

Key Text: Colossians 1:13

"For he has rescued us from the **dominion of darkness** and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves..."

THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

What is the kingdom of darkness? It is a reference to Satan's sphere of influence and the territory where he rules. (*Matt. 12:26; 2 Corinthians 4:4*) **The kingdom of darkness is a spiritual kingdom that manifest itself through the thinking, activities, and structures of this world.** (*John 13:2; Luke 4:5,6; Acts 5:3; Matt. 4:8-10; Ephesians 2:2,3*)

The kingdom of Satan is diametrically opposed to God's Kingdom and is described as having qualities which are completely opposite to God's kingdom. It is a kingdom of darkness, sorrow, death, deception, sickness, and it consists of all unrighteousness & injustice. The kingdom of darkness is actually a "counterfeit" copy of God's kingdom with regard to its structure and design. So there is rank and order within this kingdom and it is ruled by Satan. The ultimate thought regarding this kingdom of darkness should be that it is already defeated and will NEVER prevail against the Kingdom of God. (*Matt 16:18*)

SATAN - WHO IS HE?

There is very little direct information given about the origin of Satan or his fall. There is however a good prophetic description of Satan's origin and fall found in **Ezekiel 28:1-19** and **Isaiah 14:4-23**. Based on the law of "Double Reference" in Biblical interpretation (i.e. while speaking about or to one person there is reference made to another person beyond them or behind them. *Genesis 3:14-15; Matthew 16:23*) we learn about Satan through the descriptions of the King of Tyre and the King of Babylon. The language used goes far beyond what can be applied to any earthly ruler and so we understand that it points to the spiritual ruler behind these kings which is Satan. It is also from these passages we learn that Satan was lifted up in pride over his God-given wisdom, anointing and beauty. He then manifested self-will against God leading to his eternal banishment from heaven. Being cast to the earth Satan now exercises control and influence over:

- ◆ **His kingdom.** (*Matthew 12:26*)
- ◆ **Over This age.** (*2 Cor. 4:4; Luke 4:5,6*)
- ◆ **Fallen Angels & Demon spirits.** (*Rev. 9:11*)
- ◆ **People Through Worship.** (*Isa. 14:12-14; Matt. 4:9*)

WHAT IS SATAN DESCRIBED LIKE IN SCRIPTURE?

Satan is an adversary. (*Job 1:6-12, 2:1-7; Zech. 3:1-7*)

Satan is the devil - meaning accuser. (*Matt. 4:1; 13:39; 25:41; John 8:44; Rev. 12:10*) **Satan is an angel of light - meaning deceiver.** (*Luke 10:18; 2 Cor. 11:13-15*). Satan was **perfect in beauty, full of wisdom, and created with music in his being.** (*Ezek. 28:12, 13,15, 17; James 3:15*).

Satan was the first liar and originator of sin; the mystery of iniquity is personified in Satan. (*2 Thess. 2:7; Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 3:8; John 8:44*). **Satan is a Murderer and Thief.** (*John 8:44; 10:10*)

DEMONS & SPIRITS

When Satan rebelled against the authority of God, one-third of the angels in heaven followed with him in rebellion. (*Rev. 12:4*) This shows how angels have a will and that Satan's influence was so great that many of them also rebelled. Some of these fallen angels now serve as Satan's Servants, (*Matt. 12:22-30*) while other evil spirits are already imprisoned until their final destruction. (*Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4*) These fallen spirits comprise the unholy army of the kingdom of darkness.

- ◆ Demons possess both will and intelligence and act according to their evil natures. (*Matt. 8:29-31; Luke 4:35,41; James 2:19*)
- ◆ Evil spirits have non-physical beings but desire to express themselves through physical bodies. They will do this through mere influence and manipulation or through possession. Demonic spirits will even exhibit their destructive natures through animals. (*Mark 5:1-20*)
- ◆ Demons desire power and control through worship. (*Lev. 17:7; 1 Corinthians 10:20; Matt. 4:8-10*)

WHAT ARE SOME ACTIVITIES OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS?

