide to all eternity.

(c) Christ, the Son of God, in his divine nature, as God, shall never cease to reign. (END QUOTE)

Through the Son of God, and the power of God given to Him, shall arise a completely new heaven and earth, wherein is promised to dwell eternal righteousness, forever. (Rev. 21:1) *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

(*Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, Rev. 21:1) *And I saw a new heaven ...*—The hope of the renewal and restitution of all things had been long cherished. Earlier prophets had sanctioned the hope: Isaiah had told of new heavens and new earth (Isaiah 65:17⁵¹); Ezekiel had closed his prophecy with the splendid vision of a renewed land of promise (Ezekiel 40–48); Christ Himself had spoken of the era which He inaugurated as the regeneration (Matthew 19:28⁵²); His followers soon caught the truth that the outcome of the gospel age would be the realisation of all those marvellous visions with which prophets had sustained the fainting hopes of the people of God. The hope was not to be for ever receding as new height after height was surmounted. It will not always be said, “The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth” (Ezekiel 12:22⁵³). The fulfilment may seem to tarry; the unbelieving might doubt or scoff (Matthew 24:43; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:4⁵⁴); but those who felt that the gospel was a power of spiritual regeneration, making all things new (2 Corinthians 5:17⁵⁵), learned to look forward to the widest and fullest restoration, and to expect new heavens and a new earth wherein

51 Isa. 65:17 *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*

52 Matt. 19:28 *And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

53 Ezek. 12:22 *Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth?*

54 Matt. 24:43 *But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.*

1 Thess. 5:2 *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

II Pet. 3:4 *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

55 II Cor. 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

dwelleth righteousness (2Peter 3:13⁵⁶). (END QUOTE)

shall also one day, fully encapsulate the entirety of God's creation.

What Christ has begun in the believer's heart, by His sending the promised Holy Spirit into it,⁵⁷ whereby a *new man*⁵⁸ has been both formed and created, by God,⁵⁹ is but a precursor to the Lord making all things new. Thus, in the believer's heart, is the evidentiary proof that one day, the whole of creation, shall ultimately mirror, and experience, the liberty that now every true child of God, internally possesses. So that the present spiritual liberty experienced by saints,⁶⁰ shall be universally passed onto the entirety of creation. In the Christian then, is a seed, emblematic of the future freedom and deliverance of all of creation. Hence, the spiritual regeneration that has first begun with the redeemed being transformed into saints,⁶¹

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Until such time that the Son of God returns, to fulfill the Lord's purpose, and the ultimate liberation of creation, believers are to stand, clothed and confident in the spiritual armament that God has provided for them. The first essential piece of this protective armor is *truth*. This is because nothing is so protective to believers' faith, heart, and life, than that they believe, obey, and continue in the *truth*.

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Eph. 6:14) *Having your loins girt about*—The "girdle, or sash," was always with the ancients an important

56 II Pet. 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

57 Acts 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 8:14-17 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) ¹⁷Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:44-45 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 11:15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

58 Eph. 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

59 II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Gal. 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. Eph. 4:23-24 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

60 Rom. 8:18-21 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, ²¹Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

61 Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

part of their dress, in war as well as in peace. They wore loose, flowing robes; and it became necessary to gird them up when they traveled, or ran, or labored. The girdle was often highly ornamented, and was the place where they carried their money, their sword, their pipe, their writing instruments, etc.; see the notes on Matthew 5:38-41.⁶² The “girdle” seems sometimes to have been a cincture of iron or steel, and designed to keep every part of the armor in its place, and to gird the soldier on every side. (END QUOTE)

(Barnes’ Notes on the Bible, Eph. 6:14) The idea here may be, that as the girdle was the bracer up, or support of the body, so truth is suited to brace us up, and to gird us for constancy and firmness. The girdle kept all the parts of the armor in their proper place, and preserved firmness and consistency in the dress; and so truth might serve to give consistency and firmness to our conduct. “Great,” says Grotius, “is the laxity of falsehood; truth binds the man.” Truth preserves a man from those lax views of morals, of duty and of religion, which leave him exposed to

every assault. It makes the soul sincere, firm, constant, and always on its guard. A man who has no consistent views of truth, is just the man for the adversary successfully to assail. (END QUOTE)