The activity of this kingdom are best summed in John 10:10, “**The thief comes to steal...to kill and to destroy.**” Satan and evil spirits attack mankind spiritually, morally, mentally, physically and emotionally. Here is a short list of the activities they engage in:

- ◆ **Deceive & Seduce** (Rev. 12:9; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Cor. 4:4)
- ◆ **Fight The Gospel** (Matt. 13:19; 1 Thess. 2:18)
- ◆ **Oppress People** (Acts 10:38; Luke 13:11,16)
- ◆ **Possess People (*Indwelling Control*)**. (Matt. 4:24; 8:16; 9:32;12:22)
- ◆ **Afflict Physical & Mental States** (2 Cor. 5:5; 12:7)
- ◆ **Sickness** (Luke 13:10–13; Mark 9:17)
- ◆ **Death** (Hebrews 2:14; Jude 9; 1 John 3:12)
- ◆ **Torment & Buffet People** (2 Cor. 12:7; Rev. 9:1-11;16:13-14)
- ◆ **Sow tares among wheat.** (Matt. 13:39)

BE AWARE OF THE DEVIL'S SCHEMES

2 Corinthians 2:11 and Ephesians 6:11 both remind us to be wise and alert to the schemes of the devil. Satan has familiar paths and methods in his attack on the Kingdom of God. We must learn to take our stand and fight. The Bible is compared to a sword because it is our great weapon against the devil's schemes. Hide the word of God in your heart and you will not sin against God. (Psa. 119:11; Heb. 4:12)

WHAT ABOUT POSSESSION?

Possession is a broad concept in scripture covering everything from **influence** to **ownership**. So, when a person acts or thinks in agreement with demonic influence they are technically possessed but not necessarily possessed in terms of being owned by a demon. This distinction matters because you cannot be “owned” by opposing powers such as God & Satan. This is why born-again people may feel controlled by demonic thoughts and compulsions but they are still responsible for their sin and must humbly confess and renounce those thoughts and actions. Notice the progression of possession.

- **1 Tim. 4:1–3; 2 Cor. 11:3–15** Influenced by demonic ideas.
- **2 Tim. 2:26; Acts 5:3** Ensnared by the devil.
- Of the nature and character of the Devil **John 8:43–45**
- Fully Owned and held captive by the devil/demons. **Luke 8:26–36**

Two factors have contributed to great misconceptions regarding possession. They are popular media or **Entertainment** and a **Lack of Biblical Knowledge**.

Col. 1:9–14. This scripture points out the reality for ALL believers. You have been rescued from the

DOMAIN of the devil and are living in the power and control of the Holy Spirit. If you are weak in this area take a minute ago acknowledge the truth that you are “IN” Christ. His blood has purchased you and the Holy Spirit dwells inside of you and nothing is more powerful than that.



CHRIST' VICTORY OVER SATAN & THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

Colossians 2:14,15 declares that Christ has disarmed Satan and his demonic spirits making them powerless.



VICTORY IS SHARED WITH YOU

1 John 5:4 declares that everyone born of God overcomes the kingdom of darkness.
This means that you do not have to live in fear of the Kingdom of Darkness!!!!!!!

“IT’S LEGAL”

- We are in Christ (Eph 1:3-7) this means that you are a partaker of His Divine nature.
- We are new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15)
- We are in the kingdom of light. (Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 8:38)
- We are seated in heavenly places with Christ (Ephesians 1:3; 2:2-8; 6:12)

“IT’S LIVING”

We must live or walk as children of the light in order to experience all the victory that Christ has won for us.

- The believer must live victorious over the sins of the flesh, giving Satan no ground to stand on. (John 14:30; 16:31; Rom. 6:7-8; Eph. 4:27; Gal. 5:22-23)
- The believer must keep himself in the love of God so that the Wicked one will not be able to touch him. (1 John 4:17-18; 5:18)
- The believer must submit to God and Resist the Devil. (James 4:7; 2 Corinthians 2:11)

“IT’S PERSONAL”

The Devil tries to kill the spirit of the believer by attacking the body and the soul (*Mind, Will & Emotions*) of the believer. Your mind will and emotions must come into submission to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Feed your Spirit by praying in the Holy Spirit, reading and memorizing the word, and in praise & worship. Keep in step with the Holy Spirit and maintain a healthy spirit through confession and obedience. Renew your mind by washing it with the word of God. Take your thoughts captive (*Recognize where your thoughts are coming from.*) and judge them against the thoughts of God that are revealed in the Bible. Take time to rest and refresh your body so that you will not be weak and vulnerable to increased temptation.

Finally take your STAND & RESIST: **Ephesians 6:10-17; JAMES 4:7**

Take your stand by:

- Trust in the word of God
- Build Your Faith (Your Persuasion)
- Remember that Christ is “with” you.
- The Blood of Christ has cleansed you from any curse/penalty of sin.
- Remember that Jesus is who you cry out to in prayer.
- The Holy Spirit is the same power that raised Christ from the dead and it is inside you.
- Exercise the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and be filled continually.