Because the devil is the father of lies,⁶³ then believer’s primary defense against him, and the subtlety of his craftily devised plans and deceptions, is the *truth* of God’s Word,⁶⁴ and diligently being led by the *spirit of truth*.⁶⁵

In conjunction with the saint’s *loins girt about with truth*, is that they should also, according to the apostle, put on the *breastplate of righteousness*.

And having on the breastplate of righteousness;

(Barnes’ Notes on the Bible, Eph. 6:14) Of *righteousness*—Integrity, holiness, purity of life, sincerity of piety. The breast-plate defended the vital parts of the body; and the idea here may be that the integrity of life, and

62 Matt. 5:38-41 *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:* ³⁹*But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.* ⁴⁰*And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.* ⁴¹*And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.*

63 John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Rev. 12:9 *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

II Cor. 11:14 *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

II Thess. 2:9-10 *ven him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,* ¹⁰*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

64 II Cor. 6:7 *By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,*

Eph. 1:13 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

II Tim. 2:15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Jas. 1:18 *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

65 John 14:17 *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

John 15:26 *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

John 16:13 *owbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

I John 4:6 *We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

righteousness of character, is as necessary to defend us from the assaults of Satan, as the coat of mail was to preserve the heart from the arrows of an enemy. It was the incorruptible integrity of Job, and, in a higher sense, of the Redeemer himself, that saved them from the temptations of the devil. And it is as true now that no one can successfully meet the power of temptation unless he is righteous, as that a soldier could not defend himself against a foe without such a coat of mail. A want of integrity will leave a man exposed to the assaults of the enemy, just as a man would be whose coat of mail was defective, or some part of which was missing. The king of Israel was smitten by an arrow sent from a bow, drawn at a venture, "between the joints of his harness" or the "breast-plate" (margin), 1 Kings 22:34;⁶⁶ and many a man who thinks he has on the "Christian" armor is smitten in the same manner. There is some defect of character; some want of incorruptible integrity; some point that is unguarded—and that will be sure to be the point of attack by the foe. (END QUOTE)

It is as critical that a man seeks to walk righteously, as it is that the same man holds to, and believes the truth. For none should presume that they can walk in sin, and still maintain having God's protection over their life. Consequently to seek to both live and walk righteously, is as critical in spiritual warfare, as any other of the protective ware, purposed to defend the believer from spiritual attack. This is also why the believer's walk in righteousness is so essential, lest by continuing in sin, he is left defenseless against spiritual attacks and can ultimately be overcome by them.

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Through living in, and moving in the spirit of divine peace, the gospel of peace is properly revealed to others. It is also this heavenly peace that the world lacks, and can only be received through genuine faith and belief in the Son of God, that makes the believer's life, so much richer than the sinner's. Since peace is that which Jesus imparts into His people's hearts,⁶⁷ it is one of the Lord's heavenly comforts, whenever the storms of life assault His people. (John 14:27) *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

These words were spoken to Jesus' disciples prior to His departure into heaven. Both the words *peace* and *give* are repeated in the verse, to emphasize that the spiritual *peace* that Jesus would impart to His followers, should be kept in remembrance, and ultimately allowed to rule in the heart.⁶⁸ Revealing also, that in all spiritual warfare, the peace of God, is a very critical and essential element, to the believer's defense. To have our feet shed with the gospel of peace, is to move and operate in ministry, strengthened and encouraged by a spiritual fruit of the Spirit, that always lifts the believer up, even in times of great sorrow and despair. *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.*

⁶⁶ 1 Kgs. 22:34 *And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.*

⁶⁷ John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

Isa. 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

⁶⁸ Col. 3:15 *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*